



Stephen Glass

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

As announced in the 2017 Budget, the Liberal plan proposes measures to better target the Employer Health Tax (EHT) exemption. The EHT exemption relieves more than 85% of Ontario employers from having to pay the EHT. We propose to follow the eligibility criteria for the Small

Business Deduction (SBD) for the EHT exemption. Liberals have invested \$200 million annually to reduce the highest business property tax rates. The NDP platform commits the party to increasing Business Education Property Taxes by an average of 28%. The Liberal budget calls for a further reduction in the Corporate Income Tax rate for small business from 4.5% to 3.5%.

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

The Liberal Party platform is fully costed and published for all to read in the 2018/19 budget 'A Plan for Care and Opportunity' - over 300+ pages. The Conservatives have not yet come out with a one-page budget summary and should thus be disqualified from consideration for government. The NDP admits to a published plan that has multi-billion dollar errors. The Liberal Party platform sets out a fiscal plan which starts out in 2018/19 with a \$6.7B deficit which is progressively reduced to a balanced budget in 2024/25. This plan is set out in detail in Chapter 3 of the Budget, pages 165 to 260. No other party has come even close to providing such a carefully detailed plan.

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?

The Liberal government introduced the Good Jobs and Growth Plan with a commitment to \$935 million in new investments over 3 years. Over 3 years, \$132 million will support innovative programming that strengthens partnerships with local employers to provide more hands-on learning opportunities, more dual curriculum opportunities in partnership with employers and to boost the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics students by 25%. The Liberals will invest \$170 million over 3 years in the new Ontario Apprenticeship Program. A new Ontario Training Bank will be created with a \$63 million investment. These add to the more than \$1Billion/year invested in training.

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?

The Ontario Employment Bank will help employers invest in the skills of their workers, and come together to train and recruit new talent. Employers will have access to essential skills upgrading, including digital literacy for their workers at no cost to the employer. Job seekers will be able to access quality training to secure in-demand jobs and meet employers' hiring needs.

SkillsAdvanceOntario (SAO) will be expanded and enhanced with \$30 million over two years to maintain the growth and sustainability of critical sectors, as well as provide training for vulnerable job seekers, including the long-term unemployed, newcomers, at-risk youth, indigenous and persons with disabilities.

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

A Liberal government will remain committed to taking a balanced approach of investing and supporting key programs and services for Ontarians, and keeping the province's finances on a sustainable footing. Over the medium term and recovery plan period, growth in program spending will be managed to an average annual rate of 2.5% between 2018/19 and 2024/25.

The Liberal government will continue its focus on continuous improvement - making sure public services are achieving outcomes in the most effective, efficient and sustainable way possible. The Conservative plan which they refuse to reveal to voters inevitably leads to destruction of essential services.

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

The Liberal party has established a strong tradition of pursuing evidence-based policy.

Of the three major political parties, the Liberal party is the least ideological and the most pragmatic; seeking a balanced, evidence-based approach to delivering effective essential services to meet overwhelming demands while maintaining a cautious eye on ensuring that our taxation structure remains world-competitive and that debt remains within a debt-GDP ratio that is responsible and sustainable.

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

In theory this is an attractive option. However, it is unclear to me how businesses could purchase surplus power without it in fact being a swap with the power they are already purchasing at a subsidized rate in order to support companies to be competitive. The question appears to actually be asking for electric energy to be sold to business at the lowest price obtainable on the free market for surplus power. While understandably attractive to anyone operating a business, this would appear to shift the financial burden of the gap between actual cost of generation and the lowest cost of surplus power onto the provincial debt.

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