



ONTARIO VOTES—SPRING ELECTION, 2014 POLITICAL PARTY PLATFORM COMPARISON MATRIX

ABSTRACT

This is a living document for your reference. It will be regularly updated throughout the election campaign. It contains the summarized platform policies of Ontario's three main political parties as they become available during the election writ period. The information is organized according to party standings at the time of dissolution of Provincial Parliament; Liberal Government; Progressive Conservative Official Opposition and New Democrat Recognized Party.

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Ontario Votes - Spring Election, 2014 - Political Party Platform Comparison Matrix

Issue	Ontario Liberal Party	Ontario Progressive Conservative Party	Ontario New Democratic Party
Transit & Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$29 billion in dedicated transit funds over the next 10 years; \$15 billion for the GTHA & \$14 billion for Ontario • Electrification of the GO Transit System in the GTHA • All day, 15-minute rapid rail service on all GO lines, doubling ridership by 2031 • Will examine expanding GO services to include Brantford, the Niagara Region, Dufferin County and regions outside the GTHA • Pledging to invest in high-speed rail service between southwestern Ontario & Toronto • Committing to examining expanding major highways to four lanes in Northern Ontario, requiring federal partnership • Promising to invest in bus and rail infrastructure refurbishment for Ontario Northland • Moving Ontario Forward plan will be funded through dedicated sources of revenue including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Dedicated gas tax, & HST on gas tax: \$14.54 billion or 50.3% ○New Revenues: \$1.49 billion or 5.2% ○Asset optimization \$3.15 billion or 10.9% ○Federal Building Canada Plan: \$2.55 billion or 8.8% ○Provincial borrowing: \$7.17 billion or 24.8% • Funds will be allocated between the GTHA & the rest of Ontario based on population • Funds will be applied for specific projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will set aside a portion of the \$12 billion the province spends on capital and infrastructure annually to be earmarked for new subways with the auditor general having oversight • Proposing an Ontario Transportation Trust that would include funds from selling surplus lands to pay up to \$2 billion a year for new projects <i>once the provincial budget is balanced in 2016-17</i> • Investments will go toward a “balanced set of priorities”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Subways - East-West Express Subway ○Highway expansion - fixing bottlenecks throughout the region ○Expand GO Transit - more: rush hour service; express trains; more all-day, two-way service; and, superior customer service • Pledging to put the province in charge of all rail-based transit and major highways in the GTA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to <i>The Big Move</i> • Unite Ontario behind the idea of building a transit and transportation network that serves all regions • Will create a dedicated fund valued at \$29 billion over the next 10 years for transit & transportation projects across the province - begin spending immediately • Pledging to prioritize high impact transit projects, dedicating \$250 million annually with an emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Toronto Downtown Relief Line ○Scarborough Transit ○Clean Trains Now on air-rail link ○All-day two-way GO train service to Kitchener-Waterloo ○Year-round daily GO train service to St. Catharines & Niagara Falls • Committing to widening 60km of provincial highways annually, half to be located in Northern Ontario • Restore passenger service on Ontario Northland Rail • Purchase 200 snowplows & trucks to improve winter road safety • Promising to provide support for up to 127 municipalities to purchase new and replacement buses • Would tell municipalities to freeze transit fares at current levels for the next four years

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds will be transparent & managed with accountability through an online portal to track funds & projects • No increases to the gas tax, the HST or personal income taxes, other than on the most affluent Ontarians 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Financial Accountability Office must review long-term project financing options so the public can have independent oversight of spending plans • Pledging investments to help communities create bike lanes, expand cycling infrastructure and support complete street design
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing a new 10-year plan to invest more than \$130 billion in public infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$29 billion in dedicated transportation funding ○ \$2.5 billion in 2014-15 for highway rehabilitation and expansion projects ○ Creating a permanent Roads & Bridges Fund for smaller, northern & rural municipalities, pledging \$100 million for 2014-15 with the fund expected to grow over time ○ \$11.4 billion on 40+ major hospital expansion or redevelopment projects, \$700 million for critical hospital repairs, & \$300 million in new money for community health infrastructure ○ \$11 billion for elementary and secondary education infrastructure, for both new schools and refurbishment ○ \$500 million of additional funding for maintenance repairs postsecondary sector, plus funding to build new campuses for 15,000 additional undergraduate spaces ○ \$250 million over three years supporting “world-leading discoveries that will create the jobs and technologies of the future.” - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledging to develop the Ring of Fire in northern Ontario - facilitated by repeal of the <i>Far North Act</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in Ring of Fire Infrastructure to create jobs • Committing to \$2 million annually to conduct environmental assessments of pipeline projects

