

**Ontario Municipal Social Services Association**  
**2015 Federal Election – Party Platform Summary**  
*(As of Oct.13, 2015)*

Issue	Green Party	Liberal Party	New Democratic Party	Conservative Party of Canada	<u>OMSSA Position</u>
<b>Child Care &amp; Early Learning</b>	<p>Green Party <a href="#">website</a> and <a href="#">platform</a>.</p> <p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore 2005 bilateral agreements (\$1 billion annually for 5 years).</li> <li>Establish reconstituted/ expanded Canada Social Transfer to substantially increase number of child care spaces.</li> <li>Commitment to universal child care; at least 70% of children age six or younger.</li> <li>Federal transfers to provinces to public and non-profit providers; Provincial governments will establish standards for quality of child care services and for fees.</li> <li>Create a National Children’s Commissioner, to ensure children’s best interests are considered in policy development and that services across the country are better coordinated.</li> </ul>	<p>Liberal Party of Canada <a href="#">website</a> and <a href="#">platform</a>.</p> <p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework, administered as part of the social infrastructure investment of nearly \$20 billion over the next ten years, in collaboration with, and in respect of, provincial jurisdiction and First Nations.</li> <li>Commitment to fund the creation of thousands of new child care spaces, enhance their quality, and ensure that affordable child care spaces are available to more families.</li> <li>Commitment to new geared-to-income Canada Child Benefit, to incorporate Universal Child Care Benefit and Canada Child Tax Benefit, and to abolish income splitting for families.</li> <li>Proposal to allow parents to use parental leave</li> </ul>	<p>New Democratic Party of Canada <a href="#">website</a> and <a href="#">platform</a>.</p> <p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to a national child care program and universal child care, which will create 1 million spaces over 8 years with fees capped at a \$15/day maximum.</li> <li>Public funding of \$5 billion/year at end of 8 years and a commitment to long-term, predictable funding, cost shared 60/40 with provinces/territories.</li> <li>National legislation for the child care system and common principles such as affordability, availability, quality. Commitment to measurable benchmarks, and public reporting.</li> <li>Commitment to lead and to collaborate with provinces/territories, recognizing provincial jurisdiction.</li> <li>Commitment to abolish income splitting, retain</li> </ul>	<p>Conservative Party of Canada <a href="#">website</a> and <a href="#">platform</a>.</p> <p><b>Election Plan /2015 Budget Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to public funding and expansion of the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), Child Care Expense Deduction (CCED), and income splitting (Family Tax Cut).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and fund a national early learning and child care plan.</li> <li>OMSSA believes access to child care is critically important for the wellbeing of Canadian children and their families. It is also a key labour market support that many families need in order to access and maintain employment.</li> <li>OMSSA also recognizes that child care is key to labour market and economic strength and growth, as much as it is important to building a strong, educated future labour force.</li> <li>Access to child care is a foundation for poverty reduction. For low-income parents, the ability to seek financial independence is often tied to the availability of reliable childcare.</li> <li>Access to affordable child care supports parents to prepare for, and participate in, the workforce by making it possible to train, retrain, seek and keep jobs</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Canada’s universal child care program provides workplace child care spaces wherever possible.</li> <li>Accelerate the creation of workplace child care spaces through a direct tax credit to employers (or groups of employers in small businesses) of \$1500 tax credit/child per year.</li> <li>Abolish income splitting and the Universal Child Care Benefit.</li> </ul>	<p>benefit more flexibly to support a possible longer leave (up to 18 months at a lower pay level).</p>	<p>Universal Child Care Benefit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment re: maternity/parental benefits - additional 5 week dedicated leave for second parent including same sex couples and adoptive parents; doubling leave for parents of multiples.</li> <li>Increase the federal role in mental health with a new \$100 million Mental Health Innovation Fund for Children and Youth that would prioritize high-risk populations, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and Canadians in rural and remote communities.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMSSA and its members understand that participation in the workforce, in turn, means parents are less reliant on social assistance. Investing in early learning and child care is not only the right thing to do for families, it also makes economic sense.</li> <li>Investments in child care stimulate the economy by creating new and sustainable jobs in various sectors. Child care is also an important part of economic development.</li> <li>The availability and affordability of child care is important for attracting talented young professionals, and the companies that employ them, to communities across Canada.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Assistance &amp; Employment</b>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore Employment Insurance (EI) to seasonal workers.</li> <li>Restore adequate staffing to Service Canada to ensure access to the EI program for workers entitled to benefits.