

# ONTARIO ELECTION 2014

## Ontario Liberal Party

### Summary of Political Platforms & Statements: Aboriginal, Ring of Fire issues

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Based on platform documents and public statements, Ontario's Liberals can be expected to maintain the same approach as before the election regarding Aboriginal affairs and issues, easing continuity of technical and other linkages with First Nations and the Government of Canada.
- Ontario's Liberals can be expected to maintain a separate Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, as well as keeping the Ministries of Natural Resources and Northern Development & Mines separate, ensuring continuity of technical relationships between Ontario and Government of Canada officials.
- In general, Ontario's Liberals have committed to *"discussions with First Nations on a range of matters to ensure they benefit from resource development, including resource revenue sharing, skills training, economic partnerships, and other community development opportunities."*
- Ontario's Liberals have committed to re-introducing their 2014 Budget, including programs for on- and off-reserve Aboriginal people such as:
  - ✓ a Remote Communities Allowance for Ontario Works/Ontario Disability recipients;
  - ✓ funding for the Remote Electrification Readiness Program;
  - ✓ funding for the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program;
  - ✓ continued funding for the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund and the New Relationship Fund; and
  - ✓ development of a First Nations Treaty Strategy, an Urban Aboriginal Action Plan, a Joint Working Group on Violence against Aboriginal Women and an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy.

More Ontario Budget 2014 details are available on page 6.

- On capital investments on reserve, Ontario's Liberals have committed to continuing the First Nation Community Capital Grants Program, which helps First Nations and First Nation organizations build or renovate community centres or small business centres.
- On the Ring of Fire (RoF), Ontario's Liberals have committed \$1 billion for infrastructure leading to the area, whether or not Ottawa matches said funding. Canada can expect continued pressure from Ontario to commit dedicated funding to the RoF, even though Canada has suggested Ontario apply funds through the Building Canada Fund. Ontario's Liberals have also committed to having a RoF Development Corporation in place within 60 days of the election (no later than August 11, 2014).
- Before and during the election, Ontario's Liberals have raised the issue of federal funding levels for First Nations (especially in education and policing), so they can be expected to continue to press Canada on such funding.
- More details regarding statements made during the election campaign can be found below.

