Plans may cost more than money they save: professor

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but once they get in, they can simply say their projections were wrong," he added.

While the parties state they plan to finance the spending through cuts in other areas, after reviewing each financial plan, Mr. Wiseman is left with doubts the plans will yield enough savings to fulfill the promises without tax increases or service cuts.

For example, the Liberal party is projecting economic growth will add \$20.1 billion in provincial revenues over the four-year term, which will fund the party's health care system injection, according to Vaughan incumbent Greg Sorbara.

"I want to point out that these are just projections and not hard numbers," Mr. Wiseman said. "Qualified people are making the estimates, but it doesn't always go the way they predict."

It is difficult to put stock in a projection when you rely on economic growth to fund a sector such as health care, he added.

Both the PCs and NDP plan to eliminate local health integration networks, which is expected to save the province \$1.2 billion

over the term, according to Newmarket-Aurora incumbent Frank Klees, who calls the networks inefficient administrations.

"All parties will be looking for efficiencies," Mr. Wiseman said. "But it is such an elastic term without the details that define the term."

Mr. Wiseman points out eliminating the LHINs actually won't save as much money as the parties claim. The government spent taxpayer dollars to set up the networks and it will cost money to tear them down and delegate their duties to another body.

The PCs plan to find 2 per cent in savings from other ministries annually and consider public-private partnerships. The NDP plans to cap CEO compensations and crack down on consulting fees to help shoulder some of the financial investment into health care.

The Green Party's plan to delay the corporate tax cuts proposed by the Liberals might produce savings, but setting up home care for seniors who can stay in their homes won't yield savings right away.

"These plans all take money to set up," Mr. Wiseman said. "It might cost more to get things in place than the savings that are being found."

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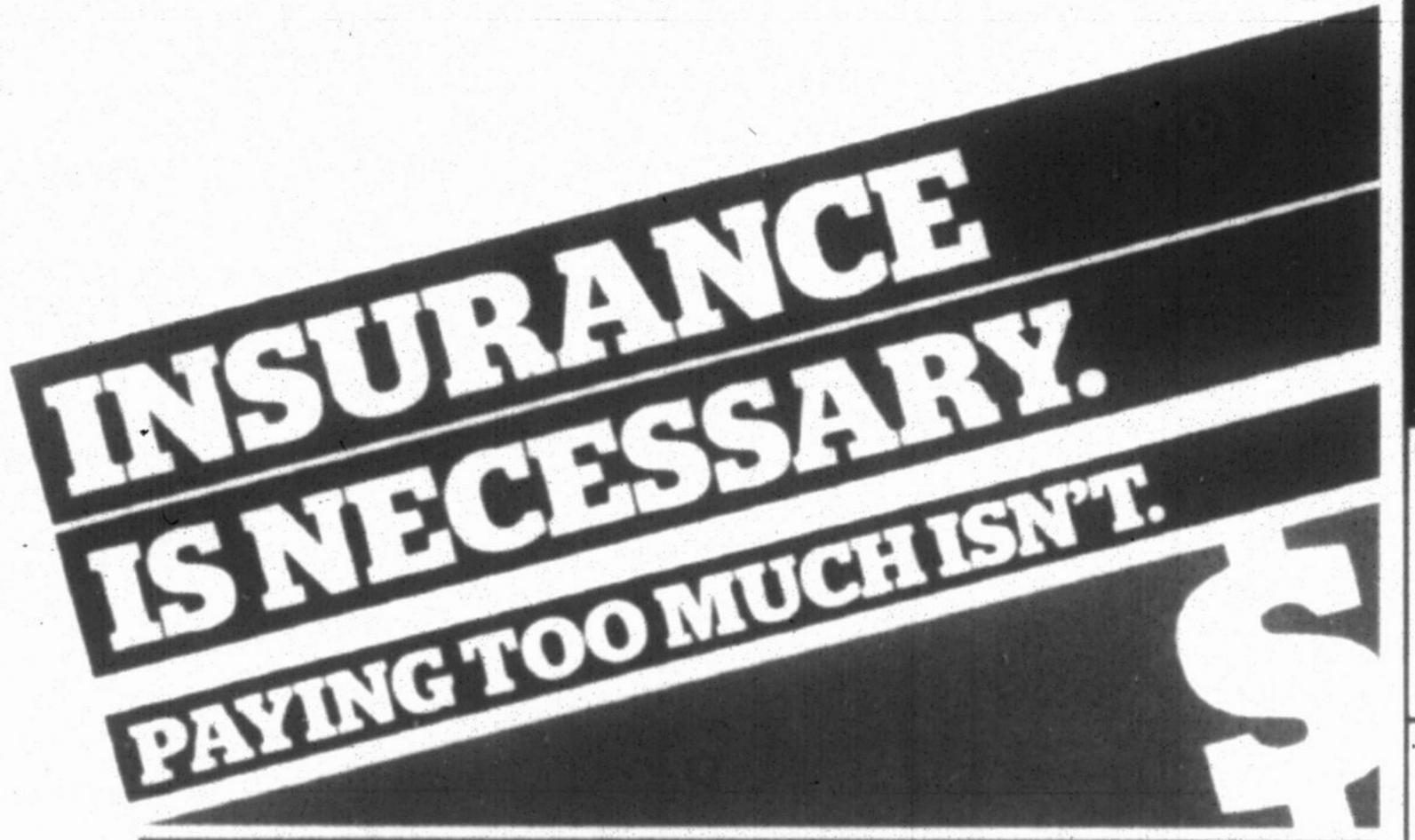
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HEALTH CARE PROMISES

The party: Liberal

The promise: \$6.4 billion

The plan:

- General increase of the province's revenues through economic growth.
- Provincial revenues are expected to increase by \$20.1 billion over the four-year term and will be enough to meet financial commitments, such as the money earmarked for health care and eliminating the province's debt, according to Vaughan incumbent Greg Sorbara.

The party: Progressive Conservative

The promise: \$6.1 billion

The plan:

- Eliminating inefficiencies currently present at the administration level (e-Health cost the province \$1.2 billion).
- Find 2 per cent in savings per ministry annually, reallocating to health care.
- ▶ Elimination of Local Health Integration Networks will yield \$1.2 billion in savings.
- Consider public-private partnerships, such as family health care centres.
- Increasing funding for health care won't require a tax increase, according to Newmarket-Aurora

incumbent Frank Klees.

The party: NDP

The promise: \$1.2 billion, according to online list of priorities

The plan:

- ▶ Eliminate LHINs and reinvest savings back into health care.
- ▶ Cap public CEO compensation at twice the premier's salary.
- Crack down on consultant expenses.
- Cut administration and management costs by offering seniors at home care (\$50,000 per year for every senior who can stay in their home longer).

The party: Green

The promise: \$4 billion

The plan:

- Delay the tax decrease to large corporations proposed by the Liberals.
- Introduce or continue initiatives such as family and community care clinics and home care for seniors to divert some of the financial burden on the system.
- ▶ The party will not call for service cuts or private sector involvement, according to candidate Brian Chamberlain.

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