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment of a \$750 million annual increase in funding for training programs delivered in partnership with the provinces and territories. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A \$500 million annual increase to the Labour Market Development Agreements with</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment of up to \$100 million over four years for a program to generate up to 40,000 jobs, paid internships and co-op placements for young people.</li> <li>Commitment of \$5 million a year in grants for municipalities and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan / 2015 Budget Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment to reduce EI premiums from \$1.88 per \$100 to \$1.49 per \$100 by 2017.</li> <li>Aim to create 1.3 million new jobs by 2020.</li> <li>Enhancing and extending the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit – raising the amount</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments are valuable partners in employment and economic development.</li> <li>Working with the provincial and federal governments as partners in a coordinated approach on policies and programs is needed.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicate taxes collected on chemical contaminants and unhealthy food to reduce EI premiums to workers and employers.</li> <li>• Offer those on social assistance free transit passes.</li> <li>• Extend maternity/ paternity leave for new parents outside of EI to two years and one additional year for parents who pay into EI.</li> <li>• Establish a Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund that would invest in in skills training, apprenticeships and education.</li> <li>• Create a national Community and Environment Service Corps, which will provide \$1 billion/year to municipalities to hire Canadian youth.</li> </ul>	<p>provinces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A \$200 million annual increase to be delivered by the provinces and territories and focused on training for workers who are not currently eligible for federal training investment.</li> <li>○ \$50 million renewal to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS).</li> <li>• Enhancement of EI program, which includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce EI premiums from \$1.88 per \$100 earned to \$1.65 starting in 2017.</li> <li>○ Waiting time for EI benefits would be reduced to one week from two weeks.</li> <li>○ Ending the 910-hour eligibility penalty for workers entering or re-entering the workforce.</li> <li>○ More flexible parental leave and compassionate care benefits.</li> <li>○ Working with the provinces and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Indigenous governments for the creation of 1,250 apprenticeships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of new laws regarding health and safety to make unpaid internships less appealing.</li> <li>• Changes to the EI program, which includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An increase of 5 weeks parental leave for single and two-parent families.</li> <li>○ Freezing EI premiums for the next four years.</li> <li>○ Change eligibility requirements for EI benefits:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide an extra five weeks of benefits to unemployed workers in regions where jobs are hard difficult to secure.</li> <li>○ Canadians working "uneven" hours would qualify based on their best 12 weeks of pay.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>employers can claim to \$2,500 and extending the credit into the third and fourth years of an apprenticeship program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a new Skilled Trades Job Experience Program to help up to 2,000 young Canadians get valuable job experience working in the skilled trades.</li> <li>• Implementing Canada Apprentice Loans to help aspiring tradespeople get the training they need.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working across all orders of government provides an opportunity to develop programs that are flexible and responsive to local labour markets and conditions as they change are critical to the health and sustainability of communities and residents.</li> </ul>

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		<p>territories to assess the success of EI delivery and areas for improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A commitment of \$1.5 billion over four years to assist with youth employment, including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The creation of 40,000 youth jobs each year for the next three years through a new, annual investment of \$300 million into the renewed Youth Employment Strategy.</li> <li>○ \$40 million per year to create co-op positions for engineering and business students.</li> <li>○ Work with provinces, territories, and post-secondary institutions to develop or expand Pre-Apprenticeship Training Programs.</li> <li>○ \$25 million annually for a youth services program to help young people gain work experience.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>Housing &amp; Homelessness</b>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a National Housing Strategy through the Council of Canadian Governments (including</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the social infrastructure investment of nearly \$20 billion over the next ten years, a commitment for</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain and build new federal social housing by investing \$2.145 billion over 4 years: \$430 million</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan / 2015 Budget Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committed \$150 million over 4 years, starting in 2016-2017, to support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national affordable housing strategy and funding plan is needed as the same time it is imperative that current investments in affordable and</li> </ul>