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requiring federal government and private sector funding ○Up to \$1 billion towards infrastructure development in Ring of Fire ○Delivering more infrastructure projects through Alternative Financing and Procurement model 		
Jobs & the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promising a \$2.5 billion, 10-year “Jobs & Prosperity Fund” to attract business to Ontario and support economic growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Commit \$40 million annually to support businesses in the agri-food & agri-products sector • Committing to increase the provincial minimum wage to \$11/hr. on June 1, 2014 and index the rate to inflation • Pledging to extend a <i>Youth Jobs Strategy</i>, adding \$38 million to the <i>Youth Employment Fund</i> in 2014-15, extending the strategy to September 2015 • Committed to continuing the number of apprentices in Ontario, supporting the Ontario College of Trades, appointing a special advisor to review the colleges application process and scope of practice of trades • Promising to enhance opportunities for Aboriginal People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Investing \$25 million over three years to create the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund ○Increase amount available for loan guarantees for renewable energy projects to \$650 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledging to create 1 million jobs over 8 years • Will eliminate 100,000 public sector jobs over 4 years • Encouraging more young people to train for skilled trades jobs such as electricians & plumbers, creating 200,000 jobs over the next 4 years by eliminating restrictions on skilled trades by setting skilled trades ratios to 1 apprentice to 1 journeyman (1:1) • Trades training to be offered at all Ontario community colleges • Pledging to act immediately upon election to eliminate the Ontario College of Trades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Job Creation Tax Credit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Create up to 170,000 new jobs ○Employers to receive credit equal to 10% of an employee’s salary, up to a maximum value of \$5,000 ○Fund is designed to prevent companies from taking taxpayer money and “shipping jobs out of Ontario” but acknowledged an NDP government would rely on trust that the jobs would be permanent ○Money for the fund will be found from nine existing government job programs • Would establish a 10% tax credit for businesses that put money into Ontario buildings, machinery & equipment • Will invest in re-training programs for workers aged 55-64 • Pledging to create an emerging industries fund to support jobs and economic growth in high-tech and creative sectors

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investing \$2.5 million over three years in a n Urban Aboriginal Action Plan to help find economic opportunities and access social services ● Improve work opportunities for New Canadians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introducing the <i>Ontario Immigration Act</i> and working with the federal government to expand the Provincial Nominee Program ○ Calling on the federal government to streamline the <i>Foreign Credential Recognition Program</i> 		
Pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will introduce an Ontario Retirement Pension Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pension Plan would be introduced in 2017, to coincide with expected EI reductions ○ Modeled on CPP pooling of risks ○ Would feature equal contributions from employers and employees to a maximum of 1.9% of income on a maximum earnings threshold of \$90,000 ○ Would be mandatory for all, with those with comparable plans exempted ○ Consultations to be undertaken re: self-employed ○ Would be introduced in stages, beginning with the largest employers, contribution rates to be phased in over 2 years ○ Would be run at arms-length from government with strong governance and investment management reflective of the \$3.5b in contributions expected to be collected each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In favour of pooled registered pension plans, and would work with businesses to make it easier for employers to offer this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Propose an Ontario retirement plan that would provide an optional defined benefit pension ● Will wait until after the 2015 federal election and the formation of a new government before deciding on any Ontario pension measures

