



**Premier of Ontario**  
**Premier ministre**  
**de l'Ontario**

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Toronto, Ontario  
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Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario)  
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Dear Heads of Council:

Our government was elected to clean up Ontario's financial nightmare that was created by 15 years of mismanagement and irresponsible actions on the part of the Liberals. The \$15 billion annual deficit and \$347 billion long-term debt they left to our children and grandchildren is a direct threat to critical public services the people of Ontario rely on. The interest payments on our debt alone amount to \$1 billion a month, not one cent of which goes to hiring more front line-emergency workers, lowering taxes or paying down the debt.

Getting Ontario back on a path to balance is essential for protecting important government services, long-term prosperity, attracting investment and creating good-paying jobs.

And we also believe that every government needs to step up and do its part; there is only one taxpayer, and the job of finding savings while protecting core services rests with every elected official in Ontario.

Having spent time at the city level I also understand that, with municipal budgets already set for the 2019-20 fiscal year, our partners need to have flexibility to achieve those savings.

After listening to the concerns of our partners and following the advice of my Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, our government has made the decision to maintain the in-year cost sharing adjustments for land ambulance, public health and child care services.

Minister Clark has advised us to take this approach on the understanding that, as partners, Ontario's municipalities will use the additional time to work with the Government of Ontario to transform critical shared public services and find the efficiencies that will ensure their sustainability.

Our commitment to provide \$7.35 million, through the Audit and Accountability Fund, to help large municipalities find four cents on every dollar will support these efforts. And the \$200 million we have committed to small and rural municipalities to modernize services will also play an important part in meeting these objectives.

Our government was elected to protect public services for future generations, and a big part of that is by balancing the budget in a responsible way – that was our commitment. It is reassuring for me to hear that municipalities understand the fiscal challenges we face, but more importantly they understand that we face these challenges together. I look forward to working collaboratively with you to find savings, strengthen front-line services and protect what matters most to the people of Ontario. Sincerely,

The Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario