



April 30, 2014

(DRAFT)

Focus Groups 2014

Ontario Libertarian Party

The Ontario Libertarian Party is a registered provincial political party, which ran 51 candidates in the 2011 Ontario general election, and is currently preparing to run a full slate of 107 candidates in the next upcoming general election. Its primary policy focus is on reducing the size of government, and restoring the economic and personal freedoms of the residents of Ontario.

Sunset Clauses & Repeal of Legislation

Party Position (DRAFT)

Legislation should be written such that it will expire at a future date. This should be particularly true of intrusive legislation (which should not be enacted in the first place), where privileges are granted to groups or individual etc. Adding a sunset clause forces the legislature to re-examine the legislation in question and in the light of a new situation. All such previous legislation should have this rule appended. In this way rules are reduced and the legislature has something to do other than think up new rules.

Similarly if a new law proves to be unpopular, or in any way detrimental to the negative rights of individuals, citizens should be able to petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and demand the bill be repealed or set in motion the possibility of a referendum for repeal.

Candidate Talking Points (libertarian.on.ca/doc/ngc)

1) Difficult Question: I've heard that some people think it's a good idea to let all laws expire, or "sunset", which means that some day, we might not have any laws left at all. Is that really a responsible way to run a government?

2) Positioning: Laws on the books, just like milk or eggs at the grocery store, have a "best before" date. >> To stand up for renewal, laws need to be structured in a way where they can be measured and evaluated by their intended results.

3) Supporting: To earn the title of "politician", you do not have to be a policy expert. >> Ontarians should never have to live with the consequences of bad or outdated policy, for the rest of their lives.

4) Illustrative: Every year there are several examples in the news of parts of legislation being repealed (or not repealed), and the unpredictable timing of this created uncertainty in industries that are affected by the legislation. Sunset clauses, as a rule instead of an exception, would promote certainty around the effective periods of new legislation.

Party Action

- Call for a review & possible repeal of the Ontario Drive Clean Act
- Briefly research & publicize an existing outdated or "ridiculous" Ontario law

Leader Quotes

"Sunset clauses are a natural step towards less government and more personal and economic freedom for the residents of Ontario."

"Laws on the books, just like milk or eggs at the grocery store, have a 'best before' date."

Taking Care of Low Income Families

Party Position (DRAFT)

Libertarians are working to stop, and then reverse the trend towards increased government involvement in the economic and personal lives of the residents of Ontario. It is our position that the current government-run healthcare and education systems, as well as over-regulated industries, have created more barriers to low-income families to participate in the workforce, instead of promoting the “public good”.

We live within walking distance of the world's greatest economy. We sit on one of the richest deposits of natural resources in the world. Poverty is a problem that affects individual people. Jobs are the solution to poverty.

Party Action

- Call for the abolition of the College of Trades
- Call to “undo” any government programs in the media spotlight that put more jobs at risk

Candidate Talking Points (libertarian.on.ca/doc/ncg)

1) Difficult Question: I've heard that Libertarians oppose government operated health care, education and other vital public services for low-income working families. What is your party's plan to fight poverty in Ontario?

2) Positioning: Various governments have created elaborate and expensive programs to care for people in need over the past 50 years. Yet poverty is still with us.

3) Supporting: Poverty is a problem that affects individual people. We believe that people would prefer the opportunity to better themselves rather than be given handouts. A lack of education choices, excessive taxes against businesses and unsustainable government regulation have all contributed to limiting the economic opportunities for tens of thousands of Ontario families.

4) Illustrative: To begin a career in the trades in Ontario, you can no longer just leave your home and go to work. There are artificial barriers, such as the Ontario College of Trades, that impact your ability to earn a living and support your family.

Leader Quotes

“Our economic system in Canada has created the wealthiest, healthiest, longest living people in the history of humanity. Poverty and unemployment is a problem that affects individual people, and reducing job opportunities for residents of Ontario is not the solution.”