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will work aggressively to set-up the ORPP so as to begin on schedule in 2017 ○ During the first year of a new government mandate, would introduce legislation to create Pooled Registered Pension Plans for those seeking another option to the ORPP ○ Will work with other provinces to make ORPP portable across Canada ○ Will work to ensure ORPP can be integrated in to the CPP, should Ottawa enhance benefits 		
Taxes & Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promising to implement a plan to reduce Ontario's debt-to-GDP ratio to 27% (pre-recession) • Committing to re-introduce the 2014 budget • Pledging to balance the budget by 2017-18 • No increases in the gas tax, HST or raising income tax on middle-income earners to pay for infrastructure or other initiatives • Pledge to maintain a "low" corporate income tax rate for small business of 4.5% • Personal Income Tax Rate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The taxable income threshold for the top rate of 13.16% has been lowered from \$534,090 to \$220,000 ○ The rate for those making \$150,000 to \$220,000 has increased from 11.6% to 12.6% • Tax increase on aviation fuel of 1% per litre per year over the next four years (4%), expected to generate additional revenues of \$25 million in 2014-15, rising to \$65 million in 2016-17, with this revenue dedicated to public transit, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will present a mini-budget as soon as possible after election to proceed with economic pledges • No new spending promises, will hold public sector spending in line with population growth for 4 years • Promises to protect government funding solely to health care • Will eliminate the \$12.5-billion deficit by 2016 • Pledging to reduce corporate taxes to 8% from current 11.5% • Promising to reduce personal income taxes by 10% after the provincial budget is balanced in 2016-17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to balancing the provincial budget by 2017-18 with a \$700 million contingency, going forward • Pledging to cut small business tax rate from 4.5% to 3% by 2016 • Will cap salaries of public-sector CEOs • Committing to "Stop corporate giveaways and close tax loopholes" • Will increase the general corporate tax rate to 12.5% from 11.5% • Pledging to halt the phase-out of the HST Input Tax Credit Restrictions from 2015-2018 as presented in the 2014 Liberal Government Budget • Will "increase compliance, crack down on the underground economy & enhance auditing and collection measures" • The government's shares in General Motors should be sold, for a benefit of up to \$1.4 billion at current market prices

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	<p>transportation infrastructure and other priority projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing amendments to the <i>Highway Traffic Act</i> in 2016 to modify the treatment of currently-unregistered machines that use public roads and highways, expected to net an additional \$25 million, beginning in 2016-17, the application of fuel tax and registration fees could also be affected • Raising the threshold at which the small business deduction tax can be applied • In total, these measures are projected to increase revenue by \$900 million 		
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise to upgrade 10 units at Darlington and Bruce B nuclear facilities over 16 years, creating and sustaining 25,000 jobs • Committing to reduce electricity costs by up to 15% for large users making new investments in Ontario and up to 20% for conservation minded large electricity users • Take the Debt Retirement Charge (DRC) off residential electricity bills, saving the typical homeowner \$5.60 per month/\$70 per year after Dec. 31, 2015 • Pledging to invest in major northern transmission projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Expanding the “East-West Tie expansion ◦ Build a new Northwest Bulk transmission line ◦ Build new lines and upgrades in the north ◦ Will seek federal government cooperation to provide grid connections to First Nations communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise to upgrade existing nuclear power plants and build new ones • End current subsidies for wind and solar power generation by repealing the <i>Green Energy Act</i> • Pledging to lower energy prices by cutting bureaucracy at Hydro One and Ontario Power Generation and reducing the number of provincial electricity agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government funds set aside for nuclear projects should fund energy efficiency initiatives instead • End \$1 billion annual subsidy of electricity exports to jurisdictions like New York and Michigan, taking Ontario hydro sales out of the hands of speculative energy traders • Cap hydro sector executive pay • Merge Ontario’s hydro agencies • Would have Ontario’s Auditor conduct an immediate review of all private power contracts in the wake of the \$1-billion gas plant scandal • Promising a one-time \$100 rebate to individual ratepayers • Pledging to eliminate the provincial portion of HST on hydro bills, starting in 2016 if elected, projected to save an average homeowner about \$120 a year • Promising to repeal the debt retirement charge, worth approximately \$70 a year per family

