

In your opinion, which set of government finances (federal or of a particular province) are being managed most irresponsibly in Canada and why? What would you do differently as Premier/Prime Minister?

By Devin Scully

I've lived most of my life in Ontario. My mom moved us back here when I was eight to seek better jobs. Ontario at that time was booming, and Nova Scotia was in a downward trend. Today, Ontario is suffering under the poor financial management of Kathleen Wynne.

Ontario currently faces a debt over \$277bn (source: Taxpayer.com's debt clock), and a budget which Kathleen Wynne's Liberals do not seem to be making an effort to balance. As one of Canada's largest provinces, this is a very concerning trend. Premier Wynne has continued to irresponsibly spend money that we don't have and can't afford for overstuffed bureaucracies that we don't need.

If I were Premier of Ontario I would take immediate drastic steps to begin paying down provincial debt immediately. I would stop the wasteful trend of bailing out companies which fail to manage their finances, such as MaRS. If a company is bailed out once, what is to stop them from failing again?

I would also begin looking for any spending cuts that could be made. A few quick examples that come to mind are costly "green" energy subsidies, which serve only to pick up votes in urban ridings, while allowing costly wind turbines to harm rural Ontario. The savings associated with these costs would immediately be put toward paying off our debt. Another cost I would cut would be part of my salary. I would take a 10% salary cut, and encourage all MPPs to vote to do the same. While not a hugely substantial amount at once, every little bit helps. I would also freeze public sector wages for two years to avoid further spending there. Certain departments and jobs will also have to see downsizing, again with the saved money being put directly into paying down the provincial debt.

Finally, some provincial assets would be sold. Assets which are profitable to the province would be kept, but some of those which cost the province money will have to be placed on the market. I would encourage private businesses and corporations to purchase these assets to make a positive investment in Ontario's future.

Throughout this process I would freeze provincial taxes at their current rate. I would certainly not raise them. After the debt is paid off I would lower provincial taxes by a reasonable amount, to help Ontarians keep more of their money in their own pocket.

Unfortunately, I am not the Premier of Ontario, and we instead have Kathleen Wynne spending our money faster that she can take it from us. Of course, that is why she keeps plotting new ways to do so: such as carbon taxes, and demanding the federal government send more tax money to the province in order to keep up her foolish spending habits. I will be done university right around the next provincial election. I fear that when I graduate if Kathleen Wynne's Liberals win another term in office I will have to see Ontario how my family once saw Nova Scotia: In the rear view mirror.