



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2008 NOACC POLICIES

1. **Establish Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC)**

That the Provincial Government take the lead role, in cooperation with the federal government to work on the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Regional Development Authority Regional Enhancement Committee (REC).

2. **Establish A: Northwestern Ontario Policy Research Institute (NWORPI)**

That the Provincial Government take a lead role, in cooperation with the Federal Government in the establishment of a Northwestern Ontario Policy Research Institute.

3. **Increase Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) Funding**

That the Provincial Government increase NOHFC from \$60. Million to \$100. Million per year.

4. **Rebating Provincial Sales Tax to Municipalities**

That the Provincial Government rebate the provincial sales tax paid by Ontario municipalities (without increasing the compliance burden).

5. **Reducing Sales Tax Red Tape for Ontario Businesses**

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Complete a review of its retail sales tax statutes and simplify and clarify the tax rules and rates.
- 2) Commence discussions with the Government of Canada to cross train sales tax auditors and eliminate the duplicate interruptions in the productivity of running small businesses.

6. **Improvements to Ontario's Co-operative Education Tax Credit**

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Increase the current \$1,000 Ontario Co-operative Education Tax Credit from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per work term for each co-op student and raise the rate of tax credit on eligible expenses from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.
- 2) Allow employers who train apprentices as part of the three levels of Apprenticeship in-school training to claim the Co-op tax credit.
- 3) Lobby the Federal Government to match the Co-operative Education Tax Credit for a total of \$5,000.

7. Electricity Pricing, Supply and Market Development

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Work towards establishing a competitive market for electricity in the long term.
- 2) Immediately start creating conditions for a competitive environment in the mid-term, including developing instruments to help facilitate market liquidity forward exchange, long-term contracting, and long-term price predictability.
- 3) Ensure that its policy choices result in affordable electricity to help keep Ontario business competitive;
- 4) Promote a diverse supply mix as a way of ensuring that Ontario's electricity prices remain affordable over the long-term.
- 5) Ensure an adequate supply of electricity in Ontario to meet the needs of Ontario businesses.
- 6) Ensure a reliable electricity supply for Ontario businesses.
- 7) Ensure that the price of electricity reflects the true costs.
- 8) Ensure a significant role for the private sector in Ontario's electricity system.
- 9) Promote stability in the electricity system, since business needs a stable policy and regulatory environment for investment, especially in the electricity sector where many investments have high capital costs and long lead times.
- 10) Promote environmental sustainability by ensuring that all economic energy efficiency and conservation investments are made.
- 11) Work with Ontario large energy users to ensure that areas with frequent brownouts and drops in supply are upgraded to protect against loss of productivity and equipment damage.

8. Security of Electricity Supply

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Expedite the long-term development and implementation by approving the Integrated Power System Plan and develop short-term and medium-term targets needed to achieve longer-term objectives.
- 2) Support distributed generation that involves locating generation capacity closer to electricity load centers.
- 3) Reduce the politics and bureaucracy around electrical generation and transmission that delay decision-making and discourage innovation and streamline the approval process to ensure adequate electricity supply.
- 4) Conduct open consultation and provide public education on the realities of electricity supply in Ontario.
- 5) Examine the current and future challenges and propose alternative solutions for further deregulation supported by most advantageous cost –benefits ratios.
- 6) Further promote aggressive conservation and consumer demand management programs.
- 7) Encourage private investment and competition in the energy sector by stabilizing the energy market and providing appropriate incentives to investors.
- 8) Take a strong leadership role and not allow "NIMBYism" to delay or stop projects of Ontario.
- 9) Support development of cogeneration projects (i.e., the simultaneous generation of electric power and recovery waste heat) to displace purchased fuel wherever cogeneration generators can be located proximate to industrial/commercial thermal loads.

- 10) Where it is economically beneficial to do so, retrofit the coal fired facilities with new emission reducing technology to ensure competitively priced electricity for Ontario industry and consumers, maximize electricity supply, and to meet cleaner air targets.

9. **Coal Fired Generating Stations**

That the Provincial Government implement clean coal technologies in all coal-fired generating stations in Northwestern Ontario.

10. **Creating a Competitive Climate for the Mining Industry in Ontario**

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Eliminate retroactive taxation from the proposed diamond royalty increase that was introduced in the recent Provincial budget.
- 2) Return any future royalties or taxes collected from the mining industry to the north in specific revenue sharing agreements in order to develop the required infrastructure and to attract new technology and businesses that will provide sustainable development to Northern Ontario.

11. **Eliminating Barriers for Internationally-Trained Professional and Trades People**

That the Provincial Government:

- 1) Continue expanding Employment Ontario with the expectation that it will eventually become a one-stop-shop for individuals to easily access information in regards to skilled trades, apprenticeship training, employment, and certification requirements to work in Ontario.
- 2) Provide financial support programs directly to internationally trained professionals and trades people to facilitate recertification in Ontario.
- 3) Further encourage and support cooperative programs that help to integrate internationally trained professionals and trades people into Ontario's business sector and ensure that they are in compliance with, and familiar with, Ontario's standards.
- 4) Work with the federal government and business partners to assist in making businesses across the province aware of the existence of World Education Service and other credentialing services and encourage their use.
- 5) Encourage and work with the federal government to review and revamp the current immigration process to ensure that internationally trained professionals are fully informed of the registration requirements they face in Canada and are given an opportunity to complete the registration process before entering Canada.
- 6) Set in place by December 31, 2007 a provincial nominee program in Ontario in relationship to the Labour demand.

12. **Changes Recommended at the Three Western Ontario Ports of Entry (POE)**

That a call for review of Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) procedures and requirements for entering Canada:

- 1) That CBSA implement standardized practices for the enforcement of minor criminality laws across all Canadian ports of entry.
 - a. CBSA institute self-assessing practices (audio and video monitoring components and supervisory overview) to ensure adherence with standardized practices.

- b. CBSA implement a customer service/human relations training program at the ports of entry identified as problematic.
 - c. CBSA immediately release all relevant statistics by POE for “turn backs” from the spring of 1999 to the present date.
- 2) That CBSA clearly communicate, in writing, any and all relevant changes in enforcement policies and practices six (6) months prior to implementation.
 - 3) That CBSA and associated Federal Agencies investigate and implement a system of policies and practices that allow visitors with a minor criminal background to visit Canada.
 - a. Recognize if they have “done the time they have paid for their crime”
 - 4) That CBSA hire and train qualified agents for Fort Frances/Rainy River/Pigeon River POE’s to administer and process visitors with “special circumstances” on a 7 day a week/24 hour basis.
 - 5) That the Government of Canada implement a series of “short-term” solutions to address selected categories of “minor criminality” and thus facilitate border crossing (e.g., surrender driver’s license, surrender passport, utilize a bondsman, photograph and fingerprint, etc.) for those that have paid their debt to society.