

Question	Alvin Tedjo - Liberal	Effie Triantafilopoulos - Progressive Conservative	Saima Zaidi - NDP	Marianne Workman - Green	Charles Zach - Libertarian
If elected, what measures would your party introduce in order to reduce the cost of electricity for businesses?	We brought in the single largest electricity rate reduction in Ontario history. Approximately half a million businesses and farms have had their electrical rates reduced. After years of neglect by the Conservatives, our electrical system had fallen into disrepair and we have invested \$70-billion to transform the electrical system to be reliable, clean, green and meets the needs of Ontario businesses.	The Ontario PC Party will lower the price of hydro by 12% by returning Hydro One dividends to ratepayers, and moving the cost of conservation programs to the tax base. We will also place an immediate moratorium on new energy contracts and where possible exit or re-negotiate existing contracts.		We would offer businesses discounted hydro rates instead of selling surplus electricity to other jurisdictions at a loss. We would implement a \$4.18 billion 4-year Green Building and Business Program providing grants and interest free loans to help homeowners, renters and businesses invest in energy efficiency and conservation. We would close Pickering Nuclear station on schedule and purchase lower cost water power from Quebec. We would move to 100% renewable energy to take advantage of exponentially declining cost of solar and wind power.	This is probably the greatest problem plaguing Ontario residents and businesses. Surprisingly, it is also the easiest to fix. This is a relatively recent problem, and is the direct result of Government policy. By changing the policy, the situation immediately changes. Hydro rates in Ontario can return to normal and competitive levels in just a year or two. Our theme for Hydro Rates is "Cut your hydro bill in half". At present, Ontario customers pay about twice as much for electricity as customers in QC //
Many local employers who are members of our Chamber of Commerce have mentioned the difficulties associated with recruiting skilled tradespeople. What improvements, if any, will you make to job training programs, apprenticeship programs, co-op programs and youth employment programs to help Ontario businesses hire and train new employees?	Ontario has the largest apprenticeship system in Canada, with more than 150 trades in four sectors, construction, industrial and manufacturing, motive power and service. Our government will provide ongoing support to businesses to meet their demand for skilled workers; this has includes the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund and the Skills Training Enhancement Fund. Furthermore our Liberal government is supporting skilled trades recruitment through the Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.	We will help fill the skills gap by increasing access to apprenticeships and reforming the foreign credential recognition process to help qualified immigrants come to Ontario and contribute to the economy to their fullest potential immediately.		We would establish the Ontario Youth Green Corps to give young people the opportunity to learn new skills and gain experience in the trades. We would expand and invest in apprenticeship, mentoring and co-op programs.	We will modernize the school system so when our youth are ready to have families, they will find many quality school choices in all parts of the province. - We will end mandatory registration with the College of Trades
What steps would you and your party take to reduce business regulations?	Our government has a strong record of reducing red tape for business with burden reduction targets of \$100-million. Once re-elected, we will continue with measurable actions to reduce regulations for businesses. We are currently streamlining processes for businesses through the Red Tape Challenge and we will continue to grow the economy and create jobs by promoting an innovation-based economy, helping small companies scale-up and modernising regulations for businesses.	The Progressive Conservative Party understands that red tape and regulations make it more expensive to do business in the province. Excessive regulation especially hurts small businesses who need to hire staff to stay on top of it all. Our Party is focused on reducing red tape, and it is a core part of our plan. Ontario has over 380,000 regulations, and we will work to reduce the burden of red tape on businesses in the province.		We would implement smart regulations that create a level playing field for all businesses, ensuring safety while taking into account the size and scale of operations, allowing local businesses to compete fairly. We would review government regulations to ensure the regulatory environment does not create barriers to the adoption of green technologies, practices and businesses.	The Ontario Libertarian Party will reduce the size and scope of Government! Here's how: - end all Government subsidies including - end all Corporate grants and subsidies - end all grants and subsidies to individuals - end all grants and subsidies to not-for-profits - end funding via the Ontario Trillium Foundation (\$136M annual) - end all subsidies to Municipalities / other levels of Government, local rate payers can pay for their own projects (taxpayers in Sudbury shouldn't be paying for tunnels in Ottawa) - end //
What tax credits and incentives would you propose to attract and retain business in Ontario?	As a government our goal is to create an environment where business and entrepreneurship thrive. To achieve a business friendly climate we lowered the small business tax rate by 22%. We have introduced the Employment Young Talent Incentive to help businesses hire and retain young workers. These initiatives have produced results; private-sector economists are forecasting that Ontario's growth will outpace the rest of the country over the next two years. We will continue to support businesses in Ontario through the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to //	The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party will cut the corporate tax rate from 11.5% to 10.5%. We will also reduce the small business tax rate by 8.7%, from 3.5% to 3.2%. Our plan will also scrap the Liberal carbon tax, which will ensure our businesses can compete. Keeping taxes low encourages businesses to invest more in Ontario. The Ontario and NDP Plans will make it more expensive for businesses to operate or expand in the province.		We would Increase the exemption level for the Employer Health Tax, from \$450,000 to 1.0 M for small businesses. We would redirect \$3.1 billion/year in existing business support programs to target cleantech innovation, advanced manufacturing and bio-products. We would provide incentives for businesses investing in energy efficiency and low carbon: equipment, buildings and vehicle fleets. We would implement incentives for businesses providing training and certification in job growth areas such as green building, biomedical technology, renewable energy and sustainable transportation.	The Ontario Libertarian Party will make Ontario a job magnet! Here's how: - we will put in place a sensible electricity policy, our theme for Hydro Rates is "Cut your hydro bill in half". - we will put in place a sensible Government and Taxation plan, including balance the provincial budget - we will repeal the job-killing Cap & Trade Carbon Tax - we will end any Government program and service related to mitigating climate change - we will end Corporate taxation, of course Corporations //
