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Ontario Budget Response 2016

Media Release—February 25, 2016

The Ontario Libertarian Party is calling for “A Return to Common Sense”.

Today, Finance Minister Charles Sousa tabled the Ontario Budget for the 2016 -17 fiscal year. This budget is just a continuation of the status quo that plagues Ontario, driving businesses away and putting families under ever-greater stress.

All economic forecasts this year signal a weakening economy across the country. Common sense dictates that now is not the time to institute a Cap and Trade scheme of the type the Europeans have already shown to be ineffective in benefiting the environment. This will increase the cost of all economic transactions in Ontario, and as happened in Europe, increase the likelihood of corruption.

Common sense also dictates that now is not the time to

As the government’s own research has shown this [pension plan] is certain to damage the economy

institute a new payroll deduction scheme, on millions of employees and their employers even if it is for a pension plan. As the government’s own research has shown this is certain to damage the economy, even with a one-year delay.

Over the past decade Ontario has been a net exporter of our young people to other provinces, to greener pastures, to jobs. Once Ontario was the true economic engine of Canada,; today it’s only by default we reclaim that title because Alberta is in a downturn.

Ontario already has the highest sub-sovereign debt of any jurisdiction in the world. This intolerable situation is a consequence of complete mismanagement, since Ontario is blessed with abundant resources and located within walking distance of the world’s greatest economy to the south.

The Ontario Libertarian Party is calling for “A Return to Common Sense” based on the following summary:

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Editor: Jim McIntosh

Libertarian Pub Nights and Events

Ottawa Pub Meeting – March 6, 2-4 PM (1st Sunday of each month) - O'Brien's Eatery and Pub, 1145 Heron Road. Everyone welcome. For more information contact Damien Wilson, j.damien.wilson@gmail.com. Next meeting is April 3, 2015

Toronto Pub Night - Wednesday March 9, 7:00 PM (2nd Wednesday of each month) - Granite Brewery and Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Avenue East at Mt. Pleasant Rd. For more information email Jim McIntosh (cfo@libertarian.on.ca) or phone him at 416-283-7589. The next Pub Night is Wednesday April 13.

Guelph Pub Night - Friday March 11, 7:00 PM (2nd Friday of each month) - Bobby O'Brien's, 90 Macdonell St, Guelph. See www.facebook.com/LocalsForLiberty. RSVP to Andrew Donovan (cellphone 519-362-7660). The next Pub Night is April 8.

Kitchener-Waterloo Pub Night - Thursday March 17, 7:00 PM (3rd Thursday each month) - Benny's Family Restaurant 183 Weber St. N., Waterloo. RSVP to Paul Herriot (519-208-8379 or paulforfreedom@outlook.com) so he can reserve a large-enough table. The next Pub Night is April 21.

Hamilton Pub Night – March 19, 7:00 PM (3rd Saturday of each month) - FLA Cafe & Bar 660 Barton St E Hamilton. Contact Rob-ertYoungHBSc@yahoo.ca for more information. Next meeting April 16.

Windsor - TBA - The Party has a dozen people living in the Windsor area, If you are interested in organizing a Pub Night there, contact Jim McIntosh (see below) for advice.

If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night in your area, please contact Jim McIntosh by email (cfo@libertarian.on.ca) or phone 1-855-ONT-LIBerty.

For the latest , visit http://www.libertarian.on.ca/pub_nights

Annual Libertarian BBQ

Sunday June 12, 2016 11:00 - 4:00
Hosted by Paolo and Teresa Fabrizio
Doctors McLean District Park -
8100 Islington Ave. , Vaughan
Bring your family and friends

Annual General Meeting

Sunday November 7, 2016 9:30 - 4:30
Location to be arranged

Let's Speak Common Language - by Rob Brooks

We all know our provincial government is a mess and that it is impacting the lives of everyone that lives in Ontario. The accumulated provincial debt is about 300 billion dollars and the annual interest expense is roughly 9% of the total expenses of the provincial fiscal budget. With the interest expense factored in, this means everything the government provides is automatically 9% more expensive than it need be, whether it is so-called essential services or even worse for non-essential services. This accumulated debt is being passed on to future generations, to the unborn, to future Ontario taxpayers that never voted for the debt and never received any benefit from the spending. As a consequence, businesses are leaving and families are breaking down and breaking up.

