

Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure – NDP Response

Re: Ontario Provincial Election 2014 – Your Party’s Position on 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?*

We will maintain a dedicated fund of \$29 billion over 10 years for transit and transportation infrastructure projects across the province. In addition we will boost transit investment by \$250 million annually to kick-start high impact transit projects. We will also invest an additional \$250 million in infrastructure investment across the province. We will maintain the Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund. This will consist of funding for critical road, bridge, water and wastewater projects and for projects identified as priorities in municipal asset management plans. We are also committed to infrastructure funding for family health clinics, hospitals and other important services that have gone underfunded for too long.

The NDP supports and will honour the commitment to fully upload to the province social service and court costs by 2018 in order to free up municipal budgets.

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?*

The Ontario NDP will complete the review of municipal land use planning, but supports reforming the Ontario Municipal Board, which the Liberal government has refused to, do. We will review the *Development Charges Act* to ensure that it is predictable, transparent, cost-effective and responsive to the changing needs of communities. We support the principle that growth pays for growth, and in order to help municipalities pay for growth pressure, will start by removing the discount that developers get to recover their costs related to recreation services, library services, old age homes, spaces for child care, health department services, and ambulance stations.

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?*

The NDP supports the provincial government's policy that asset management plans must show how climate change adaptation was considered in the project design, to build the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard, and to develop higher standards for new construction and major renovations for both provincial and other public sector facilities.

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?*

The Ontario NDP supports the provincial government's efforts to update the capital asset management framework and make it available to municipalities. We support the plan for every ministry to prepare and update an annual inventory of its infrastructure assets and a plan to maintain those assets, based on a consistent framework, and to require that municipalities, universities and other public sector agencies that receive provincial government funds do the same.