The Places to Grow Act has put pressure on municipalities to grow and intensify. Increasing demand is causing a decrease in affordability. What measures would your party introduce to address this imbalance?	To continue with to the status quo of uncontrolled sprawl was not an option. The Places to Grow Act was brought in to enable the province and communities coordinate growth in a strategic and sustainable way. We continue to make progress on developing live/work neighbourhoods and increase density in high growth areas. As the population of the GTA continues to surge our government will continue to consult with local officials, stakeholders, public groups, and members of the public on growth. To make the prospect of //	Our plan will increase the supply of housing by reducing red tape and increasing supply without touching the Greenbelt. When the Liberals brought forward their plan, 1000 new units that were set to come online were cancelled. Only our plan recognizes that to truly address the problem of affordability, we must increase the supply of housing.		We would re-introduce the brownfield remediation fund to redevelop existing land and we would increase the speculation tax to help engage idle property. We would update zoning laws to allow for secondary suites and other creative alternatives to single-detached housing. We would incentivize municipalities to zone for a combination of mixed-use buildings and medium density housing types and rental units that increase residential density while maintaining the look and feel of the neighbourhood.	We would repeal the Places to Grow Act and support the private property rights of land owners to use their land as they seem fit.
How would you create efficiencies in the healthcare system to make funding more equitable across the province?	Our government has reformed how health care is funded to create system efficiencies and to be responsive to the evolving health care needs of the population. Further to these reforms other efficiencies have been created through the merger of the CACCs and LHINS to reduce administration and overhead costs. Our government recognises the potential for innovations in health technology to drive efficiencies and we created the Office of the Chief Health Innovation Strategist who's mandate it is to accelerate health technology commercialisation efforts in Ontario.	The Ontario PC's will begin by actually listening to doctors and nurses to make our healthcare system work better. The front line workers know what is best for our health care system, and the Ontario Liberal Government has chosen to ignore their concerns. Our Party will also make the healthcare system more efficient by building 30,000 long-term care beds, and investing \$1.9B in mental health care. Our plan will reduce the strain on emergency rooms and hospitals and create a more efficient healthcare system.		We would prioritize health promotion and illness prevention. We would also create an integrated funding structure for health care to ensure that the best care is provided by the most appropriate and cost effective provider. We would increase the number of Nurse Practitioners, in clinics and in Long Term Care facilities. We would better use existing resources in home care, long-term care, nurse-led clinics, and community care.	The Ontario Libertarian Party will end healthcare rationing! Here's how: - average per person healthcare funding will be attached to the individual and not to OHIP - allow non-Government insurance options in addition to OHIP - allow non-Government insurers to sub-contract certain services to OHIP, for example Basic Medical - allow non-Government insurers to provide the exact same service as OHIP - allow non-Government insurers to provide "boutique" or "specialty" packages - non-Government insurers will receive the same per person funding as OHIP and can //
Would you support a two-tier medical system? Please explain.	I support one single-tier publicly funded health care system in Ontario. All Ontarians deserve access to the highest-quality health care when and where they need it and this is only achieved through a health care system that is accessible to all regardless of income or economic standing. A two-tier system often results in specialists who focus on the private pay system that serves the wealthiest and most profitable patients which results in longer wait times for complex cases in the public system.	Our system is broken, but it can be fixed. The Ontario PC party will listen to health care professionals, including the nurses and doctors who are on the frontlines. Our Party will make the healthcare system more efficient by building 30,000 long-term care beds and investing \$1.9B in mental health care. Our plan will reduce the strain on emergency rooms and hospitals and create a more efficient healthcare system.		The Green Party of Ontario believes in a publicly funded health care system accountable to the public, focused on people's needs. Our vision seeks to make sure that access to health care is available when you need it, that it supports keeping us in good health, and that public health policy development considers the social determinants of health.	At present, Ontario taxpayers pay for a generic health insurance plan. This plan serves many people's needs very well, but some people are not well served at all for many reasons. In order to address this, new insurance options will be allowed. For instance: An "Athletes Plan" could be offered - including Basic Medical, and more service in physiotherapy and less cancer treatment. An "Autism Plan" could be offered - including Basic Medical, and more autism treatments. A "Healthy Living Plan" could be offered - //

// indicates 85 words. Candidates were given an 85 word maximum per question.