

# Progress Report **2009**



## PROGRESS REPORT 2009

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Together, we're building a strong economy with good jobs for our families today and good jobs for our children tomorrow. But a strong economy isn't an end to itself. It's the means to a more caring society. A society where all our children receive the best public education, all our families are cared for in the best health care system, and where all our vulnerable benefit from the best public supports.

This is the sixth in a series of Progress Reports updating Ontarians on the results we have achieved together in a transparent and measurable way.

We're going to keep making significant investments in the priorities that matter to Ontarians. And together, we'll make Ontario *the* place to be for years to come.

### I. HEALTH CARE

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Over the past six years, we have been working hard together to strengthen health care in Ontario. Together we have strengthened our hospitals, lowered wait times and improved access to primary care with more doctors and nurses, more family health teams and nurse-practitioner led clinics.

#### **More nurses and doctors**

Strengthening health care means adding more nurses.

That's why we've provided funding to create nearly 10,000 more nursing positions. More than 900 nursing positions will be created in 2009–10.

We're guaranteeing that nursing graduates will start in full-time positions. So far, over 7,700 Ontario nursing graduates have been matched to job opportunities through our Nursing Graduate Guarantee.

And we're helping to keep experienced nurses on the job longer, retaining their valuable knowledge and skills with programs like the Late Career Nurse Initiative and the Registered Nurse: Surgical First Assist Pilot Project.

About 800,000 more Ontarians now have access to a family doctor, compared to 2003 as verified by the Primary Care Access Survey.

We have doubled the number of primary health care nurse practitioner education spaces from 75 to 150 a year and are creating 50 more over the next four years.

We're enhancing the scope of practice of a number of regulated professions, including nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and physiotherapists. By putting more tools in the

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hands of people qualified to use them, we're helping our health care system run smoother and make more efficient use of limited resources.

## **Helping Ontario patients get the care they need, faster**

- Instead of waiting in the emergency room to see a physician, you could have your fracture set by a qualified nurse practitioner.
- People needing a prescription re-fill would be able to make one trip to a pharmacist instead of two — one to the doctor and then one to the pharmacist.
- If you've injured your knee, your physiotherapist could order an x-ray.
- If your nurse practitioner suspects pneumonia, not only could she order your x-ray, she could prescribe your antibiotics.

In 2007, we established North America's first nurse practitioner-led clinic in Sudbury that now provides care to more than 2,000 people.

With the lessons learned in Sudbury, we're moving forward on 25 new, nurse practitioner-led Clinics across Ontario. They'll provide services for as many as 50,000 patients by 2012.

We created 150 new Family Health Teams in 112 communities, including 49 in rural and northern Ontario.

We have almost doubled the number of Community Health Centres (CHCs) and satellites to improve access to health care in communities — 49 new CHCs and satellite centres are established or under development.

There has been a 23 per cent (160 students) increase in medical school enrolment from 2005–06 to 2008–09. In addition, we are creating another 100 spaces, beginning in 2009–10 to be fully implemented by 2011–12.

We created 75 per cent more family medical training positions between 2004–05 and 2007–08 leading to 330 more family doctors ready to practice as of June 2008.

To improve access to doctors in the north, we have opened the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). With campuses in Thunder Bay and Sudbury, it is the first new medical school in Ontario in over 30 years. NOSM celebrated its first graduating class of 55 students in 2009.

We have established three new undergraduate medical education campuses (MECs) in Kitchener-Waterloo, St. Catharines and Windsor. A fourth MEC in Mississauga is scheduled to open in September 2011.

## Medical education campuses welcoming students:

- McMaster's Kitchener Waterloo MEC, 2007–08
- McMaster's Niagara Regional Campus (St. Catharines) MEC, 2008–09
- Western's Windsor MEC, 2008–09
- University of Toronto's Mississauga MEC, 2011

About 1,790 new international medical graduates (IMGs) entered practice in Ontario between 2003 and 2006. Since 2004, we have more than doubled the number of training and assessment positions available for IMGs from 90 to 200. In 2006–07 we offered 218 positions, in 2007–08 we offered 235 positions and in 2008–09 we offered 224 positions, surpassing our own targets.

As a result of our efforts to expand capacity in medical schools and to increase training positions for foreign-trained doctors, the number of doctors graduating and ready to enter practice in 2013 will be almost double the total amount that graduated in 2003.

## Shorter wait times

Compared to four years ago, Ontarians are getting:

- cataract surgery 197 days faster
- hip and knee replacements 185 days and 262 days earlier
- cancer surgery 16 days sooner
- cardiac procedures up to 23 days quicker
- MRI and CT scans 15 days and 34 days faster

The improvement in wait times is the result of almost 1.7 million more procedures.

Ontarians can track our progress because we put wait times information online. Ontario's wait times website — which tracks and compares wait times — has been visited by Ontarians 11 million times, so far.

In 2009, we added a new website that lets Ontarians find the health care provider closest to them: [www.ontario.ca-healthcareoptions](http://www.ontario.ca-healthcareoptions).

Health Care Connect was launched in 2009 to help Ontarians without a family health care provider find family physicians and nurse practitioners who are accepting new patients in their community.

We have expanded the Wait Times Strategy to include general surgery. Ontarians received an additional 8,240 general surgery procedures since October 2008:

- over 1,440 anorectal surgeries (haemorrhoids, fistulas)
- over 3,440 cholecystectomies (gallbladder removal)
- over 400 intestinal surgeries
- nearly 3,000 groin and hernia repairs

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The Wait Times Strategy has also been expanded to improving emergency room (ER) performance, one of our top priorities.