**ONTARIO ELECTION 2014 CAMPAIGN**  
 Summary of Political Platforms & Statements: Aboriginal, Ring of Fire issues

<b>GENERAL</b>
<b>Leader/Platform Statements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "We will promote Aboriginal education and business capacity by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Enhancing educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.</li> <li>» Investing \$25 million over three years to create the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund to promote aboriginal business.</li> <li>» Increasing the amount available for loan guarantees for renewable energy projects to \$650 million. This will encourage the development of projects that will pay dividends into the future and contribute to sustainable and clean energy generation in the province.</li> <li>» Investing \$2.5 million over three years in an Urban Aboriginal Action Plan to help Aboriginal people in our cities find economic opportunities and access social services." (platform document)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• "We will re-introduce the 2014 Budget." (platform doc)</li> <li>• Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne has committed to maintaining a stand-alone Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, as well as separate Ministries of Natural Resources and of Northern Development &amp; Mines. (Northern Leaders Debate, 26 May 14)</li> </ul>
<b>Candidate Statements</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q) Should the government be more directly involved in negotiations between First Nations and industry (particularly the mining sector)?</b></li> <li>• A) Sylvie Fontaine (Liberal, Timmins-James Bay): Ontario Liberals are committed to partnering with First National and that's why we created a stand-alone Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Launched the New Relationship Fund (NRF) to help Aboriginal communities participate in meaningful consultations with the government and the private sector. In addition, Liberals established the Premier's Annual Meeting with Aboriginal Leaders. In terms of the Ring of Fire, Liberals formalized our relationship with First Nation communities by making investments into socio-economic development, long-term monitoring of environmental impacts and resource revenue sharing. Liberals have taken an active, yet respectful role in negotiations. (source: <a href="http://www.timminspress.com/2014/06/10/candidates-address-issues-part-2">http://www.timminspress.com/2014/06/10/candidates-address-issues-part-2</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>Chiefs of Ontario Election Analysis document</b> (Source: <a href="http://bit.ly/1KjoJcb">http://bit.ly/1KjoJcb</a> )
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>"Enhancing opportunities for Aboriginal peoples</b> -- The Liberal platform promises \$25 million over three years for an Aboriginal Economic Development Fund, additional loan guarantees for renewable energy projects, \$2.5 million over three years for an Urban Aboriginal Action Plan, and nonspecific commitments for enhanced educational outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. The influx of new funds available for First Nations economic development will not necessarily be sufficient to offset federal cutbacks. Nonetheless, these commitments would be important investments that would otherwise be unavailable. Promises for the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund and extra loan guarantees are unique sign of goodwill towards First Nations since, arguably, the province has no jurisdictional commitments to provide the types of support indicated."</li> <li>• <b>"Re-introducing Government Legislation</b> – The Liberal platform promises to reintroduce bills introduced by the Government that died on the order paper when the election was called. This would include important legislation that complements First Nations interests, such as: The Great Lakes Protection Act .... Invasive Species Act .... and Protection of Public Participation Act .... It should be noted that First Nations have not reached consensus positions on all of the above bills and some outstanding issues may remain, particularly with respect to enforcement under the Invasive Species Act. However, First Nations would have opportunities to advocate for friendly amendments."</li> <li>• <b>"Northern Infrastructure</b> -- The Liberal platform includes a suite of northern infrastructure investments and promises relevant to First Nations including: New northern transmission lines; Advocacy to the Federal government to provide grid connection to remote First Nations; \$1 billion in Ring of Fire infrastructure; and Expanding the Trans-Canada highway to four lanes. New northern transmission lines could potentially open opportunities for northern First Nations to generate and sell solar or wind energy back into the grid through the Feed-in-tariff (FIT) program. Furthermore, an expansion of the grid may provide opportunities for some remote First Nations to transition away from diesel generators. \$1 billion in the Ring of Fire is roughly half of the estimated amount necessary to build the roads necessary for mineral production. However, promises regarding energy for remote First Nations, the success of the Ring of Fire, and an expansion of the Trans-Canada highway ultimately require support from the Federal government. Given that these proposals are outside the full control of the Premier, First Nations may find that the Province is unable to deliver on all new roadways and energy infrastructure."</li> <li>• <b>"Health</b> -- First Nations are reliant on provincial hospitals for most emergency health care. The Liberal platform commits to reduce waiting time in "five key areas by more than 50%" – although it is not immediately clear what these key areas are. Furthermore, the platform commits an additional \$220 million to Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. This</li> </ul>

strategy includes culturally-appropriate services to help address First Nations youth suicide, increased access to mental health services for remote communities, and hiring new mental health and addition workers in communities."

- **"Energy** -- Along with new transmission lines, the Liberal platform includes ongoing investments into hydro-electric, wind, solar and bio-energy. Currently, several First Nations communities are benefitting from these investments. In addition, the platform proposes to lower energy costs by eliminating the debt retirement charge on residential electric bills and creating a Home Electricity Assistance Program for low-income families to save up to 10% on their electric bill. First Nations in Ontario pay staggering amounts for electricity. Every platform has made promises to lower the rates. It is unclear if the Liberal platform will be more or less effective than other parties' promises."
- **"Justice** -- The justice system in Ontario unquestionably impacts First Nations peoples. The Liberal platform puts forward several actions with respect to justice reform although none are directly targeted to improving the application of the Justice system on First Nations. These promises are: Expending legal aid, which provides certificates for low-income individuals to access legal support. Many First Nations are dependent on Legal Aid assistance; Reforming family law by harmonizing the family court system, triaging cases, and "creating a holistic system." While the exact impacts on First Nations are uncertain and may vary, it is likely that family law reform will have important implications for First Nations."