“Poverty is still with us. It never seems to disappear, the problem is never solved. Poverty is a problem that affects individual people, jobs are the solution.”

"Mainstream" Political Parties, and Us

Party Position (DRAFT)

Libertarians recognize that the fundamental problems with big government go beyond any individual scandal or misstep of the elected officials in office, at any point in time. For this reason, we feel that it would be dishonest to persuade the residents of Ontario into believing that voting out the incumbent party, and voting in our party, would immediately solve all of the major social and economic problems in the province. This is why running a so-called "negative" campaign against other parties and candidates is a futile exercise. Instead, we believe that it is more effective to demonstrate to voters *how this exact strategy has been used against them by the other "mainstream" parties* who compete for political office every four years, and how our party is solely focused on restoring the personal and economic freedoms of all residents of Ontario. It is not our job to point out others' mistakes.

Candidate Talking Points (libertarian.on.ca/doc/ngc)

1) Difficult Question: Non-mainstream parties, such as yours, can split votes in elections where only a few hundred ballots can decide which party wins the government. Do you really want this to happen?

2) Positioning: Most of the other parties at this table believe that a bigger government, and tweaking the current systems in place, is the solution to any problem in Ontario. How well has this worked for us for the past several decades?

3) Supporting: Healthcare, Education, Electricity generation and transmission, are all monopoly services of the Ontario government and have been for generations. Our approach is different. Instead of blaming the current problems on the government in power, a Libertarian government would introduce competition into these critically important services for the residents of Ontario.

4) Illustrative: When was the last time you experienced a food shortage at the grocery store? Food supply is a vital service to communities, and we should be thankful that we have so many choices as consumers in a competitive marketplace. When services like healthcare and education are operating in a monopoly, what is the point of blaming our problems on politicians and bureaucrats? The problem is with the structure of the system, not with the actors in it.

Party Action

- Call for a public inquiry into non-partisan, growing social/fiscal problems, such as:
 - Increasing public debt levels
 - Increasing healthcare spending levels, which account for almost half of total expenditures in the 2013 budget

Leader Quotes

"We will not always tell the residents of Ontario what they want to hear, but we will always provide the same message:

Less government, lower taxes, more freedom."

Public Private Partnerships

Party Position

Libertarians believe that capital projects should remain in the private sector, and would welcome a direct transfer of major infrastructure to municipal governments. We believe that this would provide consumers (taxpayers) with more options for open consultation with their local government when considering how to maintain existing pieces of infrastructure in their community, and build new ones.

Party Action

- Call for a review and elimination of some of the more visible public-private partnerships, such as The Beer Store.

Candidate Talking Points (libertarian.on.ca/doc/ngc)

1) Difficult Question: Our public infrastructure is crumbling, and too many people are out of work in these challenging economic times. Aren't public-private partnerships (P3s) a viable solution to some of these problems?

2) Positioning: Giving private sector corporations risk ownership, and control over public infrastructure for extended periods of time is a recipe for disaster, for the taxpaying public. Infrastructure projects, like other services in an open economy, should remain competitive throughout their lifecycle.

3) Supporting: (Federally), the current P3 model generally transfers long-term risk to the private sector, where one or a few private companies will be "locked in" to a major infrastructure contract for a lengthy period of time. Involving government in major capital projects hinders the ability for smaller firms to compete on small infrastructure projects at the municipal level, which in turn affects consumer input in which pieces of infrastructure are most useful for them.

4) Illustrative: The Beer Store is the ultimate example of a successful public-private partnership. Are consumers better off? Other examples of government-sponsored infrastructure being built for reasons other than its intended purpose are everywhere. In some parts of the world, entire cities have been built and lay vacant, all in the name of creating "economic stimulus". How is this beneficial to anybody, other than bureaucrats and investors?

Leader Quotes

"We do not support public-private partnerships, because they are not created for the benefit of Ontario taxpayers, and take decision-making power away from municipalities."