As part of our plan to improve ER performance, we have set provincial targets for time spent in the ER — eight hours for complicated conditions and four hours for minor conditions. In 2009, public reporting of “Time Spent in the ER” data began at [www.ontariowaittimes.com](http://www.ontariowaittimes.com).

We are also ensuring more Ontario seniors can continue to live independently and to allow patients to receive appropriate care in the right setting by:

- Providing a wide range of home care and community support services.
- Increasing home care, personal support and homemaking services provided by Community Care Access Centres.
- Providing timely and appropriate care for residents of long-term care homes with 14 nurse-led outreach teams.

## **Building and expanding hospitals**

There are more than 75 major hospital expansion and building projects completed, underway or planned across Ontario.

### **Hospital projects currently underway**

- Credit Valley Hospital: new facilities for the perinatal program (including the special care nursery) and paediatrics, as well as service expansions in mental health, rehabilitation and complex continuing care
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre: expansion of the M-wing for perinatal and gynaecology program
- York Central Hospital: renovations and new construction to expand the emergency department, modernize outdated inpatient facilities, increase maternal–newborn capacity, more than double ambulatory care visits and adult mental health beds
- Rouge Valley Health System (Ajax Pickering site): expansion in the emergency room, diagnostic imaging department, ambulatory care unit, complex continuing care unit, laboratory services and mental health services

## **Better access to care**

To improve access to medical specialists for northerners, we have raised the travel grant mileage rate under the Northern Health Travel Grant Program to 41 cents a kilometre — and introduced for the first time an accommodation allowance of \$100 per eligible trip.

To ensure Ontarians receive the long-term care they need, 7,936 new beds have been added since October 2003.

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We have also funded at least 6,100 new front-line staff in long-term care homes, including 2,300 nurses.

Investments in home care have expanded services to 492,615 more Ontarians since 2003. The availability of home care services has prevented more than one million hospital emergency room visits since 2003.

Ontario's total investment for long-term care (LTC) homes increased in 2009–10 by approximately 4 per cent. New investments include:

- 2,000 nurses to be hired in LTC homes over the next four years.
- 2,500 more personal support workers for LTC homes over the next three years.

Eligible military family members are now provided with Ontario health insurance coverage immediately upon moving back to Ontario, benefitting about 8,500 military family members each year.

## **Promoting wellness, preventing illness**

To protect people's health from tobacco-related illnesses, we have worked hard to toughen tobacco laws, ban smoking in public places and encourage more Ontarians to quit altogether.

- In January 2009 legislation was passed that bans smoking in vehicles when children under 16 are present.
- Under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, we banned the retail display of tobacco products in May 2008.

To help our kids get off to a healthy start we:

- Continue to offer three new vaccines free-of-charge for chicken pox, meningococcal disease and pneumococcal disease.
- Expanded Ontario's newborn screening program in 2006 to make it Canada's most comprehensive. The Ontario newborn screening program now screens for 28 rare diseases and disorders, including cystic fibrosis.

To help our young people and families lead healthy, more active lives, we have:

- Mandated 20 minutes of physical activity every day for students in all Ontario elementary schools.
- Served nearly 500,000 elementary and secondary students healthy and nutritious meals and snacks across Ontario through the Student Nutrition Program in 2008–09.

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- Passed a new law that requires schools to ban trans fat from food and beverages sold in schools.
- Increased our support for the Student Nutrition Program helping to create 700 new programs and expanding 300 existing ones to help reduce the impact of poverty for children and youth.
- Increased funding to the Community Use of Schools program providing facilities and space for not-for-profit groups after hours at reduced rates, or free of charge in some communities.
- Provided 2,138 individual Ontario athletes with direct financial assistance through the Quest for Gold Program since its inception. An additional 8,000 athletes have also benefited from the funding provided by the Quest for Gold Program through competitions and events such as the Ontario Games and Canada Games.

To help prevent illness, we:

- Took action to protect Ontarians against the Human Papilloma Virus — a major cause of cervical cancer — by offering free vaccines to 77,000 girls in Grade 8 and saving families up to \$405 per child.
- Offered free measles, mumps, rubella vaccines through a catch-up immunization program to protect postsecondary students and young adults against mumps infection.
- Promoted Ontario's colorectal cancer screening program. It has meant over 72,000 colonoscopies in the past two years.
- Added the PSA test as an insured service under OHIP for eligible men, enabling them to get a publicly-funded test in their community.
- Helped the growing number of Ontarians living with diabetes through a mix of prevention, technology, personal planning and access to specialized resources and health professionals, benefitting 310,202 Ontarians so far.
- Brought in new legislation to regulate the professions of traditional Chinese medicine, homeopathy, naturopathy, kinesiology and psychotherapy — the first new health professions to be regulated since 1993.
- Provided funding to the Heart and Stroke Foundation to support 1,058 Automated External Defibrillators in communities across Ontario.
- Are supporting the Ontario Institute of Cancer Research. In April 2008, Ontario was chosen to head the global secretariat for the International Cancer Genome Consortium.

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To help families and children with autism, we have:

- Made Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) available to support students with autism and their families
- More than doubled the number of children receiving IBI services to more than 1,300 from just over 500 four years ago
- More than tripled the support for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families since 2003–04, including IBI services, respite services, summer camp funding and training for teachers, child care staff and therapists.