## RING OF FIRE (RoF)

### Leader/Platform Statements

- "Investing in the Ring of Fire: We will invest \$1 billion in infrastructure to support smart, sustainable and collaborative development in the Ring of Fire area ...." (platform document)
- Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne has committed to funding \$1B for infrastructure leading to the RoF, whether or not federal funding is forthcoming, while continuing to call for such federal cost sharing. Wynne has also committed to having a RoF Development Corporation in place within 60 days of the election - no later than 11 Aug 14. (Northern Leaders Debate, 26 May 14, notes at TB 580905; 25 May 14 news conference, reported by CBC <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-votes-2014/kathleen-wynne-highlights-ring-of-fire-in-platform-launch-1.2653747> )
- Interview, Liberal Michael Gravelle on RoF work: "We are determined to move ahead, so we are going to move forward whether the feds come with us or not, but certainly I think it's important to still have (Canada) supporting this project." (netnewsledger.com, 29 May 14, <http://www.netnewsledger.com/2014/05/29/thunder-bay-superior-north-michael-gravelle-interview/> )

### Candidate Statements

- **Q) – What should be the government's role in developing the Ring of Fire mineral deposit?**
- A) Sylvie Fontaine (Liberal, Timmins-James Bay): The Liberal Party is committed to Northern Ontario and is prepared to immediately invest \$1 billion in Ring of Fire infrastructure to support smart, sustainable, and collaborative development. The Ring of Fire represents a tremendous opportunity for the North, and we need a partner in government to ensure these resources stay in the North and that Timmins-James Bay benefits greatly. Ontario remains one of the most attractive destinations for mineral exploration investment in North America and is the Canadian leader. By providing tax credits, grants and geological data, Ontario is demonstrating its leadership in this sector.
- **Q) What safeguards should be in place to ensure the Ring of Fire development doesn't harm the environment?**
- A) Sylvie Fontaine (Liberal, Timmins-James Bay): Government has a role to play in ensuring all stakeholders (government, First Nations, companies, communities, citizens) are heard through the environmental assessment process. Beyond that, there must continue to be an open dialogue between all stakeholders going forward to ensure not only that there is environmental protection, but that the services and infrastructure is in place to support this development. (source: <http://www.timminspress.com/2014/06/10/candidates-address-issues-part-2> )

### Chiefs of Ontario Election Analysis document

(Source: <http://bit.ly/1KjoJcb> )

- **"Northern Infrastructure** -- The Liberal platform includes a suite of northern infrastructure investments and promises relevant to First Nations including .... \$1 billion in Ring of Fire infrastructure .... \$1 billion in the Ring of Fire is roughly half of the estimated amount necessary to build the roads necessary for mineral production. However, promises regarding .... the success of the Ring of Fire .... ultimately require support from the Federal government. Given that these proposals are outside the full control of the Premier, First Nations may find that the Province is unable to deliver on all new roadways and energy infrastructure."

## CHIEFS OF ONTARIO QUESTIONS TO PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERS

(Source: <http://bit.ly/1B6Rnpl> )

