



## ONTARIO ELECTION PLATFORM ANALYSIS for the SPORT SECTOR

With the Ontario political party platforms out, and only a handful of days left before the Ontario 2014 election, we thought we should share with you our breakdown of what the three (3) major parties have offered to our sector so far.

For more information about what the Ontario Sport Sector is seeking during this election, based on a roundtable discussion and survey, please see the election questions we posed to the three major party leaders [Andrea Horwath](#), [Tim Hudak](#) and [Kathleen Wynne](#)).

To date, two parties have responded to our request. Please read [Tim Hudak's response](#) here, or rather, his campaign letter with **no** answers to the four (4) questions we posed on your behalf.

Please read [Kathleen Wynne's response](#) here.



### ONTARIO LIBERAL PARTY

<http://www.ontarioliberal.ca/>

The Liberal platform document contains the major planks from the proposed 2014-15 [budget](#). The platform excerpts from Jobs, Education, Health Care and Sustainable Communities that affect our sector are detailed below. Click on the heading for the link to view each respective document.

#### [JOBS](#)

*"We will become the first jurisdiction in Canada to allow a safe, regulated form of Crowdfunding." (p. 6)*

While we are unsure of what a 'safe, regulated form of Crowdfunding' is, we believe that Crowdfunding is an important asset for fundraising in the sport community – both for individual athletes and organizations.

## EDUCATION

*“We will promote educational opportunities – things like... specialist high skills majors” (p. 4)*

One area of specialist high skills majors is sport

*“We will work with school boards and non-profits to support a comprehensive approach to wellness in our schools. This includes... renewing our focus on physical activity. Through intramural sports, before- and after-school, and other activities, we will set a longer term goal of providing students with the opportunity to participate in 60 minutes of physical activity connected to their school day. We will support this approach with a new recognition program to celebrate healthy, active schools across Ontario”. (p. 5)*

## HEALTH CARE

*“Develop Community Hubs for community-driven programs that focus on health and wellness” (p. 4)*

*“Increase funding for the seniors activity and community grants program”. (p. 7)*

*“Build on other programming, including the recommendations of the Healthy Kids Panel, our commitment to get kids active in schools, and our Seniors Community Grants, to ensure that Ontarians are living active healthy lives, at all stages” (p. 4)*

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

*“Requiring municipalities to work with school boards to develop Park Plans to protect green space in growing communities” (p. 3)*

*“Implementing the province’s first-ever cycling strategy, CycleOn, through an investment of \$25 million over three years” (p.3)*

*“We will support the expansion of Ontario’s trail network by removing barriers to the creation of new trails on private and public lands, including measures to reduce landowner liability.” (p. 4)*

*“We will develop and support school-community hubs to promote efficient use of public assets, build better ties between schools and municipalities and other community organizations, and ensure that more viable schools are able to remain open.”(p. 4)*



## **ONTARIO PCs**

<http://ontariopc.com/millionjobsplan/plan.pdf>

While most of the PC party's focus is on job creation, there is mention of sport and physical activity in the platform

### **KEEP OUR CHILDREN ACTIVE**

*"Ensure that our children get 45 minutes of physical activity every weekday, through school-based activities and after-school sports. We will work with school boards to meet this essential target. Active kids live happier and healthier lives, and they learn better too. We recognize that good health is about more than just healthcare. By improving prevention and wellness, we can ultimately reduce the unnecessary use of health care resources and build a healthier Ontario." (p. 19)*

It should be noted that the [Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines](#) recommend 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day.

### **SHRINK THE CABINET**

*"Reduce the number of ministries, and the number of cabinet positions at the swearing in of a PC government, from 27 to 16. In a legislature of 107 MPPs, we don't need 27 people responsible for spending decisions. In addition, we will tie ministers' salaries to specific performance goals, like reducing the regulatory burden on job creators and meeting budget targets. A smaller, more effective government starts at the top." (p. 14)*

In 2011, our sector lost its place on a Ministry masthead. Our fear is that shrinking the cabinet would once again result in a sport sector without a home in government.

### **PROGRAM CUTS**

*"Review every government program, keeping those that work, fixing those that require it and cancelling the ones that don't give taxpayers good value." (p. 14)*

We would be watching this vigilantly to see where programs in the sport sector stand.

### **ENERGY COSTS**

*“Eliminate the excessive bureaucracy, unreasonable rules and lavish subsidies that have driven up hydro bills” (p. 10)*

The cost of electricity is an important consideration for sport facilities and offices.



### **ONTARIO NDP**

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/1165390-2014-plan-that-makes-sense-web.html>

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & OPEN SCHOOLS**

*“Bring back physical education teachers and keep children healthy and active. We will invest in health and physical education initiatives, including hiring up to 1,000 new health and physical education teachers by the end of our mandate” (p. 6)*

*“Create an ‘Open Schools’ fund to prevent school closures and extend after-hour programs. School boards will be able to apply for funding to help keep schools threatened with closure open, make necessary renovations, and to repurpose under-utilized space for other community uses. Schools can also apply to the fund to increase free and low-fee access for non-profit groups to use school space during evenings and weekends” (p. 6)*

Please share this message with your friends and followers and continue to show your support for our sector during the election by using the **hashtag #vote4sportON**.