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	<p>municipal, provincial/territorial, federal and First Nations representatives) that will ramp up to build 20,000 new affordable housing units per year and renew 8,000 units per year to ensure the existing stock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide rent supplements or shelter assistance for an additional 40,000 low-income households per year, for ten years. Funding will begin at \$400 million in 2015-2016 and will increase to 1.397 billion in 2019.</li> <li>• Will establish a nation-wide program to retrofit all low-income rental housing by 2025, investing \$150 million annually until 2020.</li> <li>• Create a Housing First Approach.</li> <li>• Advocate for the inclusion of a clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that specifically states that everyone living in Canada is entitled to safe shelter or affordable housing.</li> </ul>	<p>affordable housing and seniors facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Building more housing units and refurbishing existing ones.</li> <li>○ Renewing current co-operative agreements</li> <li>○ Providing operational funding support for municipalities, including renewing support for Housing First initiatives.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$125 million in tax incentives to increase and substantially renovate the supply of rental housing across Canada.</li> <li>• Direct the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the new Canada Infrastructure Bank to provide financing to support construction of new, affordable rental housing.</li> <li>• Commitment to conduct an inventory of all available federal lands and buildings that could be repurposed and used for affordable housing. This work would be done in partnership with municipalities, provinces, and territories.</li> </ul>	<p>in 2015-2016, ramping up to \$640 million in 2019-2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Included in this funding would be a commitment to renew funds for co-operative housing whose agreements are expiring, and so too for other forms of social housing.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide incentives for the construction of 10,000 affordable and market rental housing units by investing \$500 million in 2015-2016.</li> <li>• Boost frontline homelessness supports through an investment of \$40 million over four years, \$10 million per year.</li> <li>• Appoint a minister responsible for Urban Affairs within the first 100 days of taking office with a mandate to identify worthy extensions of the social housing investments that are soon set to expire.</li> <li>• Support women and their children fleeing violence by restoring the Shelter</li> </ul>	<p>social housing in Canada by allowing social housing providers to prepay their long-term, non-renewable mortgages without penalty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced a new Home Accessibility Tax Credit for home improvements for seniors and persons with disabilities. The proposed non-refundable credit will provide tax relief of 15%, up to \$10,000 of eligible expenditures.</li> </ul>	<p>social housing are maintained and sustained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the housing situation in Ontario cannot be handled by provincial and municipal governments alone.</li> <li>• Municipal governments in Ontario, unlike elsewhere in the nation, are the major funders of housing and only in this province does it fall primarily on the property tax base. This is unsustainable and unable to address the growing pressure and need for access to affordable housing in all communities.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urge the government to appoint a Minister for Housing to oversee development and implementation of a National Affordable Housing Plan.</li> <li>• Require the National Affordable Housing Plan to set an annual rate of building affordable housing so that lack of access to affordable housing is no longer a factor in homelessness by 2019.</li> <li>• Change the mandate of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to include responsibility, as it once had, for affordable, non-market, and co-operative housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the new residential rental property rebate on the GST to 100 percent, eliminating all GST on new capital investments in affordable rental housing. This will end the tax penalty on developers interested in building new, modestly priced rental properties, as well as provide \$125 million per year in tax incentives to increase and renovate the supply of rental housing across Canada.</li> <li>• Commitment to implement an integrated approach of mental health services, including housing.</li> <li>• Commitment to Housing First initiatives.</li> <li>• Encourage the construction of new rental housing by removing all GST on new capital investments in affordable rental housing. This will provide \$125 million per year in tax incentives to grow and renovate the supply of rental housing across Canada.</li> </ul>	<p>Enhancement Program with \$40 million in funding over four years.</p>		