## **Strengthening medicare**

To ensure medicare is there for future generations, we have:

- Banned two-tier, pay-your-way-to-the-front-of-the-line health care in Ontario.
- More than doubled funding for cancer drug treatments under the New Drug Funding Program. In 2008–09, 29,200 patients received treatment, up from 14,211 patients in 2003–04.
- Developed the Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007. It will be the legislative authority for safeguarding resident rights, improving the quality of care and improving the accountability of long-term care home licences for the care, treatment and well-being of over 75,000 residents.
- Created the Operation Health Protection action plan to prevent and better deal with health emergencies like SARS and H1N1.
- Eased the public health burden on municipalities by paying 75 per cent of the cost of mandatory public health programs. This upload was completed in 2007.

Uploaded the Ontario Drug Benefit and Ontario Disability Support Program administration costs. In 2009, these uploads will save municipalities \$245 million.

## II. EDUCATION

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In today's world, the best jobs and the most investment go to the places with the best-educated and highly skilled people. We are only 13 million people here in Ontario. So if we are to take on giants like China and India, we need to ensure we are 13 million *strong* and that *every* Ontarian is at his or her best. In a world where you can borrow capital, copy technology, and buy resources the only things that set you apart from the competition are the skills and education of your people.

That's why we are committed to making our publicly funded education the very best in the world. Supporting educators, parents and students through major investments in the Ontario education system will help students succeed.

### **Smaller class sizes**

In 2003–04, one quarter of all primary (junior kindergarten to Grade 3) classes had 25 or more students.

By 2008–09:

- 90.3 per cent of primary classes had 20 or fewer students.
- 100 per cent of primary classes had 23 or fewer students.

This year, we are providing funding for 5,100 new primary school teachers to maintain 90 per cent of primary classes with 20 or fewer students.

### **Higher test scores**

Overall, 67 per cent of Ontario Grade 3 and 6 students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and math. This is a 13 percentage point increase over 2002–03. That means over 40,000 additional Grade 3, 6 and 9 students are meeting or exceeding the provincial standard in reading, writing and math, compared to six years ago.

As of 2009–10, we are funding more than 10,500 additional teaching positions:

- 5,100 new primary school teachers to help bring down class sizes
- We're providing funding for 126 additional elementary teachers to reduce class sizes in Grades 4 to 8.
- 3,150 elementary specialist teachers, helping to improve reading, writing and math skills — and boost student achievement in areas such as music, the arts and phys-ed.
- 1,910 more secondary school teachers to support student success and help more students graduate.
- 258 secondary school teachers to support expanded programs.

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Student achievement officers from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat are working with principals, teachers and board leaders in all 72 Ontario school boards to support K-6 student learning and achievement in reading, writing and math skills.

Elementary students are benefiting from more than one million new books in school libraries across the province. Every publicly funded elementary school in Ontario received funds to enhance their library collections.

We introduced the School Information Finder (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sift/>) which enhances openness and transparency by providing individual school profiles with information about student achievement, the student population and the school itself on one reliable, easy-to-access website.

## **More high school students graduating**

Working with students, parents and educators, we've helped raise the high school graduation rate from 68 per cent in 2003–04 to 77 per cent in 2007–08. That means 36,000 more students have graduated than would have had the rate remained at the 2003-04 level.

To ensure students continue learning until at least age 18 or graduation, we have introduced new legislation, expanded co-op programs and created more ways to earn high school credits.

Other steps include:

- Providing funding for a Student Success Teacher in every secondary school.
- Introducing formal links between high schools, universities, colleges and the work world stressing the importance of reaching higher.
- Expanding the Specialist High Skills Majors Program to over 430 schools.
- Expanding the Pathways to Education Canada program in 2007–08 to give more students from at-risk neighbourhoods a fair shot at success. The program began in Toronto's Regent Park neighbourhood and has now expanded to Lawrence Heights and Rexdale in Toronto, as well as neighbourhoods in Kitchener and Ottawa.

## **Good, safe places to learn**

As part of an ongoing investment in repairs, renovations and new school construction more than 13,000 renewal projects have been completed or are underway at our schools. Since 2003 more than 200 new schools have been built or are under construction with plans for an additional 100 schools underway. More than 3,500 schools have undergone safety audits.

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In April 2009, we helped over 1,000 schools become more energy efficient, creating and sustaining over 5,500 jobs.

More ways we have made schools safer include:

- The Keeping Our Kids Safe at School Act, passed in 2009, requires board employees to report serious student incidents, such as bullying, to the principal. It also requires that principals contact the parents of the victims.
- Programs and supports for all expelled students and students serving long term suspensions and to address inappropriate behaviour.
- Additional professional supports including psychologists, social workers, child and youth workers, and attendance counsellors.
- Funding for select secondary schools in urban areas that face challenges such as poverty, criminal and gang activity, and a lack of community resources.
- Resources, training or activities that help promote safe, equitable and inclusive schools.

## **Giving kids the best start in life**

We have created more than 22,000 childcare spaces across Ontario since 2003.

Ontario will start phasing in full-day learning for four- and five-year-olds next fall as part of the province's plan to build a well-educated workforce. Up to 35,000 kindergarten students across Ontario will be enrolled in full-day learning in September 2010. The goal is to have the program for four- and five-year-olds fully implemented in all schools by 2015-16.

We are expanding Ontario's Parenting and Family Literacy Centre Program. For the 2009-10 school year, we will support 123 centres in schools across Ontario, including 34 new centres. Parent workers, who staff the centres, work closely with kindergarten teachers to provide a quality learning environment that prepares young children for school. The centres are free to attend and no pre-registration is required.

