

Backgrounder

ONTARIO'S AUSTERITY AGENDA – WHY OSSTF/FEESO MEMBERS MUST OPPOSE IT

1. Public Services did not cause the Ontario deficit!

The Drummond Commission report states that spending in Ontario is not out of control or excessive. In fact, Ontario already spends less per capita on public services than all of the other provinces.

2. The proposed budget will undermine Ontario's economic recovery!

Proposed cuts to salary and jobs in education will result in less disposable income to support economic growth. Investment in public services helps with economic recovery while supporting good quality of life for everyone, including our children.

3. Ontarians will be negatively impacted!

According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), Canadians on average receive over \$17,000 worth of benefits from public services such as health and education. If implemented, cuts will reduce those benefits to the average Canadian taxpayer who will potentially need to access private and higher cost services.

4. Women and children will be impacted most!

The government's proposed salary freeze and reduction in benefits will have a greater negative impact upon women as there are a larger number of female educational workers than male. Threatened reductions of support staff including educational assistants and school office personnel will be felt primarily by women. Children who depend on the support of librarians and guidance counselors will be directly impacted by these proposed cuts.

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5. The Ontario government is not dealing with the real problem!

The government should be looking at generating revenue. The top 1% of earners in Canada now pay a smaller share of their incomes in taxes than the 10% with the lowest income (CCPA). Corporate taxes have been decreased 4% over the past 12 years (CCPA).

6. The Ontario government promised to “protect and sustain” public services!

The current proposed budget will “take Ontario back to the dark days of cuts and pointless conflict” and “seriously damage Ontario’s economic recovery”. The Ontario government’s election platform promised to “go forward together” in the Ontario Liberal Plan 2011-2015.

7. What really matters is that a strong economy invests in the real priorities that improve lives!

Ontario Liberals were re-elected to fulfill that promise. OSSTF/FEESO members must hold them to that promise!