

With the Ontario election just under 5 weeks away, the political parties are releasing their platforms.

The PC platform was released in August and can be found at:

<http://www.ontariopc.com/planforthefuture.asp>

Some of the highlights for our sector include:

- Helping children develop healthy lifestyles (p 5)
- Support to Ontarians with chronic disease (p 5 – but no mention of prevention here)
- Provide opportunities for exercise and healthy food in schools (pp 9 -10)
- Positive experiences for young people in order to prevent crime – including opportunities for recreation (p 13)
- Open schools program (p 16)
- Streamlining infrastructure funding (p 18 – does not mention sport or recreation, but does mention having a comprehensive inventory of projects)
- Invest in a more liveable society (p 38 more recreational opportunities)
- Support for parks, recreation and healthy living (p 38 – no details here)

The Liberal platform was released today and can be found at:

<http://www.ontarioliberal.ca/en/Previewpage.aspx?id=46>

Some of the highlights for our sector include:

- Make schools healthier by banning trans fats and have healthier menus (p 8 – a step toward having healthier menus in arenas)
- Current commitment of \$30 billion infrastructure funding includes community facilities (p 13 – see below)
- Build a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy around the Ontario Child Benefit (p 18 – see below)
- Promote wellness and prevent illness (p 21 and 23 – seems to indicate the continuation of the Ministry of Health Promotion)
 - focus on reducing childhood obesity and diabetes
- Reducing childhood obesity (p 24)
- Tax breaks for healthy living (p 24 & 33 – bike helmets, bikes and a fitness tax credit that mirrors the federal one, but more inclusive)
- Healthy food in schools (p 24)
- Increased intramural activities (p 24)
- Banning cosmetic use of pesticides (p 24)
- Ontario Child Benefit (p 33 – provides \$1100 direct to families as a result of the elimination of the clawback which will affect municipalities that had funded programs through the clawback)
- \$60 billion over 10 years for infrastructure (p 36 - not clear whether this is \$30 billion in addition to what is already committed or a new \$60 billion – does include recreational facilities as a priority)

The NDP and Green Party have outlined some priorities on their websites, but have not released a “campaign books.” Their websites are:

<http://ontariondp.com/>

http://www.gpo.ca/campaign_07/home

PRO has prepared election resources to help you inform your local politician about the issues that matter to the recreation and parks sector. They are available for download at the PRO homepage www.prontario.org.

Best regards,

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Canada's 2007 National Parks and Recreation Conference and Trade Show "Connecting with the Capital" – September 26 – 29, 2007, Ottawa. Click [here](#) or visit www.cpra.ca to view the program, keynotes and other great activities!