## **Reaching higher**

Reaching Higher — a plan to improve accessibility, affordability and quality when it comes to universities and colleges in Ontario — was launched in 2005.

Under the plan, we have 100,000 more students attending our colleges and universities — a 25 per cent increase from 2002-03.

About 172,000 Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) recipients benefitted in 2008-09 from OSAP improvements that have been introduced since 2004-05. These

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include new grants, increased weekly loan limits, updated book costs and allowances for computers.

We expanded Access Grants by doubling the family income eligibility level to about \$80,000 to help about 53,000 students with their tuition in 2008–09.

We capped tuition increases — after we froze tuition for two years — at an average of five per cent annually.

We will create more than 15,000 new graduate spaces by 2011–12.

Together, Canada and Ontario have announced 49 projects to modernize facilities and boost the province's long-term research skills training capacity.

We invested \$3 million in bursary support over three years to help first generation students overcome financial barriers to participating in postsecondary education. About 800 students benefited in 2008–09.

Starting in 2008, eligible students who went away to school received a \$300 annual grant to help them return home for visits with family. Students who live at home and commute regularly back and forth received \$500 each semester. To be eligible for these grants, a student must live in a rural or northern community more than 80 kilometres away from a college or university, and qualify for OSAP.

## III. ECONOMY

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### **Lowering the cost of doing business**

We want to make Ontario a more attractive place to invest and create jobs. That's why the 2009 Budget includes a tax reform package. Under the Budget, many Ontario businesses will see their taxes decrease substantially.

Ontario's general corporate income tax rate will go from 14 to 12 per cent next year, then down to 10 per cent over the next three years.

The proposed Ontario Corporate Income Tax cuts, together with a single, value added sales tax, could cut the marginal effective tax rate on new investment in half, so businesses would no longer pay as much tax on things like new equipment and technology. That means they'll have more money to invest in themselves so they can grow stronger and create more jobs.

Starting July 2010, Ontario will move to a single sales tax to help level the playing field. Businesses in 130 other countries and four Canadian provinces already enjoy lower business costs this streamlined tax system affords. British Columbia has also announced that it proposes to adopt the harmonized sales tax (HST).

That means our businesses will become more competitive, and the result will be more jobs for Ontario families.

The recently published Mintz Report shows how, thanks to the HST, over the next ten years we can expect: \$47 billion in new investment in Ontario businesses, a nearly 9 per cent increase in annual incomes, and almost 600,000 net new jobs, including over 100,000 in manufacturing.

We know that moving to a single sales tax means that the price of some goods and services will go up.

That's why we are cutting taxes too:

- 93 per cent of Ontario taxpayers would pay less income tax.
- The new Ontario Sales Tax Credit would provide more timely tax relief each year of up to \$260 for each adult and child. The new credit would be paid quarterly, starting in July 2010, to approximately 2.9 million low to middle income Ontario families and individuals.
- Starting in June 2010, eligible tax filers aged 18 and over would receive a maximum of three payments totalling up to \$300 for individuals and \$1,000 for families and single parents.
- The new Ontario Property Tax Credit would provide an additional \$270 million in property tax relief annually to an estimated 2.3 million low and middle-income homeowners and tenants beginning in 2010.

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We're also introducing point-of-sale rebates for the provincial portion of the proposed harmonized sales tax for items that are especially important to our families such as:

- diapers
- children's clothing and footwear
- children's car seats and car booster seats
- books

In addition to these new reforms, we legislated a schedule to eliminate capital tax for all corporations in Ontario on July 1, 2010. Effective January 1, 2007, Ontario cut capital tax rates by 21 per cent and fully eliminated the capital tax for manufacturing and resource firms. In addition, corporations that have taxable capital of \$15 million or less, pay no capital tax.

We are cutting business education taxes by \$540 million over seven years.

We are accelerating the Business Education Tax (BET) reductions in northern Ontario, ensuring that northern businesses benefit from the full BET reduction by 2010, four years earlier than originally announced.

We have provided more than \$1.5 billion for farm income stabilization and support programs since 2003.

## **Infrastructure**

We're working to improve our infrastructure to stimulate the economy and create jobs. That's why over the next two years, Ontario's infrastructure will get a \$32.5 billion boost (including \$5 billion from the federal government). This investment is expected to create and sustain more than 300,000 jobs over the next two years.

Over the past two years, Ontario has also made infrastructure investments of \$18 billion — including a one-time allocation of \$1.1 billion provided directly to municipalities — through the Investing in Ontario Act.

### **Investing in Ontario**

- Huron East: new health centre
- Quinte West: new recreation facility
- Barrie: Sanitary sewer project
- Kawartha Lakes: aerial fire truck, bridge repairs and arena upgrades
- Loyalist Township: bridge replacement

Our \$30-billion ReNew Ontario investment plan was completed in 2008–09, a full year ahead of schedule to help tackle Ontario's infrastructure deficit.

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## **Renew Ontario projects**

- Hamilton Health Sciences Hamilton General Hospital: contract value of \$45 million; project announced in 2005 and completed this year
- Roy McMurtry Youth Centre: contract value of \$93.2 million; project announced in 2005 and completed this year
- Wastewater treatment plant in the Municipality of Champlain: provincial contribution of \$2.8 million; project announced in 2005 and completed in 2008
- GO Transit rail fleet expansion: provincial contribution of \$55 million; project announced in Budget 2008; vehicles entered into service in March 2009
- Bell Lightbox: provincial contribution of \$25 million; project announced in 2005 and expected to be completed in 2010

We continue to make great progress on the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe including a commitment of \$17.5 billion for Move Ontario 2020, a multi-year, rapid transit plan.