- **Q) If elected, will your government work with Ontario First Nations leadership to the full implementation of the 100 recommendations put forth in the Final Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry? If yes, how do you foresee this taking place?**
- A) "Ontario Liberals are proud to have called for the Ipperwash Inquiry upon taking office in 2003, and we are committed to continuing with the implementation of the Ipperwash Recommendations. We understand that many, if not most of the recommendations have been acted on or are currently being acted on, but more importantly we have established a new relationship with First Nations in Ontario and use the Ipperwash recommendations as a framework that guides us in all that we do .... While we understand that some recommendations will take time to implement, we are resolved to continue to work in partnership, exploring possibilities for increased collaboration, and coordination on this issue.
- **Q) If elected, will your government establish a framework on consultation with First Nations in Ontario based on the international standard of free, prior and informed consent? If yes, how do you foresee this taking place?**
- A) The Wynne government is committed to meeting our duty to consult with First Nation communities and recognize the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to First Nations in Ontario. The principles reflected in the Declaration are consistent with our ideals, approach, and commitment to establishing and maintaining constructive and co-operative relationships based on mutual respect, and which lead to improved opportunities for First Nations. Ontario Liberals recognize the importance of consultation with First Nations in Ontario and ensured provisions respecting consultation were included in key pieces of legislation such as the Green Energy Act, and the 2009 Mining Act amendments .... With that being said, we are always open to exploring possibilities for increased collaboration, partnerships, and coordination with the First Nations in Ontario at all levels in a mutually agreeable manner. We will do all this with an aim toward fostering sustainable and healthy First Nation communities.
- **Q) If elected, will your government commit to developing resource revenue sharing arrangements with First Nations? If yes, please describe the steps and process your will take to implement resource revenue sharing. If no, please explain the steps your government would take to better incorporate First Nations into the global economy. If undecided, please describe the steps you will take to determine a position.**
- A) Ontario Liberals are committed to finding a way forward on Resource Benefits Sharing; a way that is focused and can allow positive progress on the ground and clear benefits for First Nation communities in the short-term and long-term. We now have a Resource Benefits Sharing policy framework that is guiding future government activity in this area. The Wynne government believes that First Nations should be active participants and share in the socio-economic benefits of resource development. We also believe First Nations must have the capacity and tools to participate in, and take full advantage of the economic opportunities that sustainable resource development presents .... The Wynne government is committed to discussions with First Nations on a range of matters to ensure they benefit from resource development, including resource revenue sharing, skills training, economic partnerships, and other community development opportunities. Sharing the benefits of resource development with First Nation communities will contribute to creating a positive climate for strong business partnerships, economic opportunity, and prosperity for First Nation communities and Ontario as a whole.
- **Q) If elected, will you develop capital infrastructure programs to assist First Nations on reserve? If so, how would this be undertaken?**
- As Ontario Liberals, we believe in supporting culture, community, and entrepreneurship. That's why we continue to support the First Nation Community Capital Grants Program, which helps First Nations and First Nation organizations build or renovate community centres or small business centres. These centres support community development; new business opportunities can provide employment opportunities and tools that improve job skills and wellness for First Nations people. They also provide a place for, and encourage social, cultural, and education activities. Since October 2003, the First Nations Community Capital Grants Program has provided more than \$30.7 million to First Nations communities through 112 major and minor capital grants and related feasibility studies. The Wynne government continues to support community capital development for First Nations and First Nation organizations.
- **Q) If elected, will you take concrete steps to ensure full recognition of First Nations' inherent jurisdictions? If so, what concrete steps do you foresee taking place?**
- A) Ontario Liberals respect Aboriginal and treaty rights and are committed to meeting the constitutional and other obligations to First Nations. We know Ontario would not exist without treaties or the generosity and contributions of the First Nations. Treaties are the foundation of the relationship between First Nation communities and their neighbours. We respect and value our relationship with the First Nations in Ontario and have already taken steps to account for Aboriginal and treaty rights and assertions through various government initiatives .... The Wynne government also recognizes the importance and significance of treaties and the shared history of First Nations and non-Aboriginal Ontarians. That's why our plan includes a First Nation Treaty Strategy, which would include funding of \$7.9 million over three years and a treaty education and public

awareness campaign to raise awareness of treaty and Aboriginal rights. We are further committed to posting a treaty map in every school in Ontario. Ontario Liberals will continue to work in partnership with First Nations communities and leadership across Ontario, both on- and off-reserve, to continue to build a strong relationship based on trust and mutual respect.

• **Q) If elected, will your government commit to fully funding First Nations programs, initiatives and organizations?**

• A) Ontario Liberals are working hard with First Nations communities and leadership across Ontario, both on- and off-reserve, to continue to build a strong relationship based on trust and mutual respect. Working along-side Aboriginal communities and organizations, the Ontario Liberal government has worked to improve quality of life conditions, and continues to build a strong foundation for community, social, and economic development opportunities for First Nations, other Aboriginal communities in Ontario. We've taken significant steps forward in creating initiatives such as the New Relationship Fund, which fulfilled a key recommendation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report, and an investment in building stronger, more prosperous First Nations communities and organizations. We also signed the Gaming revenue sharing agreements which have helped to build stronger relationships with First Nations partners and provide stable, long-term funding to improve the quality of life in First Nation communities. In the Ontario Liberal Plan, we further commit to promoting Aboriginal education and business capacity by:

