

Ontario's 2003-2004 Budget Report for Markham and Stouffville



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HEALTH CARE

Health care is the top priority for Ontarians

- ✓ \$28.1 billion for 2003/04 including:
- ✓ \$10.4 billion for operation of hospitals, including \$130 million one-time funding for diagnostic & medical equipment
- ✓ 252 new nurse practitioners for rural & underserved areas

SENIORS

- ✓ Seniors would be reimbursed for their residential education property tax after July 1, 2003, resulting in \$450 million in tax relief.

SAFE & SECURE COMMUNITIES

- ✓ \$31 million over seven years for victim support services
- ✓ Up to \$40 million over five years for municipal fire services in small and rural communities for purchase of new emergency firefighting equipment

EDUCATION

Helping students achieve their full potential

- ✓ A record \$15.3 billion investment and promised stable, multi-year base funding for Ontario's schools
- ✓ To make room for every willing and qualified double cohort student in our post-secondary institutions, we plan to build two quality assurance funds—a university fund of \$75 million and a college fund of \$60 million
- ✓ \$400 million to help 400,000 students attend college or university over the next decade through Phase 2 of the Ontario Student Opportunity Fund

STRONG ECONOMY

- ✓ Ontario's budget is balanced for the fifth consecutive year
- ✓ Cut small business tax rates to 5% in 2004 and 4% in 2005
- ✓ Fund the OSTAR or Ontario Small Town and Rural Development Infrastructure Program with \$460 million over 5 years to build rural economic diversity

TRANSPORTATION

- ✓ \$3.25 billion investment in public transit over ten years. While the federal government has announced a \$435 million contribution, we are hopeful that they will, in the future, join Ontario as a full transit-funding partner.
- ✓ Continued support for York Region's Quick Start Transit Plan
- ✓ 1 billion for GO Transit base capital needs
- ✓ \$1.25 billion for inter-regional transit expansion in the Golden Horseshoe Region
- ✓ \$750 million for the municipal transit renewal program

ENVIRONMENT

The government's plan for a cleaner environment includes action on clean water and sustainable energy.

- ✓ \$750 million to protect Ontario's drinking water
- ✓ Retail sales tax rebate for alternative fuel vehicles would rise to a maximum of \$2,000 — or \$750 for propane vehicles

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