

Summary of Policy Recommendations

Recommendations for Federal Government (related to Precarious Work and Systemic Poverty)

- ✓ Update and improve the Employment Insurance (EI) program to reflect the modern realities of work, particularly for those that have been traditionally ineligible for benefits. **(p.30)**
- ✓ Ease tax filing for people living in poverty so they can receive the benefits they are eligible for. **(p.36)**
- ✓ Transform the limited Canada Workers Benefit (CWB) into the proposed Canada Working-Age Supplement (CWAS) to establish a baseline level of income support for unattached single adults living in poverty and index future increases to inflation. **(p.36)**
- ✓ Permanently expanding the eligibility criteria for the Canada Child Benefit. **(p.38)**
- ✓ Expediting the implementation of the Canada Disability Benefit as a permanent program. **(p.39)**

Recommendations for Federal Government (related to Housing)

- ✓ Taking action to rein in the financialization of landlords by mandating disclosure of beneficial ownership in a publicly accessible register **(p.53)**
- ✓ Tackle the financialization of landlords in the housing market by investigating the downstream impact of the Federal Income Tax Act exemption on Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) paying corporate income taxes. **(p.54)**
- ✓ Developing a non-profit acquisition strategy with CMHC that supplements the National Housing Strategy's Co-Investment Fund by creating an Acquisitions Fund to enable non-profit, co-op and land trust organizations to purchase at-risk rental buildings when they come on the market. **(p.54)**

Recommendations for Provincial Government (related to Precarious Work & Systemic Poverty)

- ✓ Increase investments in job search and training supports, and reform programs to better serve those with weak employment history, particularly for women and racialized groups who continue to face disproportionate employment barriers. **(p.30)**
- ✓ Increasing the minimum wage to a living wage based on the local cost of living and index all future increases to inflation. **(p.36)**
- ✓ Reinstating legislative protections for equal pay, to protect the financial security of gig-platform employees, especially those that are temporary, part-time and contract workers. **(p.37)**
- ✓ Protect the health and safety of workers by expanding the number of permanent paid sick days to ten, up from three, in Ontario. **(p.37)**
- ✓ Revisiting the concept of a universal basic income (UBI) program. **(p.38)**

- ✓ Creating a portable benefits program to better support worker mobility and ensure gig-platform employees have access to health benefits. **(p.38)**
- ✓ Doubling Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates from \$1,227 to \$2,454 for a single individual to lift recipients out of deep poverty. **(p.41)**
- ✓ Increase the Ontario Works (OW) rates for a single individual from \$733 to \$2,060, to reflect the Market Basket Measure (MBM) for Toronto and index all future increases to inflation. **(p.41)**
- ✓ Adopting a user-centered design approach and enacting mandatory training and quality standards to ensure uniformity of service delivery in income support administration across the province. **(p.41)**
- ✓ Reintroduce and pass Bill 60, which would establish an arm's-length advisory body comprised of experts in social policy, economics, and people with lived experience, to develop evidence informed social assistance rates based on the cost of living. **(p.41)**

Recommendations for Provincial Government (related to Housing)

- ✓ Incentivizing the construction of affordable housing in the private market. **(p.45)**
- ✓ Ensuring that, as part of Ontario's plan to build 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years, at least 300,000 of these homes are permanently affordable, with a minimum of 50,000 units in Toronto. **(p.47)**
- ✓ Preserve existing social housing supply by increasing capital and operating funding allocations to municipalities to support the repair and refurbishment of existing social housing units. **(p.47)**
- ✓ Rapidly expanding access to affordable housing by doubling the number of Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) recipients. **(p.48)**
- ✓ Protecting tenants from evictions by expanding eviction prevention programs and rendering Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) monies permanently available to municipal rent banks, as well as emergency housing supports, like the City of Toronto's Housing Stabilization Fund. **(p.49)**
- ✓ Supporting low-income renters by reinstating rent controls on all occupied units, including builds after Nov 2018, and addressing vacancy decontrol, as well as limiting Above Guideline Increases (AGIs). **(p.52)**
- ✓ Restoring in-person hearings as an option at the Landlord and Tenant board and reversing the \$133m funding cut to Legal Aid Ontario and indexing future increases to inflation. **(p.52)**
- ✓ Using income-based metrics, instead of average market rent metrics, to define affordable housing to guarantee that an adequate number of permanently affordable units are within reach for households living close to or below the poverty line. **(p.53)**

Recommendations for Provincial Government (related to Cost of Living)

- ✓ Ensure that drug and dental benefits be made available to all low-income households that do not have health coverage, and not just those on social assistance. **(p.56)**
- ✓ Introduce a new benefit for low-income individuals and families to access eye-care/vision services and treatments. **(p.56)**

- ✓ Work with the Government of Canada to expedite the expansion of dental coverage to children, seniors and persons living with a disability by 2023. **(p. 56)**
- ✓ Revisit OHIP eligibility criteria that currently disqualifies many with temporary status from accessing provincial health coverage. **(p.56)**
- ✓ Expedite the inclusion of the TTC in this proposed fare integration model to remove transfer/double fees for regional transit systems in the GTA. **(p. 60)**
- ✓ Instruct Metrolinx to revisit the existing PRESTO Card model to enhance accessibility and availability of options. **(p.60)**
- ✓ Launch an inquiry into how the lack of digital access and/or online financial services is impacting service delivery standards and uptake of PRESTO Cards, particularly among seniors, people who have a disability, and low-income households. **(p.60)**
- ✓ Create an automatic \$100 digital access benefit for all social assistance recipients (\$200 for multiple person households) or provide deeply subsidized internet and technology packages. **(p.62)**

Recommendations for Municipal Government (related to Cost of Living)

- ✓ Expand the third phase of the Fair Pass Transit Discount Program to include all low-income residents aged 20 to 64 years that will no longer depend on participation in specific income assistance and other subsidy programs. **(p.60)**
- ✓ Implement lower TTC fares for the public, lengthen the 2-hour fare window, and explore introducing free transit to people receiving social assistance. **(p.60)**
- ✓ Establish a municipal broadband network and implement free public wi-fi. **(p.62)**