

**We can  
afford  
to choose  
change...**

A two per cent boost in personal and corporate income taxes would raise \$1.4 billion. With the other measures in this leaflet, it could be enough to balance the budget and begin to rebuild our public services.

It doesn't have to cost a lot. For example, with a two per cent hike, the average tax increase would be \$130 a year. Half of Ontarians would pay less than \$60.

It's small change, really, but if everyone paid it, we could be on the road to big change.

**That's what  
Ontarians  
voted for.**

**Help  
rebuild  
Ontario!** Restoring taxes to rebuild public services makes sense. Please support it. Contact your local MPP. Write your local newspaper. Talk to your friends and family. Let them know you support a strong financial base for our precious public services.

To find out how to get involved in our campaign, check the OPSEU web site at [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org). Just click on the "Rebuild our Public Services" button.



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**Basic  
arithmetic**

**Why  
Ontario  
needs to  
restore taxes  
to rebuild  
public  
services**

# Tax dollars are the lifeblood of public services

Schools, hospitals, and roads cost money. Without tax dollars, public services die. It's no coincidence that the Conservative government that slashed tax rates also brought us the Walkerton tragedy.

After eight years of Tory rule, Ontario public services are a mess:

- Our courts have a backlog of 99,000 cases.
- Long-term care homes for seniors have no minimum standard of care.
- Colleges want faculty members to teach more, but prepare less.
- Our home care system guarantees that the old and the sick are cared for by the lowest bidder.
- Thanks to Tory policies, Children's Aid workers spend more time filling out forms than helping children in trouble.

Meanwhile, wages for many public employees have fallen significantly due to inflation. Jobs for life-saving ambulance dispatchers sit vacant because the pay is so low....

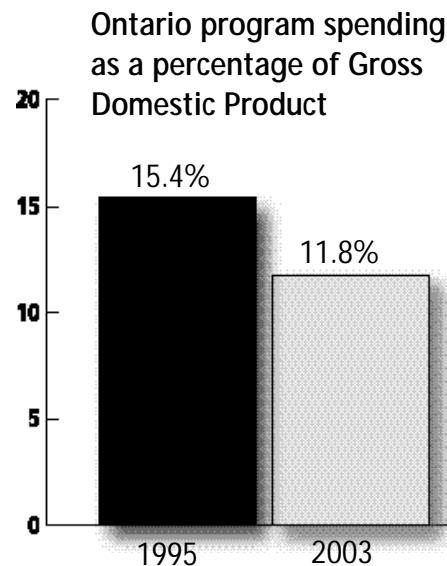
# Tory tax cuts will cost \$13.3 billion this year

The Tories ruined public services in Ontario. Public finances got the same treatment.

In 2003–04, past Tory tax cuts will take \$13.3 billion out of government coffers. That's a lot – it's

more than we pay to run all of our hospitals combined.

Tax cuts cost money, so under the Tories, government spending fell. In eight years, program spending plunged by almost one-quarter relative to the size of the economy.



# Ontario doesn't have a spending problem. Ontario has a revenue problem.

The new Liberal government says we need an extra \$4.5 billion a year just to keep things running – even more to fix and improve the services the Tories wrecked.

We can raise some money by ending wasteful Tory schemes:

- The Tories loved to spend tax dollars on profits for private companies. Public employees can do the work for less.
- Closing corporate tax loopholes could save \$850 million a year. Ending exemptions for the Employer Health Tax could save \$1.1 billion a year.
- In some cases, spending more could cost less. For example, hiring more staff to track down family support payments would get more families off welfare – and save up to \$200 million a year.

These are great ideas, but they're not enough. Seventy-two per cent of government revenues come from taxes. It's basic arithmetic: if we want to rebuild public services, we must restore tax levels.