This is the status quo of the big three parties and we know it isn't working.

We know our ideas would make things better. In addition, we know that most people don't want to become "libertarian" or anything else for that matter. Most people just want to go about living their lives. Just like us, they want a better quality of life, for themselves, for their children and grand-children, and frankly they don't want to worry about government, or economics or philosophy, but every 4 years a large number will vote. So what should we do?

Year after year we can try to explain libertarianism using the language and terms and concepts of libertarianism. We can tell them it's a moral, efficient and effective political philosophy that leads to specific policy decisions. Most people stop listening somewhere between "free market" and "monopoly" and definitely before "tragedy of the com-

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mons".

This is the status quo of our party and we know it isn't working.

The good news is almost everybody wants the same thing we want - a better quality of life. Our challenge is they don't understand the words we use. Of course, we should never change our principles. That is clear.

We have a choice. We can keep speaking our language. Libertarians will understand and others will think we are kooks and crazy. Some will ignore and shun us. Or we can use common language and we can be heard by others who want the same things we want.

So, for instance, instead of using the term "classical liberal", we can use the phrase "a return to common sense". Instead of "monopoly" we can use "a single supplier of a product or service". Instead of "free market", we can use "individual, family, community, small business and large enterprise". The short one or two word terms are the shorthand language we understand and use everyday, but when we use them with people that want to think about are the new releases on Netflix, what their favourite wine is and how much and what kind of food their dog or cat eats, but that will show up and vote, well, you see the point.

So, in summary, I think by now we know promoting our policies using the ideas and language of libertarianism and economics and philosophy does not and will not work, except with libertarians. So my suggestion is we use common language that still completely respects our principles and we communicate in ways most people can understand. Let's do it!

(Continued from page 1)

- The reduction of all taxes and fees over a 20 year period with the goal to have the HST as the primary Revenue tool for the government.
- A balancing of the books over a 20 year period, where the bulk of Ontario's accumulated debt, a mortgage on our future, has been repaid.
- Smarter trade, including the removal of all legislative trade barriers so that Ontario workers in all fields can compete within Ontario, Canada, North America and the global market.

Servicing the debt remains the third largest Provincial budget expense at well over \$11 Billion annually. As a result Ontario residents are over-paying for both essential and non-essential services for which government is the sole provider. Interest on the debt adds over 9% more, add to that the waste, for which this government is notorious, and the cost of all government services is much more than it needs to be. This impacts all the services and hurts everyone.

Ontario Libertarian Party Leader, Allen Small says, "The accumulated Ontario government debt of over \$308 Billion becomes a tax on

the unborn. Every child born today is saddled with more than \$22,00 in Ontario government debt. Thirteen years ago that number was \$11,000. Is that the legacy you want to leave to your children or grandchildren? Common sense dictates that we stop living beyond our means."

The Ontario Libertarian Party calls for the rejection of this budget and instead the adoption of a budget based on "A Return to Common Sense."

References:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-07-20/ontario-more-indebted-than-california-ignores-s-p-in-borrowing>

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/studies/spending-is-the-source-of-ontarios-deficit-and-debt-problem>

<http://www.macleans.ca/economy/economicanalysis/ontarios-number-one-god-help-us/>

- Reduce Taxes
- Balance the books
- Remove legislative trade barriers

The Ontario Libertarian Party has been a registered political party since 1975. We advocate individual liberty through free markets, property rights, and limited government. Contact: [in-fo@libertarian.on.ca](mailto:info@libertarian.on.ca)

A Letter to the City of Toronto - by Scott Johnston

To whom it may concern:

Since I witnessed the arrival of the first sidewalk tractors operated by city workers for winter snow clearing in my neighbourhood several years ago, I have seen a rapid deterioration in our community's ability to keep the sidewalks clean, while at the same time I have watched the rapid physical deterioration of the sidewalks themselves due the type of equipment used along with over salting. What galls me is that I have to pay for this terrible and expensive service whether or not I want it.

