

## Ontario Provincial Election Primer – February 6, 2025

Ontario Premier Doug Ford has called a snap election for February 27, 2025, triggering what promises to be a pivotal campaign for Canada's most populous province.

The early election call comes amid mounting trade tensions with the United States. Ford cites the need for a strong mandate to protect Ontario's economy from potential tariffs threatened by President Trump. As the current chair of the Council of the Federation—the body coordinating provincial and territorial responses to national issues—Ford has positioned himself at the forefront of Canada's response to these trade challenges.

The decision to dissolve parliament follows months of speculation about an early election, with observers noting the timing could position Ontario's vote ahead of both the federal election and the conclusion of the RCMP's Greenbelt investigation.

Four party leaders are vying to form Ontario's 44th Parliament, each seeking to secure a majority of 63 seats in the 124-seat legislature:

- Doug Ford, Progressive Conservative Party
- Bonnie Crombie, Liberal Party
- Marit Stiles, New Democratic Party
- Mike Schreiner, Green Party

Ford enters the race from a position of strength. His Progressive Conservatives held 83 seats before dissolution, and recent Leger Marketing polling shows 47 percent of voters supporting his party—a 24-point lead over Crombie's Liberals. The Premier's decision to call an early election, while criticized by opposition parties, enjoys support from 46 percent of Ontarians.

Although trade concerns dominate the election narrative, voters remain focused on domestic issues, particularly housing affordability and healthcare reform. All parties are unveiling platform promises addressing these key concerns as they compete for voters' support ahead of election day.

NorthGuide's public affairs team has summarized the key promises made to date by each party on the top three issues: tariffs, housing/affordability, and healthcare. Here's where the parties stand:

### Tariffs

PC

- Have made multiple promises that include tax deferrals, relief for

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|         | business, funds to attract investment, help municipalities dependent on the US, transition impacted workers to new jobs and discounts to incentivize spending in the services sector and at the LCBO.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Liberal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduced the "Fight Tariffs Fund" (FTF) to provide Ontario businesses with access to lower-than-market interest at government rates.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| NDP     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have promised to partner with unions and employers to protect jobs, launch a Buy Ontario campaign and direct government agencies and departments to buy locally, help to support farmers by removing the cap from Ontario's Risk Management Program, would invest in retraining for workers and accelerate infrastructure programs.</li> </ul> |
| Green   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committed to creating a tariff task force to address the issue, plans to establish a tax credit and buy Ontario strategy. The Greens would also launch a Protect Ontario Fund to support businesses and work to diversify trade partners</li> </ul>                                                                                            |

Housing / Affordability

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| PC      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promising to build 1.5 million homes by 2031 using a variety of carrot and stick measures</li> <li>Will remove the tolls from the eastern part of the 407 highway</li> <li>Committed to making the gas tax cut permanent.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Liberal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminating Development Charges and Provincial Land Transfer Tax for first-time buyers, seniors downsizing, and non-profits.</li> <li>Introduce phased-in rent control and aim to resolve landlord-tenant disputes within two months</li> <li>Lowering taxes for the middle class</li> <li>Removing HST from home heating bills</li> <li>Double Ontario Disability Support payments</li> </ul>                          |
| NDP     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will launch Homes Ontario to double the supply of permanently affordable homes, legalize fourplexes, increase density around transit and provide funding for co-op housing providers.</li> <li>Bring back stronger rent control</li> <li>Focus on child care by focusing on wages for child care workers</li> <li>Make energy upgrades and groceries more affordable</li> <li>Double social assistance rates</li> </ul> |
| Green   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build 1.5 million homes by changing zoning to allow fourplexes, triplexes and duplexes in all neighbourhoods, plan more efficiently by pre-zoning for mid-rise development on transit corridors and address NIMBYism.</li> <li>Will remove development charges for homes that are 2000 sq feet or smaller and will eliminate the land transfer tax for first time home buyers.</li> </ul>                               |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Greens are also promising to support workers over corporate profits and to double social assistance rates</li> </ul> |
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**Healthcare**

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| PC      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to connect everyone with a primary care practitioner based on where they live</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Liberal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committed to connecting everyone with a family doctor</li> <li>Will offer an incentive for Canadian nurses and doctors working abroad to come back to Canada</li> <li>Will work to get credentials recognized to bring more internationally trained medical professionals back to Canada.</li> </ul>                                        |
| NDP     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast track training for foreign trained health care professionals already living in Ontario</li> <li>Reduce administrative burden on doctors and approve more integrated teams</li> <li>Would stop the privatization of health care</li> <li>Will support better wages and working conditions for front line health care workers</li> </ul> |
| Green   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop the privatization of health care</li> <li>Support better wages and working conditions for front line health care workers</li> <li>Properly fund all health care sectors to bring our per capita spending to national averages</li> </ul>                                                                                               |

Voters have a number of options to cast their ballots. Ontarians can vote at the local election office during office hours anytime until 6:00 p.m. the day before voting day, or at an advance voting location between February 20-22. Mail in ballots may be requested before February 21, and votes must be received by the 27th. And voters can cast their ballot at local polling places on February 27. To learn more about where, when and how to vote, visit [electionsontario.ca](http://electionsontario.ca)

For more information, please contact us at [northguide.ca](http://northguide.ca)