

REFORM PARTY OF ONTARIO's "PURPLE BOOK"

November 2009

SOCIAL & CULTURAL REFORM

Our Values:

1. The will of the majority must prevail, within the bounds of the Constitution.
7. All citizens are equal.
11. We believe that Ontario's population, her growth, and her economy must be sustainable in regards to our environment.
12. We believe that both rural and urban Ontario are necessary partners for a bright Ontario future.
13. We believe that a well-educated population translates into a high standard of living.
15. We believe that the family is the building block of our society.
16. We believe that Ontario's society must remain harmonious and to that end Ontario should work towards cultural hegemony.

Social & Cultural Reform is needed in Ontario:

As Ontario benefits from continued strong immigration, it is imperative that such benefits are enjoyed across the entire province, and not just in a few of our largest cities. Too much concentration there exerts unnecessary pressures on local infrastructure, while removing the benefits of population growth from our smaller centres and rural areas. Our municipalities face many challenges, as does business. Rural labour is becoming in short supply. Urban cultural ghettos can lead to social problems, even crime, as well as calls to change the existing laws and customs, of the majority, and leads to no apparent need to immerse one's self into the cultural milieu of Ontario.

Many say Ontario lacks an identity, a focus, and others will rightly point to few efforts to integrate new arrivals into our society as the reason. We see the need to encourage domestic population growth, while even increasing immigration (although in a targeted fashion).

Reform Ontario wants to re-focus Ontarians towards a single, all-for-one objective: Creating the best place to live and work, and do business, in North America.

To that end, we propose the following remedies:

1. English will continue to be the only Official Language of Ontario, and all prospective immigrants must speak English before arriving.
2. School curriculum will include Ontario cultural traditions, even if they are based on Christian heritage.
3. Ontario faces a demographic reality of an aging population. We will introduce measures to encourage families to have at least 3 children to stimulate growth of our labour force.
4. We will also ensure all pertinent laws are Family Friendly, including health, long-term care, education, business and farming, child care, housing and planning, and our taxation system.
5. We will introduce a Rural Revitalization Programme geared to help rural and northern Ontario communities reinvigorate themselves.
6. We will introduce an Ontario Citizenship for all citizens and permanent residents to allow them to avail themselves of the rights, benefits, and responsibilities of living in Ontario. This will be granted for those paying tax in this province.
7. We will create a new model for planning our communities to reduce sprawl, protect farmland and our natural resources, reduce the need for low-density public infrastructure, force higher densities in all urban areas to revitalize downtown cores and their community spirit. These measures will include a tax break for workers who move closer to their place of employment (thus putting less strain on our highways, transit systems, and less pollution in the environment). By moving closer, they increase the efficiency of services provided to that place of employment.
8. We will introduce measures aimed at significantly increasing public physical fitness and community/volunteer-level involvement (our Citizenship agenda).
9. We will work hard to find ways to attract Ontario's aboriginal population to take part fully in our single goal for the future of the province. This young and expanding population is needed to fuel Ontario's future labour market.
10. We will revitalize the public education system - as well as our post-secondary and skills development systems - to ensure Ontario offer business the best, brightest, and most-motivated work force in North America.