



Victor Fedeli

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

A PC Government will cut corporate income taxes from 11.5% to 10.5% to stay competitive with our neighbours and enable businesses to create good paying jobs.

We will also help small businesses by reducing the small business tax rate by 8.7%. This is the same percentage by which the Ontario PCs will reduce the corporate tax rate.

This tax cut will apply to the first \$500,000 of profits and will cost the government just over \$60 million annually, once implemented. We will include this measure in our first budget.

This means, under an Ontario PC Government, the small business tax rate will be reduced to 3.2% from the current 3.5%.

This tax cut is in addition to the 12% hydro rate reduction, which applies to small businesses, the 10 cents/litre provincial fuel tax reduction, the scrapping of the cap and trade carbon tax, reducing labour costs by implementing a minimum wage tax credit for workers, and reducing red tape.

The Ontario PCs understand that small businesses are job creators and the backbone of the economy. The province should do more to help small businesses instead of continually adding to their burden.

As a life-long entrepreneur and former Chamber of Commerce President, Vic Fedeli will continue to bring his strong voice to Queen's Park to represent families, seniors -- and all our employers.

Small businesses need relief. Help is on the way.

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

Ontario families and businesses need real relief. Here is some of the help that is on the way!

Families + Seniors:

- 20% tax cut for the middle class (\$43,000 - \$86,000)
- Minimum wage earners pay NO provincial income tax
- Free dental care for low-income earners
- Reducing Hydro bills by 12%
- Cut the price of Gas by 10 cents/litre
- Child care rebate of 75% up to \$6,750 per child, from newborn to 15 years

Healthcare:

- Hiring more doctors and nurses
- \$1.9 billion investment in mental health, addictions, and housing supports
- Build 30,000 long-term care beds
- Free dental care for low-income earners

Business:

- Cut corporate income taxes from 11.5% to 10.5%
- Lowering the small business tax rate by 8.75%
- Reducing Hydro bills by 12%
- Cut the price of Gas by 10 cents/litre
- Cut red tape and stifling regulations

Northern Ontario:

- Bring back the ONTC Passenger Rail Service
- Ensure the Ring of Fire roads get built and unlock the billions in investment and jobs
- Ensure any unspent NOHFC money is rolled-over to the next year and stays in the North
- Invest \$100 million in broadband and cellular expansion

Each and every announcement has had a price-tag attached to it.

The Auditor General reviewed only 14 Agencies and showed us \$1 billion in savings, without making ANY cuts. We will follow that guidance to do the same in every Agency, Board, and Commission.

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 Conference Board of Canada estimates that the skills mismatch costs the economy of Ontario up to \$24.3 billion in Gross Domestic Product and \$3.7 billion in tax revenues each year.

The Ontario PCs will prioritize the skilled trades and ensure students are prepared for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

We will work with our industry and education partners to ensure learning opportunities match up with market trends and existing employer needs. The new film post-production facility at Canadore College, opened to help facilitate and support the growing local film and television industry, is a good example of this.

Canadore's ICAMP is another example. They work in partnership with over 70 mining and machine shops to determine what equipment the students need to be trained on.

This must be a consultative and collaborative effort, in order to succeed. There is a phenomenon in Ontario: people without jobs; jobs without people. The government needs to better understand the skills requirements of our employers, and put the training in place. This way the many unfilled jobs in Ontario can be aligned with highly-trained, highly-qualified individuals.

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?

A PC government will review all areas of government, including Employment Ontario, to see where we can make improvements and find efficiencies.

Under the Liberals, Ontario has lost more than 300,000 manufacturing jobs. Between skyrocketing hydro rates, cap-and-trade, and strangling red tape, Ontario is no longer open for business.

We have a plan to begin creating good jobs in Ontario. It starts with lower taxes, cutting red tape, and reducing hydro bills for everyone.

Of note is the mining sector in Northern Ontario. The mining sector is the largest employer of the Indigenous population in the North and many young men and women work in this field. We should capitalize on this for the mutual benefit of both groups.

The Ontario PCs recognize the important role that apprenticeships play in Ontario's skilled trades. We will reduce red tape to work towards increasing apprenticeships across the province.

The Ontario PCs recognize that many Northern businesses have difficulty finding skilled workers to fill the job opportunities they have.

We will work to ensure Northern students who want to work in Northern Ontario are able to do so by giving them the educational opportunities to gain the skills needed to do so, and creating more jobs and attracting investment in the North.

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

The Ontario PC plan implements a number of pro-growth measures that will make life more affordable for Ontarians.

Lowering taxes creates jobs a PC Government will cut corporate income taxes from 11.5% to 10.5% to stay competitive with the U.S. and enable businesses to create good paying jobs.

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We will find efficiencies like those identified in the most recent Auditor General's report, which outlined \$1 billion in savings in just 14 areas of government, which consists of several hundred agencies.

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

The Ontario PCs will ensure that every decision at Queen's Park is viewed and assessed through a Northern lens.

Whether it's the Far North Act, which shut off half of Northern Ontario to exploration, walleye limits on Lake Nipissing, the Caribou plan, or the conflict between the Crown Forest Sustainability and Endangered Species Acts which threatens our forestry sector, the voices of Northerners and scientific data have been ignored in favour of insiders.

Ontario businesses and families have been hit with intrusive and economically-destructive regulations. For instance, Ontario has 380,000 regulations – almost double that of some other provinces.

Businesses and developers in Ontario often encounter duplicative approval processes, which results in unnecessary delays, and hinders productivity and innovation.

An Ontario PC Government will make Ontario “Open for Business” by implementing policies that make it easier to invest, start, and grow a business in Ontario.

We will introduce a customer service guarantee: a single window access for all government approvals. Decisions on all government approvals, including reviews and assessments, will have a hard deadline of one year.

Under this policy, the Ontario PCs will remain committed to meeting the province's duty to consult with First Nations and Métis communities on decisions or actions that may adversely impact Indigenous or treaty rights.

The Ontario PCs will also mandate the Treasury Board to conduct an aggressive review of Ontario's industries to identify red tape and duplicative assessments in effort to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses.

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

There is no question that skyrocketing hydro rates are a tremendous weight on Northern Ontario businesses. We saw a clear example of this when Arclin closed its doors on Wallace Road, citing the high cost of electricity as a key reason why.

Sadly, the NDP voted with the Liberals at every opportunity to enact and preserve the Green Energy Act and continue with bad energy deals that have seen our hydro rates triple over the past 10 years.

Ontario produces far more energy each day than it consumes. As a result, surplus energy is sold to Quebec and the U.S. at a loss, almost daily. This adds up to billions of dollars annually.

A full assessment of how the government got us into this mess is required to determine why we have this surplus hydro, and how long this surplus will last.

We would work with the experts, such as the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, to determine whether there is a long-term threat of surpluses in Ontario. Only then, with proper data, could this plan be analyzed.

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