



## Henri Giroux

### **1. Would your party reinstate the scheduled reductions in Corporate Income Tax, standardize the Business Education Tax and reduce the Employer Health Tax?**

In recognition of the important role small businesses play in our economy, a NDP government will maintain the small business tax rate at 3.5 per cent. Small businesses; those with payrolls below \$1.5 million will still be eligible for the Employer Health Tax Exemption.

### **2. Has your party costed out their election platform promises and how do they intend to pay for it?**

Our platform plan is costed and transparent. Our Fiscal Plan: We will end a corporate income-tax giveaway, returning the tax rate on profits to 13% in a fair manner that allows businesses to plan. We will close a loophole that's allowing big corporations to qualify for a small business exemption. We will maintain the one-third reduction to small business corporate income tax rates. We will ask the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share by raising income tax on amounts earned over \$220,000 by one percentage point, and on earnings over \$300,000 by two percentage points. We will add a surcharge for vehicles that cost more than \$90,000 .

### **3. How will your party work with industry and post-secondary institutions to ensure that program offerings remain responsive to the changing labour market dynamics and the regional and sectoral needs of Ontario's Business community?**

Regardless of who they are or where they live, Ontarians must have the opportunity to gain the skills necessary to thrive in the modern economy. That is why New Democrats are making important investments in post-secondary education and workforce development to prepare Ontarians for the in-demand jobs of the innovation economy. This includes a commitment to create 27,000 new paid student work placements during our first term to give university and college students the hands-on work experience they need to succeed in the modern economy.

### **4. Does your party have a plan to redesign Employment Ontario services for both job-seekers and employers and evaluate the potential of an outcomes-based funding model? What is your party's plan to modernize the apprentice program?**

Andrea Horwath and the NDP will invest \$57 million annually from the Jobs and Prosperity Fund to create opportunities in the trades. We will bring together labour unions, employers, the Ontario College of Trades, and individual tradespeople to ensure that college programs are funded; to identify and develop new opportunities for apprenticeship; and to ensure young people know the opportunities that can come from a skilled trade. We will put a particular focus on bringing more women into the skilled trades.

### **5. How will your party tackle the debt and move towards a balanced or surplus budget?**

We want to keep our calculations cautious and won't count chickens before they hatch. So we've only included revenue sources we know we can count on.

There are a number of other revenue sources that we've kept out of our fiscal framework, because of a lack of government transparency or because there isn't enough data to make a reliable projection.

Some of those potential revenues that we excluded from our framework include: Cracking down on excessive public sector executive compensation, The potential for new measures to combat housing speculation and increased revenues from Hydro One, when we fully return it to public ownership.

Our fiscal framework and cost, revenue and economic growth forecasts are based on the fiscal forecasts contained in Budget 2018. This framework shows spending which is in addition to forecasted Liberal government spending, but does not, unless otherwise shown, include new commitments in Budget 2018.

### **6. How will your party ensure all proposed policy, regulation and legislation has been evaluated against sound, quantitative evidence?**

The NDP platform's economic and fiscal assumptions, as well its individual expense and revenue measures, have been independently reviewed and found to be reasonable by Kevin Page, CEO of the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy. Page is also Canada's former Parliamentary Budget Officer.

**7. Would your party support opportunities for businesses to purchase surplus energy, equal to or lower than selling it across borders?**

Unlike Wynne's \$40 billion hydro borrowing scheme, which the PCs will keep in place, the NDP's hydro plan will address the underlying costs of hydro instead of pushing the problems into the future. Our plan will lower hydro costs for all ratepayers by up to 30%, and keep them down. The NDP will restore Ontario's proud legacy of public power, starting by bringing Hydro One back into public ownership and control. We will get private profits off your hydro bill, and make Ontario's hydro system work for Ontarians, like the public system that made Ontario an economic powerhouse for over a century. The NDP will renegotiate or cancel overpriced long-term contracts that force Ontario families and businesses to pay private profits to energy companies for decades, even for energy they don't use. We will ensure that hydro decisions are based on facts and expert advice - serving the interests of Ontarians, not politicians and their friends. The NDP will permanently exempt hydro from the provincial HST, and pressure the federal government to do the same. The NDP will reform the Ontario Energy Board so that it serves consumers, not energy industry insiders. We will end mandatory time-of-use premiums that hurt Ontario families and businesses who have no control over when they need to use power. We will get rid of unfair rural hydro delivery rates. The NDP will increase funding for the Ontario Electricity Support Program to help more families stay out of energy poverty.

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