## **Award winning growth plan for Greater Golden Horseshoe**

- Daniel Burnham Award – American Planning Association (April 2007) The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe is the first recipient from outside the United States of this award
- Award for Planning Excellence – Canadian Institute of Planners (2007) in the category of Re-urbanization
- Leonard Gertler Award of Distinction – Ontario Professional Planners Institute (Oct. 2007)

So far, we have invested \$7.4 billion in public transit — including more than \$2.5 billion for GO Transit — to reduce gridlock and greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Six rapid transit projects announced in the Greater Toronto And Hamilton Area**

The Province has committed over \$9 billion to implement rapid transit projects in the GTHA including:

- \$1.4 billion for more buses, stations and dedicated bus lanes for York VIVA Bus Rapid Transit.
- \$633 million for a new Light Rail Transit (LRT) line on Sheppard Avenue East from Don Mills subway station to Meadowvale.
- \$1.4 billion for upgrading and extending the Scarborough Rapid Transit Line.
- \$4.6 billion for a new rapid transit line on Eglinton Avenue from Kennedy station to Pearson Airport.
- \$1.2 billion for a new LRT line for Finch West from the Yonge subway line to Highway #27 and Humber College, and east to Don Mills station.
- \$3 million for planning studies for Rapid Transit in Hamilton.

Increases in municipal transit ridership show our public transit investments are working. Since 2003, municipal transit ridership has increased by more than 95 million passenger trips across Ontario — the equivalent of removing 79 million car trips from our roads.

In 115 communities across Ontario, we support 90 transit systems by providing two cents per litre in gas tax funding.

We created Metrolinx to build a seamless and integrated transit system in the GTA and Hamilton. In 2009, we passed new legislation to ensure projects are built faster and on budget.

In 2009–10, we are investing \$648 million — a 17 per cent increase over 2008–09 — in the Northern Highways Program to help ensure a safe, efficient modern highway infrastructure in Northern Ontario.

## **Northern Highways Program: projects underway**

- 19 km of reconstruction on Hwy 17, including passing lanes, west of Dryden. Currently underway, contract value of \$13.9 million.
- Reconstruction and operational improvements (turning lanes, lighting) on Hwy 11–17 in the City of Thunder Bay (Thunder Bay Expressway). Currently underway, contract value of \$20.7 million.
- Reconstruction of 28 km of Highway 11 near Geraldton. Currently underway, contract value of \$5.2 million.
- Reconstruction of 11 km of Hwy 655 in the City of Timmins. Currently underway, contract value of \$7 million.
- Reconstruction of 19 km of Hwy 63 east of North Bay. Currently underway, contract value of \$12.2 million.
- Construction continues on the four-lane programs on Hwy 11 and 69. Forty-one km are currently under construction on Hwy 69 between Sudbury and Parry Sound, and 36 km are under construction on Hwy 11 between South River and Katrine, south of Burk's Falls.

## **Strengthening key partnerships**

We are sending the message to companies around the world: if you've got a project that will grow your business and create jobs — we'll make it happen in Ontario.

We created the Next Generation of Jobs Fund (NGOJF) to create and retain high value jobs and encourage new and green technologies that can be marketed to the world.

The NGOJF has announced support for 14 projects, leveraging close to \$1.6 billion in industry investment. These projects create or retain about 3,900 jobs with Ontario support of just over \$388 million.

## **Next Generation Of Jobs Fund success stories**

- 6N Silicon, Vaughan
- Agfa Healthcare, Waterloo
- Electrovaya, Mississauga
- Starz Media Canada, Toronto
- PM Plastics, Windsor

We also enhanced the Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy to open the program to more small and medium sized businesses. So far, we are supporting projects that will generate almost \$890 million in new investment and create or retain over 4,100 jobs.

## **Most recent Advanced Manufacturing Investment Strategy projects**

- Karma Candy, Hamilton (2009)
- Hanwha, London (2008)
- 2Source, Mississauga (2008)

We know the world is heading toward electric vehicles and Ontario is leading the charge. We've introduced incentives that will make buying electric cars easier, helping us towards our goal of "1 in 20 by 2020". People making the switch will:

- Receive rebates between \$4,000 and \$10,000 for vehicles purchased after July 1, 2010.
- Receive a unique green license plate enabling them to use High Occupancy Vehicle lanes for a five year window starting in 2010.

The Biopharmaceutical Investment Program helped persuade Sanofi Pasteur, Purdue Pharma Canada and Pfizer Inc to expand their R&D facilities in Ontario and create new high-skilled jobs.

We have launched a foreign investment strategy. In 2007–08, we attracted 38 international investment deals worth \$670 million, which helped create or retain 8,411 jobs. Business missions to China, India, and Pakistan supported the strategy. The missions generated more than 70 agreements to develop new trade, investment and educational opportunities for Ontario.

Ontario has opened three new International Marketing Centres in Paris, Beijing and Mexico City to help attract foreign direct investment and promote the export of Ontario's goods and services. Ontario now has 10 International Marketing Centres strategically located in key markets around the world.

In early 2008, we worked with De Beers to open Ontario's first-ever diamond mine near Attawapiskat. The mine created 600 jobs during construction and 400 new full-time jobs when production began in March 2008. It is estimated the mine will contribute \$6.7 billion to the Ontario economy over the 17-year life of the development and mining phases of the project. Because of the mine, a facility to cut and polish diamonds began production in Sudbury and a Canadian diamond bourse was created in Toronto to trade rough and polished diamonds.