- ✓ Enhancing educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.
- ✓ Investing \$25 million over three years to create the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund to promote aboriginal business.
- ✓ Increasing the amount available for loan guarantees for renewable energy projects to \$650 million. This will encourage the development of projects that will pay dividends into the future and contribute to sustainable and clean energy generation in the province.
- ✓ Investing \$2.5 million over three years in an Urban Aboriginal Action Plan to help Aboriginal people in our cities find economic opportunities and access social services.
- ✓ If given another mandate to govern, Ontario Liberals will commit to working in partnership to improve the quality of life for First Nations communities and will continue to diligently work with First Nations partners on the sustainability of programs and services. With that being said, we are concerned with the recent federal funding cuts and the effect they will have on the capacity and activities of First Nations organizations across the province. We will call on the federal government to work with First Nations organizations in an attempt to address the lack of commitment and funding to First Nations organizations.

• **Q) If elected, will your government negotiate the outstanding issues with respect to First Nation policing in Ontario, as was put forth in the Auditor General of Canada Spring 2014 Report? If yes, comment on how you foresee this happening.**

• A) The Wynne government recognizes the challenges that our First Nations policing partners are currently facing. We value our relationship with First Nations communities and we remain committed to continued co-operation with the Chiefs of Ontario and our First Nations policing partners to improve community safety and policing in First Nations communities. In the face of a federal government that has failed to respond to the needs of our First Nations communities, the Wynne government has stepped up to the plate. We committed to provide an additional \$4M annually to support 40 First Nations constables to keep communities across Ontario safe after the federal government did not renew a vital funding program. We also intervened with the federal government to ensure the most recent of our 15 First Nations policing infrastructure projects, the Eabametoong detachment, could proceed on schedule. The Wynne government will continue our efforts to engage the federal government as a necessary partner in addressing the long-term sustainability of First Nations policing in Ontario. In addition, through ongoing collaboration with First Nations policing partners, Ontario Liberals will continue to work to develop potential legislative options for First Nations policing services. We remain committed to a collaborative relationship as we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of Ontario's First Nations communities. (source:

[http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/sites/default/files/files/Response\\_Chiefs%20of%20Ontario.pdf](http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/sites/default/files/files/Response_Chiefs%20of%20Ontario.pdf))

## WAWATAY NEWS SURVEY

### Leader/Platform Statements

- **"Q) Please outline your party's commitment to working with First Nations located in northern Ontario.** A) Kathleen Wynne (Liberal): Ontario Liberals are committed to working together with First Nations in order to achieve real results on a range of matters, including resource revenue sharing, skills training, economic partnerships and other community development. That's why we initiated the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Education MOU, the recent Matawa Ontario regional framework agreement, and many other partnerships. Through respectful dialogue, real change can happen." ("*Ontario Votes 2014: Party leader/platform,*" Wawatay News online, 30 May 14, accessed 2 Jun 14 at [http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2014/5/30/ontario-votes-2014-party-leaders\\_25612](http://www.wawataynews.ca/archive/all/2014/5/30/ontario-votes-2014-party-leaders_25612))
- **"Q) Once (re)elected into the Office of Premier of Ontario, how will your government work to address the needs of remote northern Ontario?** A) Kathleen Wynne (Liberal): Ontario Liberals understand that the distinct nature of First Nation issues in the remote north requires tailored and innovative solutions. Our plan includes initiatives such as The Remote Communities Allowance, Student Nutrition in Aboriginal Communities, First Nation Treaty Strategy, a \$25-million Aboriginal Economic Development Fund, and Preparing Remote First Nation Communities for Electricity Transmission."
- **"Q) What is your government's plan to include Ontario First Nations in the short-term and long-term benefits of our shared resources?** A) Kathleen Wynne (Liberal): Ontario Liberals initiated and are committed to Resource Revenue Sharing discussions with First Nations in Ontario. We will continue to work with First Nations partners to ensure they can benefit from any economic opportunities. Sharing the benefits of resource development will help create a positive climate for strong business partnerships, economic opportunity, and prosperity for First Nation communities and Ontario as a whole."