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to continue investing in green energy totalling 20,000 MW of renewables by 2025 including hydro-electric, wind, solar & bioenergy • Promising up to \$200 million over two years for a new Natural Gas Access Loan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For residents & industry ○ Interest-free loans will help communities work with utilities to extend access to natural gas supplies • Pledging to create a \$30 million Natural Gas Economic Development Grant to accelerate projects with economic development potential • Committing to create a <i>Home Electricity Assistance Program</i> for low-income families providing relief of up to 10% on energy bills or \$17/month 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledging to “prevent unfair price increases for natural gas consumers” • Committing to helping families install solar panels and make energy efficiency retrofits to their homes through a revolving fund providing loans that are paid back through energy savings
Government Reform & Red Tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will reduce the number of classified agencies by about 30% by March, 2015 • Pledging to introduce a Financial Accountability Officer • Committing to maintain salary freezes for MPPS and to cap public sector executive salaries • Pledging to reduce taxpayer s costs for public sector pensions • Promising to establish a cabinet committee to find savings of \$2.25 billion over three years • Proposing to merge the Ontario Mortgage Corporation with the Ontario Mortgage and Housing Corporation • Proposing consolidation of Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrink the size of cabinet from 26 to 16 ministers • Eliminate agencies, such as the Ontario Power Authority and Local Health Integration Networks, and programs, such as Drive Clean, that “don't offer good value for the taxpayer” • Reduce the number of Ontario public sector workers by 10% or 100,000 over 4 years without affecting "vital" services performed by nurses, doctors and police • Reduce the number of administrative jobs throughout government • Reduce Ontario’s 380,000 regulations by 1/3 over 3 years, including “eco fees” for recycling • Public sector wage freeze, saving \$2 billion • Eliminate rules prohibiting competitive bids on government construction projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the size of cabinet 30% from 26 to 14 members • Create cabinet position of Minister of Savings and Accountability, responsible for reducing provincial expenditures by 0.5% or \$600 million • Reductions would not impact social programs, but be focused on overlapping government agencies and ministerial bureaucracy • Pledging to be serious about seeing auto insurance rates come down by an “achievable” 15 per cent • Would force insurance companies to pass on any rate reductions to motorists immediately • Will ensure all provincial government advertising is vetted through the Provincial Auditor General

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will divest government of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario's headquarters and the Ontario Power Generation's head office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledging to end government monopoly in providing workplace insurance to employers (WSIB) • Reduce government's operational role in lotteries & gambling • Encourage better service through competition • End public funding for advocacy groups such as the Toronto Environmental Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill the position of Financial Accountability Officer immediately "to stop waste before it happens"
Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promise to raise the minimum wage for personal support workers in the home care sector by \$4/hr. by 2016 from \$12.50/hr. to \$16.50/hr. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would challenge the "extraordinary powers governments grant unions." • Pledging an across-the-board public sector wage freeze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to increase <i>Employment Standards Act</i> enforcement to better protect people's rights on the job
Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledging that every Ontarian will have access to a primary care provider • Promising to continue to reduce wait times for services, focusing on referrals to specialists • Committing to increasing funding by \$220 million over three years & renew commitment to <i>Ontario's Mental Health & Addictions Strategy</i> • Would invest more than \$11.4 billion in capital grants in major hospital expansion or redevelopment projects over the next 10 years • Proposing additional \$300 million over 10 years to shift care from hospitals into community setting; includes creation of a dedicated Community Infrastructure Renewal Fund to help community organizations, increasing infrastructure funding for Community Health Centres, community-based mental health and addictions programs, and Aboriginal Health Centres • Total health sector expense projected to increase by \$3.3 billion between 2013-14 and 2016-17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to create a single point of accountability for health care by breaking down the "barriers" between Community Care Access Centres, Local Health Integration Networks, family doctors and hospitals • Eliminate proposed funding for in vitro fertilization treatments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to ban ambulance fees and scrap Local Health Integration Networks and replace them with "effective local decision making" • Pledging to attract up to 250 doctors to underserved communities by forgiving up to \$20,000 in debt per year of service • Promising to open 50 new 24-hour Family Health Clinics across the province with capacity to serve at least 2150,000 people • Committing to hire 250 nurse practitioners to ease ER wait times • Pledging to "eliminate" the waitlist for acute long-term care beds, creating 1,400 more spaces • Promising to eliminate home care wait times for seniors with a "Five Day Home Care guarantee", promising "approximately two nursing visits and 7.5 hours of personal support per month" • Also pledging to eliminate the wait list for 2,800 people waiting for non-nursing care • Will create a Caregiver Tax Credit, valued at \$1,275 annually - fully refundable & would be in