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<b>Poverty Reduction</b>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove taxes from the lowest income categories so no taxes are paid by those below Canada’s Low Income Cut-off measure.</li> <li>Allow income assistance recipients to keep 100% of the wages they earn up to the Low Income Cut-off level.</li> <li>Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for seniors by 25%.</li> <li>Top up the income support for single parents on welfare during the time they are attending school or job training programs.</li> <li>Commitment to phase-in a national Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI).</li> <li>Ensure financial assistance for low-income spouses and relatives who provide end-of-life care at home for patients who would otherwise need to be hospitalized or in institutional long-term care.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore the eligibility age for Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement to 65.</li> <li>Commitment to not end income splitting for seniors.</li> <li>Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for single, lower income seniors by 10%.</li> <li>Commitment to enhance the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP), convening provincial and territorial representatives to contribute to this work.</li> <li>Introduction of a new Seniors Price Index to ensure that Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement benefits keep up with seniors’ actual rising costs.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinstate a federal minimum wage and increase it to \$15/per hour.</li> <li>Previous NDP commitments included implementing a “Robin Hood Tax” to close tax loopholes for high earners and redirect that money to low-income families.</li> <li>The creation of a universal pharmacare program, with a commitment of \$2.6 billion over four years.</li> <li>Commitment to boost the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) by up to \$400 million, as well as consult with experts and stakeholders to ensure seniors that are most in need will benefit from this initiative.</li> <li>Commitment to table legislation that will set goals and targets for poverty reduction in consultation with the provincial, territorial, municipal and Aboriginal governments and with non-governmental</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the Nutrition North Program, which subsidizes the cost of food shipped to communities in northern Canada, to 40 additional communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is time to look at current efforts and objectives with an eye towards how programs and funding across all orders of government align and, where appropriate, can integrate comprehensively towards the broader goals of poverty reduction, labour market engagement and improved social and economic health of individuals and families.</li> <li>As partners, the federal government, province, and municipalities, should develop a comprehensive approach to alleviate poverty built aligning and streamlining the many resources and initiatives currently in the system.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Augment the measurement of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with one that looks at quality of life indicators (i.e. Canadian Index of Well-being).</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive plan to improve the social safety network and eliminate child poverty.</li> <li>• Public dental insurance for low-income children and youth.</li> <li>• The creation of a National Pharmacare Plan, with a budget of \$300 million/year.</li> <li>• Implement federal minimum wage of \$15/hour.</li> </ul>		<p>organizations.</p>		
<b>Emergency Social Services</b>	<p><b>Election plan commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to increase funding through Public Safety Canada and the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) for projects that implement municipal, territorial, and provincial emergency preparedness plans.</li> <li>• Require Public Safety</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election plan commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with provinces, territories, Aboriginal governments, and municipalities to develop a comprehensive action plan that allows Canada to better predict, prepare for, and respond to weather-related emergencies.</li> <li>• Incorporate climate resilience as a key pillar in</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election plan commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore \$7 million in annual funding for the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) and earmark \$2 million for disaster training programs previously provided by the Emergency Preparedness College. Work with the provinces to strengthen the Disaster Financial Assistance Agreements.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Election Plan / 2015 Budget Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements funding formula by adjusting the eligibility threshold to half the effect of inflation since the program’s inception</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved coordination and delivery of emergency social services, working with local governments as critical partners is needed.</li> <li>• New funding for initiatives and programs that will aid local governments in assisting their residents in times of emergencies is needed.</li> </ul>

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	<p>Canada to simplify the application process and expand the eligibility criteria for funding through the JEPP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will work to increase funding for emergency preparedness training programs for emergency responders, including the Canadian Emergency Preparedness College.</li> </ul>	<p>federal infrastructure programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating new centres of excellence that will specialize in mental health, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and related issues for first responders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to strengthen the Disaster Financial Assistance Agreements (DFAA) program that provides crucial recovery funds to municipalities in the wake of a disaster.</li> </ul>		