

Question 1: Why are you running to be Leader of the PC Party of Ontario? What vision or agenda do wish to implement as Premier of the province?

Tony Clement (TC): Back on January 3rd, I laid out my five goals for Ontario. Taken together they are my vision for a renewed, reinvigorated PC Party and province. These goals are fixed. But how we get there is up to the people of Ontario, through a rigorous, intensive and ongoing grassroots consultation process which I began on January 3rd - my Reconnection Tour.

My five goals for Ontario are the following:

1. More jobs in an incentive economy. My vision is to build the most prosperous jobs and wealth-creating jurisdiction in North America using tax cuts and economic incentives to fuel job creation, implementing a made-in-Ontario immigration policy to bring to Ontario the skills our employers need and revitalizing the family farm through innovative economic development, tax and land use policies.
2. Clean, safe, caring communities. We must attack crime at its roots, support those who keep our communities safe, promote smart growth rather than urban sprawl, and use innovative, free-market oriented mechanisms to clean up our air while getting tougher than ever on those who pollute our environment.
3. Accessible health care for all. My vision is to preserve universal, accessible health care for future generations so that people get the health care when need, when they need it. Specifically, I will expand the government's 24-hour seven-day a week health care system by co-locating family health clinics close to emergency rooms to reduce the pressure on our precious emergency room resources; develop a health care human resources strategy to ensure that we have enough health care professionals, in the right places, at the right times, with the right knowledge; reduce tobacco use through a new levy on tobacco products; improve health care infrastructure through partnerships with the private sector; and develop a seniors' health strategy to have a comprehensive plan to address all the major diseases of aging.
4. A skills culture. I wish to continue to build an environment that gives all Ontarians access to an education system focused on quality lifelong learning and the needs of the modern economy. The reforms our government has implemented thus far promote excellence and accountability. I believe that the system must now be given time and stability to enable these positive changes to take root. I also commit to fixing the school funding formula which is clearly not working properly for some schools in some communities, implementing long-term collective bargaining agreements with teachers to further promote stability and renewing the Ontario Research & Development Challenge Fund for another five years in order to keep world-class researchers in Ontario.
5. Open, efficient government. My vision is to rebuild Ontarians' faith in their institutions through a government that maintains open dialogue with citizens between elections and constantly re-evaluates the activities government should - and should not - be involved in. To this end, I recently announced my Democracy Between Elections initiatives in which I commit to fixed four-year terms for majority governments, citizen's initiated referenda, and parliamentary reform to give MPPs a greater voice in government and citizens more access to parliament through e-democracy initiatives. I also renewed my commitment to the Taxpayers Protection and Balanced Budget Act that I authored for our government.

Ernie Eves (EE): I entered the race for the leadership of our party for the same reasons I first ran for office to represent Parry Sound riding more than 20 years ago: I believe in the values and

goals of our party; I care deeply about the future of our province; and I believe I have a contribution to make to both.

Mike Harris has decided to leave public life. And at the same time a great deal has changed in the world, in Ontario and in our own party. As a result of September 11th, Ontario, like other jurisdictions, are facing difficult challenges that will put our experience and skills to the test.

It will take experience and leadership to ensure that the gains of the last seven years under Mike Harris will not be lost. Tax cuts, deficit and debt reduction and a focus on those things that are priorities for all Ontarians.

I am in this race to make sure we do not lose the next election and continue to build on our successes of the last seven years and ensure a bright future for our young people and all Ontarians. The future of Ontario is at stake in the next election, I could not turn my back on that.

Jim Flaherty (JF): Promotion of economic growth and competitiveness, implementation of lower taxes, and a policy and regulatory regime dedicated to a job-friendly, job-creating, entrepreneurial climate are among my reasons for seeking the leadership of the PC Party of Ontario. Prosperity is earned, and Ontarians have worked hard to achieve it. Ontarians should expect that government and public policy do not unduly hinder their efforts to create a prosperous, innovative Ontario.

This is the Ontario I want to pass to my triplet boys, Galen, Quinn, and John: a place where they can avail themselves of the best educational opportunities in the world and where hard work and ingenuity are rewarded, not penalized with high taxes and over-regulation.

Chris Stockwell (CS): As a party and for the good of this province, we have to win the next election. The worse thing we could do would be to return to another decade of Liberal and NDP administration of this province. We need a vision and a plan. I have this plan and I can communicate it to Ontarians. I believe we must change the face of the PC Party of Ontario so that we better relate to the public - without sacrificing our principles and vision - in order to win the next election. I believe am the candidate who is best equipped to tackle, meet and succeed in this challenge.

Elizabeth Witmer (EW): I'm running to be leader of the PC Party of Ontario because I believe we must protect the gains Ontario has made over the past seven years and make this province an even better place to live, work and raise our families. The Common Sense Revolution provided a solid economic foundation for our great province - I believe the next step is to allow the changes we've made - particularly in the education and health care sectors - to take hold. Above all I want to bring this province back together so that people who may not have felt that their voices were being heard have a chance to play a role in helping government make decisions on behalf of the people of Ontario.

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