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promising to create 36 more Health Links for people with complex & multiple conditions • Committing to continue to expand scope of practice for professionals such as pharmacists & nurses • Pledging to continue to advocate for a national drug insurance program • Promising to expand funding for fertility services starting in 2015 • Committing to investing more than \$750 million over the next three years for Home Care Services • Pledging to develop a palliative and end-of-life care strategy • Will establish a Patient Ombudsman 		<p>additional to supports available through other programs</p>
<p>Education & Child Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to re-introduce the <i>Child Care Modernization Act</i> to modernize the delivery of child care - improving safety, providing higher quality and greater accessibility • Pledging to support the <i>Child Care Modernization Act</i> by investing in licensed child care spaces and providing subsidies to improve the quality of care • \$269 million over 2 years for Early Childhood Educators, \$1/hr. Jan., 2015, \$1/hr. Jan., 2016 • Promising the availability of full-day kindergarten to all 265,000 4 & 5-year old children by September 2014 • Seeking a commitment from all federal political parties to include a national child care plan in their 2015 election platforms • Pledging to invest \$150 million over three years in technology & learning tools, such as tablets, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Hudak is the first Ontario leader to say he would cut the provincial education budget • Will not scrap full-day kindergarten, but will increase the ratio for full-day kindergarten to one teacher for every 20 students, from the current ratio of two teachers per 26 students • Eliminate 9,700 “non-teaching positions” • Would reinvest savings into 300 elementary schools where more than half of students fail to meet test standards • Class sizes would increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Classes up to Grade 3 would increase from 20 to 23 students ○ Classes from Grade 4 to 8 would increase from 24.5 to 26 students ○ High School class sizes would increase from 22 to 24 students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledging to freeze post-secondary undergraduate tuition fees at 2014 levels • Committing to making provincial student loans interest-free • Will invest in safe & affordable childcare spaces • Pledging to hire up to 1,000 new health & physical education teachers “by the end of our mandate” • Committing to create an “Open Schools” fund to prevent school closures and extend after-hours programs • Promising to hire up to 1,000 educational assistants to launch a “Student Achievement Program”

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	<p>netbooks, cameras, software and professional development for teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committing to expand the Student Nutrition Program to 340 additional schools and 56,000 students • Promising to launch an Experience Ontario program, a nine-month paid community work & service program operated in partnership with the private sector and funded \$10 million from the Jobs & Prosperity Funded • Pledging to continue to offer the 30% Tuition Grant for undergraduate postsecondary students, amounting to up to \$1,780 for university students & \$820 for college students annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned raises for Elementary Teacher's Federation of Ontario members and early childhood educators would be eliminated • Will eliminated the 30% tuition grant for most Ontario college and university students 	
<p>Social Assistance/ Programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledge a 1% increase for Ontario Works recipients and those receiving Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) payments • Promising upon re-election to release a second five-year <i>Poverty Reduction Strategy</i> • Committing to the indexation of <i>Ontario Child Benefit</i> to rate of inflation - up \$100 to \$1,310 by July, 2014 as well as the eligible income threshold • Pledging to invest \$50 million over 5 years to partner with communities developing local responses to reduce poverty • Promising to increase annual funding of the <i>Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative</i> by \$42 million • Committing to introduce health benefits for children living in low-income families, starting with prescription drugs, vision care, mental health services and assistive devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning to replace Ontario Works and ODSP with one streamlined program • Will eliminate the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit for seniors, valued at \$1,500 • Pledging to freeze the Ontario Child Benefit at \$1,200 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want to ensure social assistance rates keep pace with inflation and reduce claw backs for working Ontario Disability Support Program recipients • Pledging to invest an additional \$15 million annually in student nutrition & local food initiatives • Promising to extend dental benefits for children from low-income households to include 100,000 children • Committing to “protect” tenants by enforcing building standards & maintenance rules

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pledging \$30 million over the next two years to partner with business to help more people with disabilities reach their maximum employment potential • Promising to expand the <i>Healthy Smiles</i> program to cover an additional 70,000 children • Committing to increase support for developmental services, eliminating waiting lists for the <i>Passport</i> program within four years and for the <i>Special Services at Home</i> program within 2 years - pledging to invest \$810 million over three years for better services for people with developmental disabilities • Promising to increase funding for Children's Treatment Centres by \$5 million annually to a total of \$101 million a year • Pledging to make legal aid accessible to more than 1 million additional low-income Ontarians by doubling the eligibility threshold for legal support over the next seven years 		
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will encourage growth through new legislation focusing on smarter development • Pledging to change the building code to permit six-story wood-frame buildings • Promising to invest in cycling expansion • Committing to protect more land by enhancing the Greenbelt 		
Interprovincial Trade		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase trade with other provinces through new interprovincial free trade agreements with British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan 	
Immigration		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make better use of federal immigration programs that match immigrants to jobs 	