We established the Centre for Research and Innovation in the Bio-Economy in Thunder Bay. The Centre is up and running and will be making investments to help commercialize new bioproducts, such as eco-friendly fuels, composites and chemicals which can replace products and services which have traditionally relied on fossil fuels.

New investments leveraged by the Forest Sector Prosperity Fund include: value-added products, cost competitiveness improvements, exports to new markets, Aboriginal

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economic development and green energy production. Our support for 39 projects is leveraging over \$742 million in total investment.

## **Forest Sector Prosperity Fund partners**

- Global Sticks, Thunder Bay, \$787,000 and \$2.9-million loan guarantee, announced September 2009
- Little John Enterprises, Timmins, \$151,000 announced July 2009
- Norampac, Trenton, \$1.8 million, announced June 2009
- Greenview Wood Products, Harcourt, \$1.56 million and \$2.4-million loan guarantee, announced August 2008

More than 12,000 jobs have been created or sustained through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund since 2003.

Ontario has released a proposed Growth Plan for Northern Ontario designed to set the region's economy on a strong, globally-competitive footing. More than 2,500 northerners provided input into the development of the plan. Over the next several months, the proposed plan will be open to public feedback which will be used to form the final Growth Plan for Northern Ontario in early 2010.

We have boosted tax credits to keep Ontario competitive in the global entertainment market:

- Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit increased from 30 to 35 per cent.
- Ontario Production Services Tax Credit will be expanded for expenditures incurred after June 30, 2009. It will be calculated as 25 per cent of all qualifying production costs incurred in Ontario.
- Proposed increase of the Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit rates (currently 25 – 30 per cent) to 35 – 40 per cent.

## **Training**

Our Skills to Jobs Action Plan will provide more opportunity for students and people looking for a new job. It's getting results:

- We launched Second Career to help laid-off workers get the long-term training they need for high-skill jobs that are in demand in Ontario. Since 2008, nearly 21,000 Ontarians have been approved and have begun training for their second career. We are now looking at ways to continue this successful program.
- In Ontario, about 120,000 apprentices are learning a trade today — this is nearly 60,000 more than in 2002–03.

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- New annual apprenticeship registrations have grown from 17,100 in 2002–03 to more than 28,000 in 2008–09. By 2011–12, annual registrations will increase to 32,500 — a further 25 per cent.
- Employers are taking on more apprentices in the skilled trades thanks to the new Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit (ATTC). The proposed enhancements would:
  - Increase the ATTC rate from 25 to 35 per cent and increase the small business rate from 30 to 45 per cent.
  - Increase the \$5,000 annual maximum tax credit to \$10,000.
  - Extend the ATTC to salaries and wages paid during the first 48 months of an apprenticeship program.
  - Make the ATTC a permanent tax incentive.

We've passed legislation that would establish the Ontario College of Trades to help modernize the province's apprenticeship and skilled trades system.

## IV. ENERGY

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### Ontario's Green Energy Act

The Green Energy Act will establish Ontario as a leader in North America in building renewable energy, encouraging energy conservation and creating green jobs. It will:

- Support and expand economic investment, thus building a stronger, greener economy with an estimated 50,000+ direct and indirect jobs over the next three years.
- Expand Ontario's use of clean and renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, biomass and biogas.
- Better protect our environment, combat climate change and create a healthier future for generations to come.

### Reliable, clean, affordable energy

Ontario has brought over 1,200 megawatts of new renewable energy online since 2003. In 2008, 25 per cent of Ontario's electricity came from renewable sources.

We are increasing energy from solar power. One of North America's largest solar farms is under construction in Sarnia. Construction is expected to be complete by 2010.

Ontario is Canada's leader in wind power, going from 10 turbines to over 670 spinning today and more than 950 by 2012. Canada's four largest wind farms are located here. Our turbines produce enough energy each year for the average electricity needs of more than 300,000 homes.

#### Canada's four largest wind farms

Melancthon I and II (Shelburne, ON) – 199.5 MW

Wolfe Island (Wolfe Island, ON) – 197.8 MW

Prince (Sault Ste. Marie, ON) – 189 MW

Enbridge Ontario A and B (Kincardine, ON) – 181.5 MW

Investments in renewable energy projects which have come online since 2003, or are currently under construction in Ontario, have created about 2,900 direct construction and permanent jobs.

At the heart of the Green Energy Act is North America's most comprehensive feed-in tariff (FIT), which will spark the development of renewable energy projects. A feed-in tariff is a standard price to promote the development of community-based and large commercial renewable energy projects. It provides a guarantee of market-viable prices

# Progress Report 2009

for electricity generated from renewable energy sources. It allows projects of different types and sizes to have a reasonable rate of return.

Through the Ontario Solar Thermal Heating Incentives we're encouraging large industrial, commercial and institutional energy users to install qualifying solar thermal heating equipment.

Eleven companies have received funding to bring to market innovative technologies in areas such as clean energy, clean water and environmentally-friendly new materials. We will continue to help innovators bring their ideas to market through programs like the Innovation Demonstration Fund.

## **Encouraging families to conserve**

Homeowners can get up to \$150 to help pay for home energy audits. And we are providing grants of up to \$5,000 for home energy retrofits. Combined with federal grants, a homeowner can get up to \$10,000 in rebates.

Over 95,000 fridges and major appliances have been collected under The Great Refrigerator Roundup program. Participating families are saving up to \$150 year on the energy bills.

