

OCSI - Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure

1. FUNDING TOOLS:

How will your Party work with municipalities to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for infrastructure? What new or enhanced revenue tools does your Party feel should be available to municipalities to permit them to make adequate investments in our infrastructure systems?

The Ontario Liberals will continue to support strong communities through the Municipal Infrastructure Strategy. The 2014 Liberal Budget introduced a new, permanent municipal roads and bridges fund of \$100 million per year, which we expect to grow over time. If the 2014 Budget would have passed, this fund would have been launched this spring. The new permanent fund for municipal roads and bridges and other infrastructure priorities, will continue to support critical projects in communities with challenging fiscal circumstances. The new fund would include application and formula-based funding for eligible municipalities, with an objective of transitioning to full formula-based funding over time.

2. DEVELOPMENT CHARGES REVIEW:

The current development charges legislation has had the effect of underfunding infrastructure. There is broad consensus among our members that the Development Charges Act, 1997 should ensure that growth pays for 100% of growth related capital costs for all municipalities. How will your Party strengthen the financial sustainability of communities experiencing significant growth pressures? What changes and improvements would your Party make to the present Development Charges framework to ensure that municipalities have the tools to plan and fund future growth?

Ontario Liberals are committed to making the Development Charges Act responsive to the changing needs of Ontario cities. We are focused on creating a balance between ensuring housing remains affordable and empowering municipalities to make needed investments in infrastructure.

If given another mandate, an Ontario Liberal government will remove the 10 per cent discount on transit development charges and work with municipalities to determine a progressive, forward-looking formula for calculating transit development charges

3. **PLANNING:**

How will your Party ensure that infrastructure, both municipal and provincial, is planned in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable manner which promotes the well-being and economic vitality of Ontario's communities?

Liberals would re-introduce Bill 141: the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act. This important Bill died on the order paper when the PC and NDP party refused to support the Ontario Liberal budget. The government's future infrastructure investments would have been enshrined in Legislation.

Bill 141 would have required the government to table a 10-year infrastructure plan and was based on principles aimed at promoting the well-being and economic vitality of Ontario communities. In Kathleen Wynne's plan, the province and broader public sector organizations, such as universities, hospitals and municipalities, would consider key principles when determining infrastructure plans and investments, including the following:

- Demographic and economic trends and fiscal plans;
- Advancing the use of new technologies and practices and supporting innovative partnerships between government and industry; and
- Protecting the environment and considering the impacts of severe weather on infrastructure.



4. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE:

How will your Party encourage municipalities to continue to adopt sound asset management principles to ensure the sustainability of their infrastructure systems?

We will continue to invest in solutions to minimize the need for costly infrastructure and its ongoing maintenance and operation, including innovative water technology solutions. Our goal is to save money for municipal, provincial and federal governments.

Furthermore, the Municipal Infrastructure Strategy has provided financial support for municipal asset management planning. Ontario Liberals would continue to provide support for asset management under the new permanent \$100 million fund.