

# OUR DEMANDS BY THE NUMBERS



## REAL WAGE INCREASES

### BY THE NUMBERS:

- In 2022, wage growth consistently trailed behind inflation.<sup>i</sup>
- At its peak last year, consumer prices in Ontario increased more than twice as fast as wages.<sup>ii</sup>
- Ontario's average living wage is now \$19.72 per hour.<sup>iii</sup>
- At least, 863,000 Ontarians in 571,000 households live in deep poverty while receiving social assistance.<sup>iv</sup>

### WE DEMAND:

- Raise the minimum wage to \$20 an hour.
- Stop the appeal of Bill 124.
- End poverty wages.
- Double ODSP and OW rates.
- Restore and expand decent work laws, including paid sick days and equal pay for equal work.
- Make it easier for workers to join a union.

## KEEP SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE PUBLIC

### BY THE NUMBERS:

- Ontario's health spending per capita was \$4,800 in the first year of the pandemic, the lowest in Canada and 10% below the average of the other provinces.<sup>v</sup>
- Since 2008, Ontario's health spending per capita has consistently ranked at or near the lowest in Canada.<sup>vi</sup>
- In November 2022, patients spent on average 22.4 hours in an emergency room waiting to be admitted – with only 23% of patients meeting the province's target time.<sup>vii</sup>
- Polling data from Environics shows that:
  - 79% of Ontarians believe that our health care is in a state of crisis.
  - 55% of Ontarians believe that Ford's government is responsible for the crisis.
  - 59% of Ontarians oppose relying more on private for-profit health care providers to solve the health care crisis.
  - 76% of Ontarians believe that it is not fair to cap wages for nurses and other health professionals at 1% when inflation is so high.<sup>viii</sup>
- 2020, program spending per capita in Ontario was the lowest among the provinces and 14.3 per cent lower than the rest of Canada's average.
- Overall, the cumulative Ministry of Education spending gap from 2021-22 to 2029-30 between the FAO's forecast and the Province's 2021 budget spending plan is \$12.3 billion.

i 2022. Government of Ontario. Labour market report.

ii Ibid.

iii 2022. Craig Pickthorne. Ontario Living Wage.

iv 2022. Ricardo Tranjan. It's election time and Ontario still chooses not to eliminate poverty.

v 2022. Financial Accountability Office. 2020-21 Interprovincial Comparison.

vi Ibid.

vii 2022. Health Quality Ontario. Time spent in emergency departments.

viii 2022. Environics Research. Ontarians' attitudes on key issues.

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## WE DEMAND:

- Stop the privatization of health care.
- Stop shortchanging education.
- Eliminate user fees. Properly fund all our public services.
- End the staffing crisis in health care.
- Slash tuition fees at college and university.
- Ensure affordable and accessible child care.
- Make transit free and accessible.
- Treat public sector workers with dignity and respect.

## AFFORDABLE GROCERIES, GAS, AND BASIC GOODS

### BY THE NUMBERS:

- In 2022, gas prices hit a high of \$ 212.0/L in Ontario.<sup>ix</sup>
- In 2022, all large grocers saw an increase in gross profit in relative to their average past performance -- with Loblaw earning an excess of \$436 million.<sup>x</sup>
- In 2023, food prices are expected to increase by another 5% to 7% on average – with price hikes predicted across all food groups.<sup>xi</sup>
- A typical family of four will be forced to shell out an average of \$16,288 on food over the course of 2023 – an increase of \$1,065 from 2022.<sup>xii</sup>
- Ontario's food banks were visited more than 4,353,000 times throughout 2021-22, an increase of 42% over the last three years.<sup>xiii</sup>
- There has been a 47% increase in Ontarians with employment accessing food banks since 2018.<sup>xiv</sup>

## WE DEMAND:

- End the price gouging by grocery stores and oil and gas corporations.
- Impose price caps on groceries, fuel, and basic goods.
- Pass a Right to Food law that guarantees universal free school meals.
- End the food deserts in our communities.
- Tax the profits of food and oil giants.

## RENT CONTROL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

### BY THE NUMBERS:

- Between 2011 and 2018, the number of Ontario households in core housing need increased (19.1%) while the number of households receiving housing support from provincial programs decreased (4%).<sup>xv</sup>
- In GTA markets, 100.97% of monthly income (median after tax income) is being spent on mortgages.<sup>xvi</sup>
- To afford the average two-bedroom apartment in some parts of Ontario (e.g., Toronto), tenants need to be making close to or more than \$100,000 a year.<sup>xvii</sup>
- Only 12.86 per cent of millennials own a home in Ontario, with 87.14 per cent renting.<sup>xviii</sup>

ix 2023. Canadian Automobile Association. Gas prices.  
x 2022. Samantha Taylor and Sylvain Charlebois. Canadian grocers: measuring "greed" in the era of consumer distrust.  
xi 2022. Dalhousie University. Canada food price report.  
xii Ibid.  
xiii 2022. Feed Ontario. Hunger report 2022: the deepening cracks in Ontario's economic foundation.  
xiv Ibid.  
xv 2021. Financial Accountability Office. Affordable housing.  
xvi 2022. RE/MAX. Canada's housing affordability report.  
xvii 2022. Erica Alini. Here's the income you need to afford rent in major Canadian cities.  
xviii 2021. Jack Landau. Staggeringly low number young homeowners Ontario.

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## WE DEMAND:

- Pass real rent control and a Tenants' Bill of Rights.
- Launch a province-wide public housing program that builds decent homes in every community.
- Cap mortgage payments as inflation rates rise.
- Stop evictions and foreclosures.
- Create commercial rent control for small businesses.
- House those without shelter instead of policing them.

## MAKE THE BANKS AND CORPORATIONS PAY

### BY THE NUMBERS:

- In Canada, 47 people control \$270 billion in total wealth<sup>xix</sup> – with Ontario being home to the highest concentration of billionaires in the country.<sup>xx</sup>
- Canada's highest-paid CEOs and other top executives shattered records for compensation in 2021, earning an average of \$14.3 million as soaring inflation began to take hold.<sup>xxi</sup>
- In 2019, the net income of the six largest banks in Canada was \$46.6 billion.<sup>xxii</sup>
- Canadian corporate profit margins skyrocketed in 2021 at 16%; comparatively, from 2002 to 2019, corporate profit margins averaged 9%.<sup>xxiii</sup>

### WE DEMAND:

- Tax the record profits of the banks and the corporations.
- Make the 1% pay their fair share and restore tax rates for the highest earners.
- End the tax breaks and tax loopholes for banks and corporations.
- Impose fines on banks and corporations that fail to pay their taxes.
- Hold big corporate polluters responsible for their actions.

xix 2021. Forbes. Forbes' annual billionaires list, Forbes' "real-time billionaires" data, and Bloomberg billionaire index.  
xx 2022. Wealth Awesome. 15 Richest people in Ontario (2023).  
xxi 2023. David Macdonald. Breakfast of champions: CEO pay in 2021 hits new all-time high.  
xxii 2021. Canadian Bankers Association. Bank revenues and earnings profits.  
xxiii 2022. DT Cochrane. The rise of corporate profits in the time of Covid.