### Candidate Statements

- **Q) As First Nations struggle with limited infrastructure investments from the federal government for essential community services, do you feel that the province has a role to play in advocacy on these issues?**
- A) Michael Gravelle (TBSN - Liberal): Our Party stands with all First Nations across Ontario in their call for the federal government to act on their constitutional obligations and ensure that First Nations communities are provided with the support they need. We will continue to be strong advocates on behalf of the interests of First Nations related to policing, emergency response, fire safety and prevention.
- A) Bill Mauro (TB-Atikokan Liberal): The Ontario Liberal Party stands with all First Nations in their call for the federal government to act on their constitutional obligations. Premier Kathleen Wynne has raised the issue of the federal government's failure to provide on-reserve students with equal funding -- and she's shown a willingness to take on the federal government to protect the interests of Ontarians.
- A) Anthony Leek (Rainy River Liberal): Yes, the provincial government has an advocacy role to establish funding agreements for infrastructure and essential community service investments on First Nation communities. Ontario Liberals are also committed to establishing funding agreements with the federal government for cost-sharing of infrastructure investments. This includes funding to connect remote First Nations communities to new electrical transmission projects in the area.
- A) Sylvie Fontaine (Timmins-James Bay Liberal): The federal government has a constitutional responsibility, but beyond that, a social responsibility to care for all Canadians. While the provincial government can't fulfill the responsibilities of the federal government, the provincial Liberal government since October 2003, has provided more than \$32.2 million to Aboriginal communities through over 118 major and minor capital grants and related feasibility studies. A Liberal government will continue to be leaders and champion First Nations issues at all levels of government.
- **Q) What is your vision for your riding in terms of social and economic development? How will First Nations be partners in your vision?**
- A) Michael Gravelle (TBSN-Liberal): As MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North, I have fought hard to build a stronger, more prosperous region for all of my constituents. It's my belief that First Nations should be a full and active partner in any economic development project on their traditional territory and that government can and should act as a force for good to improve people's lives.
- A) Bill Mauro (TB-Atikokan Liberal): The Thunder Bay region has incredible emerging economic opportunities. Our Liberal government has helped bring about a lot of those positive changes. There's a lot more work to be done. The inclusion of First Nations as full partners is essential to the social and economic success of our region. We'll only succeed by working together.
- A) Anthony Leek (Rainy River Liberal): Ontario Liberals will move forward with an Aboriginal Economic Development Fund to support long-term economic strategies, provide grants for Aboriginal businesses and fund skills-training programs. The fund will be introduced in consultation with First Nations leaders. A Remote Communities Allowance will also be introduced representing a \$50 per month increase for each additional family member receiving Ontario Works or ODSP.

- A) Sylvie Fontaine (Timmins-James Bay Liberal): Our northern communities have great potential, but that potential must be shared with all those involved. That's why the Liberal government formalized our relationship with First Nation communities in the Ring of Fire by making investments into socio-economic development, long-term monitoring of environmental impacts and resource revenue sharing. This must include better education and skills training as well as making our communities safer.

