

# We Are Different From NDP: Wynne

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(NDP) Leader Andrea Horwath — they're the same people, you know what I mean? They just want to spend and tax we're actually going to put money back into the taxpayers' pocket."

Wynne, who has taken the Liberals in a decidedly leftward direction in recent years, herself suggested there is not a lot of daylight between her plan and that of the NDP.

"There's a lot of similarity in terms of direction between what we're putting forward and what the NDP is putting forward," she said. "The difference is that we actually have laid out how we would do the things that they would do, how we would pay for them, what the impacts would be and in many cases that's not the case with the NDP."

Horwath spoke about her health-care plan Wednesday, which includes an immediate \$1.2 billion for hospitals and \$19 billion for building expansions, as well as universal dental care and pharmacare, and hiring at



NDP leader Andrea Horwath greets supporters at a campaign event in Toronto on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. The Canadian Press/Frank Gunn



Kathleen Wynne getting onto her campaign bus in Toronto on Wednesday. Pic: Liberal Party

least 2,600 new mental health and addictions professionals.

The NDP also unveiled a new ad, highlighting Horwath's "change for the better" slogan.

"I think people are looking for change this election," she said after her health-care event. "And that means that by definition that Kathleen Wynne and the Liberals are not going to be forming government come June 7."

Meanwhile, Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, a physician and Tory candidate in the Ottawa region, came under fire from the Liberals over comments they say suggest she would support a two-tier health-care system. On Twitter, Fullerton has repeatedly touted what she calls a hybrid public-private system, arguing that allowing wealthier people to pay for private care would ease the burden

on the public system.

When asked to clarify her stance, Fullerton said in an email that she has "always supported universal health care and will continue to do so."

During a whistle stop in the rural Ottawa suburb of Carp, Ford told reporters he is fully committed to the province's health-care system, but did not comment directly on Fullerton's tweets.

"She believes in public health care," said Ford, who chalked the whole issue up to "Liberals playing politics."

About 60 supporters gathered at the small cafe where the PC campaign bus stopped in Carp, most of them supporters of Ford. Many were party members or supporters, and several said they had become disenchanted with the Tories until Ford came along.

## E-Voting Machines To Be Used In Ontario Poll

TORONTO: For the first time in a provincial election in Ontario, voters will use electronic voting machines when they head to the polls on June 7.

The voters' paper lists will also be a thing of past in most ridings, replaced by an electronic version called e-Poll Book.

Elections Ontario says the new technology should help speed up both the voting

and ballot-counting process. When voters show up at a polling station, a machine will scan their notice of registration card, a process similar to scanning food at a grocery store. Then the voters will receive their ballot from an official, fill it out and hand it back to the official who will put it through the tabulating machine.

A spokeswoman for Elections Ontario

says the new technology was tested at two byelections in 2016, and was also used in a variety of municipal elections.

"We're hoping this will be much more efficient for the voter," said Cara Des Granges. Des Granges said the estimated cost of the new technology is just over \$32 million and the actual election costs will be released next year.

In the Feb. 11, 2016 byelection in the Whitby-Oshawa riding, it took only 30 minutes to count the ballots using the new machines, compared to the 90 minutes it took officials to count them by hand, according to an Elections Ontario report that examined the byelection.

The report also said the new technology would help with another election issue: staffing. "Elections Ontario is increasingly unable to find the required number of polling officials," wrote Greg Essensa, the province's Chief Electoral Officer in the byelection report, titled "Proposal for a

technology-enabled staffing model for Ontario provincial elections."

It's not an easy job, he wrote, with election officials working 14- to 16-hour days.

Essensa said there are 10.2 million eligible voters with the estimated cost of the election pegged at \$126 million, a significant jump from the \$78.1 million in the 2014 provincial election. While there is no cost breakdown of the new technology, Essensa said the increased costs are due to many factors, including the addition of new ridings.

The new technology, however, is not perfect, noted the report. Some of the e-Poll Books had connectivity issues that forced staff to revert to the paper lists, some of the scanners didn't work and staff had trouble resolving the issues.

Another reason to switch to machines is driven by the times, the agency said. "The public has an expectation as a modern society to expect modern services."

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