We are banning the manufacture of inefficient light bulbs sold in Ontario where there are alternatives by 2012.

We are helping families manage their energy use by installing Smart Meters and implementing time-of-use pricing. Creating awareness about how much energy we use and when will encourage families to use appliances — like washing machines — at off-peak times taking strain off the grid, while saving them money.

## **Phasing out coal**

Together we have helped cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from coal-fired generation by 33 per cent from 2003 to 2008.

Ontario is leading North America in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and we are on track to eliminate coal-generated power by the end of 2014.

Ontario Power Generation will close two of eight units at its Nanticoke station near Simcoe and two of four units at its Lambton plant near Sarnia by October 2010.

Together these plants represent about 2,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity. With the shutdown of Lakeview Generating Station in 2005, Ontario's in-service coal capacity will be reduced by 40 per cent since 2003.

## V. ENVIRONMENT

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As Ontarians we care about our shared environment. We know this planet is the only home we have. We want to protect it, we want to preserve it and we're looking for ways to do our part. Together, we'll build a greener, more sustainable Ontario. We'll have green space to visit, clean water to drink and sweet air to breathe. Working together, we'll make sure our children have that, too. We're doing our part:

- We created a 1.8-million acre Greenbelt across the Golden Horseshoe that permanently protects green space. We will work with municipalities who request to expand the Greenbelt in their area.
- We have worked with partners to protect 45 ecologically significant properties totaling 2,180 hectares, including habitat homes to rare species on Manitoulin Island.
- Working with our partners, we have planted 3.2 million new trees to make Ontario greener.
- We have over 26 million hectares of forest managed to sustainable forest standards — over 200 per cent more since 2004.
- We introduced legislation to protect at least 225,000 square kilometres of the Far North boreal region. These lands are a globally significant carbon sink and home to over 200 sensitive species.
- Ontario's new Endangered Species Act came into effect in June 2008. This new legislation is among the toughest in North America and will provide strengthened protection for species at risk and their habitat across Ontario, including the threatened Woodland Caribou.
- We are working to protect water quality in Lake Simcoe with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. This watershed-based plan provides a roadmap to help restore and protect the health of Lake Simcoe and sets a new standard for the protection of Ontario's water resources.
- The Cosmetic Pesticides Ban took effect on April 22, 2009. Ontario's ban is one of the toughest in the world and will reduce the unnecessary risk posed by cosmetic pesticides, making Ontario a healthier place to live.
- We have a new industry-funded used tire program that will effectively deal with approximately 12 million used tires generated in Ontario annually. The program will see over 90 per cent of used car and truck tires reused and recycled into higher end uses.

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- We are working with Quebec, other provinces and U.S. states on cap and trade design through our membership in the Western Climate Initiative. Our activities are also informing the development of a broader, North American approach.
- We have developed a comprehensive drinking water safety net and it is working: last year 99.85 per cent of all drinking water samples taken in Ontario met all of our stringent drinking water requirements.
- Environmental Education expectations and opportunities are being integrated into all grades and subjects of the Ontario curriculum. In addition, two new optional environmental science courses have been introduced.
- We launched “Bag it Back” — a new deposit return program for recycling wine, beer and spirit containers, which will help divert about 25,000 to 30,000 more tonnes of glass from landfills annually — even more than the Blue Box. Ninety per cent of these returns will be recycled for high-end uses like fibreglass insulation and new bottles.
- Ontario’s new Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste Program began diverting hazardous household materials, like paint and batteries in July 2008. The program is set to expand in 2010 and aims to triple the amount of hazardous waste that Ontario diverts from landfills over the next five years.
- We launched a new Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Program in April 2009 to help Ontarians manage used electronics properly, keeping toxic components out of our environment. Prior to the program, about 27 per cent of e-waste was being collected for reuse or recycling — a number expected to reach 62 per cent by 2014.

## VI. COMMUNITIES

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Creative people help fuel the economies of the world's major cities and communities across Ontario. When we invest in some of our renowned cultural attractions — like the ROM, AGO, Science North and the Royal Botanical Gardens, or when we dedicate gas tax money to transit and get to work developing our brownfields — we are doing more than advancing the arts, or building infrastructure. We are on a recruitment drive.

We are making Ontario an even more attractive place for the most talented and skilled citizens from all over the world. We welcome newcomers from all cultures to Ontario and celebrate our diversity which enriches the lives of everyone in Ontario and strengthens our economy.

### **Helping newcomers succeed**

To help internationally trained professionals find work in their chosen fields here, we passed The Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act. It ensures a fair and transparent process for obtaining registration and licensing in regulated professions. The Fairness Commissioner is now studying the registration practices of 34 regulatory bodies.

We have invested more than \$700 million since 2003 on programs and services to help newcomers settle, get job ready, get licensed in their field and succeed in the workforce.

We fought for and won fairness for newcomers to Ontario: an agreement with the federal government provides \$920 million more in federal spending on language training and settlement services over five years.

We have invested in more than 180 bridging programs to help 30,000 newcomers since 2003.

As of 2009, we are helping over 100,000 newcomers get the language training they need.

We created Global Experience Ontario and HealthForceOntario, one-stop access centres that provide information and referral services to internationally trained individuals to help them qualify for professional practice in Ontario.

### **Ensuring every Ontarian has a shot at success**

We accelerated our increase to the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) by two years, almost doubling the maximum benefit to up to \$1,100 per child annually starting in July 2009. As part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (passed in 2009), the OCB will provide up to \$1,310 per child annually within five years, helping 1.3 million children and 600,000 low income families when fully implemented.

# Progress Report 2009

We have raised the general minimum wage six times from \$6.85–hour in 2004 to \$9.50–hour this year. In 2010, we will raise it to \$10.25 — an increase of almost 50 per cent since 2003.

We are helping to create new affordable housing and repair existing social housing including dedicated funding to help seniors and persons with disabilities. Our investments will repair 50,000 social housing units and create 4,500 new affordable housing units, meaning that we will now fund up to 76,500 new affordable housing units for low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities.

We have approved over \$172 million in funding for construction-ready projects under the Affordable Housing Program extension.

We have approved over \$21 million in funding for repair to existing social housing under the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program.

We funded more than 18,000 new affordable housing units for low-income families, seniors, single people and persons living with a mental illness over the past four years.

In partnership with two Aboriginal corporations, we have entered into administration agreements to provide \$80 million in capital funding for Aboriginal designed, delivered and administered off-reserve housing programs in Ontario. The programs, which include new rental construction, acquisition–rehabilitation, repair and homeownership components, will help about 880 families.

First-time home buyers can get up to \$2,000 back as a rebate on their land transfer tax.

Our Provincial Rent Bank Program has prevented more than 21,500 low-income households from being evicted due to a missed rent payment.

By doubling the Senior Homeowners' Property Tax Grant in 2010 we are providing about \$1 billion over five years in property tax relief to over 600,000 seniors.

We have invested more than \$500 million in developmental services and supports for adults with disabilities since 2003 bringing the total provincial expenditure in developmental services in 2009–10 to \$1.63 billion.

We have closed Ontario's last three institutions for people with developmental disabilities and helped nearly 1,000 residents move into the community.

This year we nearly doubled funding for the Youth Opportunities Strategy with support from the federal government. With this investment we more than doubled the number of summer jobs to over 4,000 giving disadvantaged youth valuable work experience that will help them reach their full potential and contribute to the well-being of their communities. This program expansion is a key part of our Poverty Reduction Strategy, which sets a target of reducing the number of children living in poverty by 25 per cent over five years — that's 90,000 kids.

# Progress Report 2009

We introduced Family Day, a new provincial holiday held the third Monday in February, to give hard-working Ontarians more time to spend with the people they love.

## **Creating safe communities**

We put 1,500 more municipal officers on our streets including 375 more provincial police officers.

By 2012, we will achieve a 30 per cent reduction in the average number of court appearances and the time required to complete a case. The Justice on Target strategy will make criminal courts more effective and ensure more justice system resources are available to manage the most serious and complex cases in the system.

We are rolling-out Ontario's After-School Initiative that provides children and youth in some of Ontario's high-needs neighbourhoods with an opportunity to improve their personal health and wellness in supervised, safe, socially engaging and uplifting environments.

The Focus on Youth summer program allows community partners to provide opportunities for young people to take part in positive activities in safe and supportive environments. In summer 2009, the program continued in Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton, and expanded to Windsor for the first time.

We set up a Youth Challenge Fund chaired by Mike "Pinball" Clemons, which is providing funding for 61 community-led programs targeted to young people in the GTA.

We toughened laws covering many aspects of safety, including:

- New escalating roadside sanctions for drinking drivers found in the "warn range" — Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) between 0.05 per cent and 0.08 per cent
- A new ban on the use of hand-held devices while driving took effect on October 26, 2009.
- Stronger penalties for careless driving and other offences — to take effect early in 2010.
- New vehicle seizures for those who drive under suspension, and for some drinking drivers — to take effect early 2011.
- An enhanced Graduated Licensing System for novice drivers — also to take effect early 2011.
- Mandated speed limiters for large trucks to cap speeds at 105 km/h —effective January 1, 2009.

We have created the Exit Point Taskforce to step up the fight against repeat violent crime, by focusing on the main "exit points" of the justice system — bail, sentencing and post-sentence.

# Progress Report 2009

## **Building opportunity in rural Ontario**

We are doing more to help Ontario's rural families:

Farms transferred within a family are now exempted from land transfer taxes.

We provided \$65.1 million more on top of the regular funding to help small and rural hospitals meet the unique needs of small communities.

We have created 49 Family Health Teams in rural and Northern Ontario.

Since 2007, Ontario has committed \$27.4 million to 47 projects to upgrade or build new broadband infrastructure in rural southern Ontario.

Since October 2003, the Rural Economic Development Program has invested \$81.5 million in 248 projects, resulting in \$694 million in new economic activity in rural Ontario.

### **Rural Economic Development Program: projects underway**

- The Newdle Project, J.T. Bakeries Inc: relocating baked noodle production line to Kitchener
- Terrace Bay Downtown Revitalization Project: assisting retailers and attracting tourists
- Olde Post Office Project: revitalizing the Petrolia post-office, a historic landmark, to support commercial space for businesses owned and operated by Lambton County Development Services
- Algoma Orchards Ltd, in partnership with Wilmot Orchards and Vineland Growers Cooperative Limited: investing in specialized equipment for pear and apple processing. A new plant will be built in Clarington, relocating Whitby operations.
- Retrofit of the Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum in Carp: work will upgrade facility and increase capacity from 60 to 500, attracting more tourists.

We are promoting the sale of fresh, locally produced food by raising consumer awareness with the successful campaign "Pick Ontario Freshness." This includes the Ontario Market Investment Fund program, a four-year \$12 million provincial initiative to promote awareness of Ontario-produced foods