

# Wynne, Horwath Say Global Gas Prices To Blame

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tax, and where gas prices have already soared to \$1.61 per litre – the highest price ever paid by drivers anywhere in North America.

“Make no mistake, one of the biggest things the Liberals and NDP agree on is imposing new tax-grabbing schemes on Ontario families and businesses,” said Ford. “The Ontario PC Party is the only Party who can stop the Liberals and NDPs plans to soar gas prices to \$2.00 per litre,” concluded Ford.

• Gas prices across the province are soaring. Prices in Toronto recently hit a 4-year high, which, understandably, does not sit well with drivers throughout Ontario.

• Under the Liberals, this scheme is only beginning. Cap-and-trade is currently at \$18 per tonne. However, it is expected to rise to \$95 per tonne by 2030, according to carbon pricing experts at the environmental research firm, ICF. That’s a 428 per cent increase.

• Gas prices are higher because of Kathleen Wynne’s cap-and-trade scheme. With the incoming 428 per cent increase, cap and trade will cost taxpayers an extra



22.7 cents per litre at the pump – an economic burden Ontarians should not accept.

In response, Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath and Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne touted transit promises on Thursday. Speaking in Ottawa, Wynne cast doubt Thursday on the impacts of Ford’s pledge, given that global forces tend to be the largest factor in gas prices.

“I know he’s saying that he’ll take 10 cents out – we know that most people won’t feel that,” she said. “The reality is that the prices fluctuate – vastly, wildly.”

Municipalities receive two cents per litre from the provincial gas tax, and that money is ear-

marked for transit funding. The Liberal government announced last year that they would increase it in 2019 to 2.5 cents a litre, and up to four cents by 2021 – increases the Tories would maintain.

Horwath spoke about how an NDP government would fund half of the operating costs of municipal transit. She highlighted her Toronto-focused promises outside a subway station, saying she would also prioritize building a downtown relief line to relieve subway overcrowding.

She, too, took a swipe at Ford’s promise.

“Mr. Ford again has not been clear with people about what the

impacts of his announcements that he makes are,” Horwath said. “And I look forward to the day when we can actually see a firm plan laid out by Mr. Ford. At this point, we haven’t seen it and I think people deserve so much better than that.”

Ford has not yet released a fully costed platform, except saying that a ‘A Doug Ford Ontario PC Government will scrap the cap-and-trade carbon tax and cancel Kathleen Wynne’s cap-and-trade slush fund.’

He also said the Ontario PCs will challenge, in the Supreme Court of Canada, any attempt by the federal government to impose a carbon tax on Ontario families.

Facing criticism for suggesting Ontario has to “take care of our own” before pushing for immigrants to move to northern Ontario, Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford repeatedly refused to explain his comments, instead saying he is supportive of new Canadians and immigration.

At a news conference Saturday, Ford was asked four times to explain what he meant by the remarks, but would not elaborate. Instead, he slammed his opponents for seizing upon the remarks he made at the northern issues leader’s debate Friday.

“My opponents are playing politics – you know that,” Ford said. “There’s no politician that probably has more support out there for new Canadians. Ford Nation’s full of new Canadians.”

“We take care of new Canadians,” Ford said. “We take care of immigrants coming to this country.”

“They call me personally on my phone. If you they have credentials from other countries, we will make sure that we do everything in our power ... to recognize those credentials and speed up the process.”



Premier Wynne with (from left to right): Sonia Sidhu, MP for Brampton South, Harinder Malhi, Liberal Candidate for Brampton North, and Amrit Mangat, Liberal Candidate for Mississauga Malton at the Powerade Centre for a Mothers Day Rally.



Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath visits an Bangladeshi Restaurant in Toronto as she joins local NDP Candidate Doly Begum, on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Chris Young

## Plea To Provincial Parties To Focus On Health Care

TORONTO: - After touring Ontario in recent weeks, Health Coalition spokeswoman Natalie Mehra returned to Toronto this morning at a press conference outside the Emergency Department at Mount Sinai Hospital to talk about the crisis in access to health care.

Noting that the Coalition’s mandate is to protect public health care in the public interest, she said that the group has chosen its words carefully and has not used the word “crisis” since the 1990s until recently when the

overcrowding situation in Ontario’s hospitals truly reached crisis proportions.

The coalition released its platform for the election in Toronto this morning. Called “Time to Rebuild” the coalition has highlighted two key “asks” for all political parties leading into June 7th’s provincial election to fix the crisis:

- An immediate and significant infusion of funding is needed for Ontario’s hospitals which are funded at the lowest rate of any province in Canada by ev-

ery measure and which have the fewest funded beds remaining after 40-years of downsizing. The coalition is asking for 5.3% per year, based on the best evidence available (2.2% inflation, 1% population growth, 1% aging, 1.1% increased utilization) and a commitment to get that money directly to care, not executive salaries and administrative functions that do not support increasing care levels.

- A commitment to open 30,000 new long-term care spaces as quickly as possible to address

the wait list of 34,000 (according to the most recent government of Ontario figures from December) people, mostly elderly, often with dementia and complex care needs that are too heavy for their families to provide. Within long-term care homes, care levels need to improve to meet the increasing complexity. People are suffering for months or even years waiting for long-term care placement.

The coalition will measure each of the parties’ commitments throughout the election campaign against these priority “tasks”.

Health care is polling at the top of the public agenda this election and the Health Coalition is working to ensure that the political parties make commitments that will effect real policy change.

“We are among world-class hospitals here that simply cannot provide even a safe level of care because of decades of downsizing,” said Natalie Mehra, executive director. “The discussion has to change. This is not a time to be talking about “lean” or “efficiencies” or any other code words for cuts and privatization.”

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✓	✓	Ambulance Reimbursement	Up to \$150	Up to \$300	Up to \$600
✓	✓	Recovery Benefit Following Hospital Confinement	\$75 / day	\$150 / day	\$300 / day
✓	✓	Recovery Benefit Following Outpatient Surgery	\$75 per day up to 1,050	\$150 per day up to 2,100	\$300 per day up to 4,200
✓	N/A	Recovery Benefit Following Fracture	\$75 per day up to \$1,050	\$150 per day up to \$2,100	\$300 per day up to 4,200
<b>Accidental Premium</b>			<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Monthly</b>
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