Would you please fix the problem.

Scott I. R. Johnston scott@sirjohnston.ca

Let me explain how I came feel this way.

I have been shoveling sidewalks since before people feared global cooling. Back when neighbours helped a sick neighbour shovel and if he was too old, a city crew did the work without charge. As for the homeowners who didn't care to do their civic duty, the city did the clearing for them as well but the laggard paid later on his tax bill. The snow clearing market worked quite well with the competition being the city - as always the most expensive - the gas station guy with a plow, the kid with the shovel and the homeowner. Competition worked out a price for quality and service which kept everyone happy except the laggards and the sidewalks were kept clear enough so that most people could get around on foot.

Today, however, the government has established a monopoly on sidewalk clearing, at least in my neighbourhood here in Toronto. Why did this happen when what had been common practice and common law in a free market, had worked so well? Was 'now everyone will get the same equal service' the best 'political' solution for angry laggards being told what to do and fined for not? Or perhaps it was progressive political thinking that convinced enough lazy and naive homeowners that adding this service, besides creating more jobs and helping the economy grow, wouldn't

cost any more?

When the first tractor appeared one winter afternoon several years ago, I had finished shoveling hours before. The tractor, which left a trail of snow across my driveway and down my sidewalk that would have turned into ice, so I cleaned up again for both me and fellow pedestrians. This new 'service', with an any-time schedule for clearing meant dangerous walking would happen on some streets for most of the day. Furthermore, small snowfalls meant no tractor, so pedestrian's boots with winter sun turned the light snow into ice which fewer homeowners bothered to clear because it was now someone else's job. This treacherous, potentially litigious condition was solved by having the city crews salt preemptively, often so much the pulverized salt from pedestrian fills the air, punishing the lawns, trees and pets as well.

The "new service" also causes movement of the individual slabs making up the sidewalks. As the tractor bounces and jostles it's way down the street, the tractor's weight pushes the individual slabs down unevenly because the slab's foundation wasn't designed to handle this dynamic load. Little by little corners of slabs have popped up or down, sometimes entire slabs cracking into pieces from the tractor's weight.

Furthermore the blade pushed in front chips away at the newly raised corners and scraps away the thin layer of cement which otherwise protects the concrete below from salt amply provided by a hopper at the rear of the tractor. All of this prematurely destroys our sidewalks. And when the blade wanders off the sidewalk, more damage happens when the tractor's blade takes slices out of peoples lawns.

When our government oversaw a mostly free market there was competition for quality, service and price. Sidewalk clearing as a government controlled monopoly, like any monopoly, always ends up with ever worsening service and terrible quality with ever higher prices. What unnerves me the most is that I have to pay for this service whether I want it or not.

My Problem With Health Care — By Scott Johnston

Much virtual and real ink has been spilt discussing our 'Health Care' system in the last twenty years. Most of these discussions centre around the problem of our system not having enough money.

I have a fundamental problem with our socialized health care system based on two facts. The first is that there is a direct connection between one's health and what one eats, drinks and thinks. The second fact is that it is more expensive to medically care for people who live longer whether in a socialist or a capitalist sys-

tem. But in a socialist system, people dying early reduces costs, while in a capitalist system it is more profitable to keep people living as long as possible.

What unnerves me is that the same people who run the education monopoly, which has decided not to teach our society how to take proper care of themselves so that they may enjoy a long healthy life, also run the medical services monopoly. There appears to be a conflict of interest between the goal of our government and our health.