## ONTARIO BUDGET 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

*if introduced, passed as laid out in April 2014*

### New Initiatives

- **ONTARIO WORKS/ODSP** "... The Remote Communities Allowance .... This year, in addition to a social assistance rate increase, the government is proposing to replace the existing Northern Allowance provided through Ontario Works and ODSP with a Remote Communities Allowance. The Remote Communities Allowance would represent a \$50 per month increase over the current Northern Allowance for the first person, and a \$25 per month increase for each additional family member. This is an increase of more than 30 per cent for a single individual ...."
- **REMOTE ELECTRICAL ACCESS** "Preparing Remote First Nation Communities for Electricity Transmission .... Ontario will provide \$3 million in funding over three years through the Remote Electrification Readiness Program .... The federal government must work with the Province to establish a funding agreement for cost-sharing of investments to connect remote First Nation communities."
- **RENEWABLE ENERGY** "Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program (ALGP)... the total amount of loan guarantees that will be made available under the ALGP was recently increased by \$250 million to \$650 million .... "
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** "Aboriginal Economic Development Fund -- The Province .... will move forward with an Aboriginal Economic Development Fund, which will include an investment of \$25 million over three years .... "
- **TREATIES** "First Nations Treaty Strategy .... To promote constructive engagement with First Nation communities, the Province is moving forward with a new Treaty Strategy, including funding of \$7.9 million over three years .... "
- **URBAN ABORIGINALS** "Urban Aboriginal Action Plan .... The government will support urban Aboriginal communities by providing \$2.5 million in funding over three years to develop strategies that reflect local interests and lead to improved socioeconomic outcomes. The Province will also coordinate an engagement strategy in consultation with Aboriginal people, municipalities and the federal government to better align programming directed towards urban Aboriginal people ...."
- **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN** "... Joint Working Group on Violence against Aboriginal Women .... Ontario is investing \$2 million over two years to support the Joint Working Group on Violence against Aboriginal Women. The funding will allow the Joint Working Group to respond to the needs of Aboriginal women and girls who have experienced or are at risk for violence, and to develop community-based initiatives that will help inform the development of a long-term prevention strategy .... "
- **CHILDREN/YOUTH** "... Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy -- Ontario is working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people to transform the way services are designed and delivered, and to begin to address the disproportionate challenges faced by Aboriginal children and youth both on- and off-reserve. The strategy ..... is set to roll out in 2015 ...."
- **HOUSING** "... A key component of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy is the jointly funded federal-provincial Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) program .... Ontario is finalizing an agreement with the federal government to extend the IAH program for a further five years. The Ontario government would contribute \$80.1 million annually for five years to this program .... " (Budget Document p 121)
- **CHILD CARE** "Support for Front-Line Child Care Workers .... To help stabilize child care operators, support the ability to retain ECEs, and close the wage gap, the Province will provide an additional \$269 million over three years to support an average \$1 per hour wage increase in 2015 and a further average \$1 per hour wage increase in 2016 for front-line child care workers who work in licensed child care centres, child care centres managed by First Nations and licensed private-home daycare agencies .... "
- **EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING** "... the Province is moving forward with the government-wide integration of employment and training programs .... the Province will continue to engage a broad range of stakeholders at key stages of this transformation. These include Aboriginal people, client-specific advocacy groups and umbrella organizations, municipalities and employers ...."

### Previously-announced Initiatives

- **"Supporting Development in Northern Ontario's Ring of Fire** .... The Province is willing to commit up to \$1 billion towards infrastructure development, contingent on matching investment by the federal government ...."
- **"Student Nutrition in Aboriginal Communities** -- In March 2013, the Healthy Kids Panel recommended establishing a universal student nutrition program in First Nation communities. As part of the proposed three-year, \$32 million expansion of the Student Nutrition Program, First Nation communities will receive funding commencing in 2015-16 .... " announced 7 Apr

14 <http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2014/04/food-for-thought-for-more-ontario-students.html>

- **".... Through an advisory committee, the government has listened to the voices of northern municipalities, Aboriginal communities and industry stakeholders, and is committed to keep the remaining ONTC business lines (motor coach, Polar Bear Express, rail freight and refurbishment services) in public hands .... Refurbishing passenger rail coaches for use on the Polar Bear Express, which will sustain jobs and create business for the refurbishment division while ensuring vital service between Cochrane and Moosonee can be delivered more effectively and efficiently ...."** announced 4 Apr 14 <http://news.ontario.ca/mndmf/en/2014/04/transforming-the-ontario-northland-transportation-commission.html>
- **".... The Province will also increase infrastructure funding for Community Health Centres, community-based mental health and addiction programs, and Aboriginal Health Access Centres ...."** (p 55) - also announced 9 Apr 14 <http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2014/04/investing-in-community-health-infrastructure.html>
- **".... As part of Ontario's ongoing modernization of the Mining Act, the Province is modernizing Ontario's claims staking system - going from paper-based to online. Ensuring a fast, efficient system is in place is good for business, affected landowners and Aboriginal communities. ...."** (Budget Document p 88)
- **"Federal downloading"** ".... Reducing Federal Health Transfers Downloads Fiscal Burden to Provinces and Territories - based on the ratio of net debt-to-GDP, the financial position of the federal government is projected to improve over time, whereas the financial positions of provincial, local and Aboriginal governments are projected to deteriorate over the same period ...." <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ontariobudgets/2014/bk6.html> (page 388 of budget documents)