Ontario Libertarian Party

Income and Expenses
Excluding Goods and Services

1/22/2016

INCOME	January 1 - December 31				2015 Budget	2016 Budget
	2014	2015	Notes	Difference		
Contributions	19,297	19,850	1	553		
Interest Income	131	139	4	8		
Other Income	40	215	6	175		
TOTAL CASH NON-ELECTION INCOME	19,468	20,204		736		
OPERATING EXPENSES						
			Notes			
Advertising	1,003	1,056	11	-53	1,050	1,000
Bank Charges	607	666	13	-59	900	600
Brochures, Newsletter	650	626	14	24	600	1,000
Fund Raising Expenses	-	436	16	-436	1,120	300
Furniture & Equipment	-	73	17	-73		
Insurance & Utilities	810	851	18	-41	850	900
Interest Paid	-	15	19	-15		
Meetings Hosted	576	1,312	20	-736	1,000	3,000
Office & Equipment Rental	325	403	21	-78	400	150
Office Supplies	1,277	1,506	22	-229	750	650
Postage & Courier	1,943	1,431	23	512	1,300	900
Professional Fees	400	3,401	24	-3,001	3,250	500
Telephone	635	602	25	33	600	700
Travel Expenses	32	-	26	32		
Web and Internet	383	487	27	-104	300	500
Membership Kit Materials			28			750
Campaign Director Expenses			29			1,000
TOTAL CASH OPERATING EXPENSES	8,641	12,865		-4,224	12,120	11,950
INCOME minus OPERATING EXPENSES	10,827	7,339		-3,488		
Election Income	13,538	-	30	-13,538		
Election Campaign Expenses	-15,580	-	31	-15,580	1,000	1,000
Bank Balance January 1	13,431	18,680		5,249	13,120	12,950
A/P January 1	(5,222)	(1,115)				
A/P December 31	1,115	862				
A/R January 1	1,355	785				
A/R December 31	(785)	(1,834)				
Bank Balance at December 31	18,679	24,717		6,039		

NOTES: Items not covered in this budget must be approved by the Executive.

- 1 2015 includes \$4,811.65 from T Johnson, which should have been received in 2014.
- 6 Golf shirts, Out of province memberships.
- 11 2016 Budget includes additional Facebook advertising and Campaign Director's recruiting projects.
- 12 Ian Edmonds contributes his services for the Audit.
- 13 2015 expenses included \$60 for Chequing Account (offset by Interest on Tangerine account), \$324 for Credit Card Processing (16.9% of \$1920) and \$242 for PayPal Fees (3.2% of \$7640)
- 14 2015 expenses included \$396 for 1,000 Mastheads,
2016 Budget allows for 600 Bulletins for members and 430 for MPPs @ \$0.33 for printing,
plus \$400 for another 1,000 Mastheads.
- 16 Most fundraising expenses will involve postage, office supplies and professional fees/services.
- 17 2015 expense for a podium.
- 20 2016 Budget includes \$1500 each for Caucus and AGM
- 21 Office Rental covers the Mail Box at Rylander Blvd. (\$150), Postage meter has been returned,
- 22 2016 budget includes allowance for recruiting campaigns.
- 23 2016 Budget includes \$100 for mailing Receipts, \$400 for Bulletin, \$800 for fundraising campaigns,
and \$100 for miscellaneous (bills, correspondence).
- 24 2016 Budget includes \$400 for folding and mailing Bulletin.
- 25 Cell phone expenses reduced from \$76 to \$36 per month in 2015
- 26 Most travel expenses are contributed services.
- 27 2016 budget includes \$250 for Web Site and \$250 for Meetup subscription
- 30 General Election June 6, 2014
- ** Approved \$500 for "Road to 2018" booklet at January 11/16 meeting,
\$400 to Brochures, \$100 to Professional Fees
- ** Approved \$500 for Expired Membership Appeal Mailout at January 11/16 meeting,
\$200 allocated for postage, \$300 for Fundraising
- 31 Approved \$1,000 for Whitby-Oshawa by-election at November 2/15 meeting, carried forward to 2016