

2011 Provincial Election Questionnaire

Question #1: Ontario has been a net exporter of electricity since 2006. Do you believe that Ontario should continue to export coal-fired electricity to the U.S.A.?

Answer #1: Yes ____ No Undecided ____

The NDP is committed to closing Ontario's coal plants. The McGuinty government continues burning coal simply to export the power to the US. We believe it's wrong to compromise the health of Ontarians just to supply the US with power. We will say more about our timeline for coal phase out during the campaign.

Question #2: Ontario's municipal electric utilities (e.g., PowerStream, Toronto Hydro), Hydro One, Enbridge Gas and Union Gas have implemented energy conservation and efficiency programs that are reducing their customers' energy bills by hundreds of millions of dollars. Do you believe that Ontario's electric and gas utilities should be mandated to help their customers achieve all their energy saving opportunities that can meet their needs at a lower cost than new energy supply?

Answer #2: Yes No ____ Undecided ____

Right now Ontario is pursuing less than two-thirds of cost-effective conservation opportunities in the province. In fact, the McGuinty government plans to phase out energy conservation when surplus power from expensive new nuclear plants comes on-line. Energy conservation is cheaper and cleaner than building new power supply. The NDP will maximize cost-effective conservation by establishing targets for Ontario's electric utilities, implementing stricter energy efficiency standards for buildings and appliances, and by making energy retrofits affordable for homeowners.

Question #3: In 2010 Vermont electric utilities signed an agreement to import clean, reliable water power from Hydro Quebec for 26 years at a starting price of less than 6 cents per kWh. Do you believe that Ontario should seek to negotiate a long-term contract with Hydro Quebec for low-cost water power imports before pursuing new nuclear projects?

Answer #3: Yes No ____ Undecided ____

Since the tragic disaster in Japan, people all over the world have been raising serious questions about nuclear power. Every nuclear plant in Ontario's history has come in behind schedule and over budget. There are better ways to generate new power including conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas cogeneration. Cost-effective hydro imports are also an option that should be explored.

Question #4: Every nuclear project in Ontario's history has gone massively over budget and the cost overruns have been passed on to Ontario's electricity consumers and taxpayers. Do you believe that nuclear power companies should be allowed to pass their future cost overruns on to Ontario's electricity consumers and taxpayers?

Answer #4: Yes ____ No Undecided ____

Ontario families are still paying the debt retirement charge from the last time we built a nuclear plant at Darlington. The NDP will not proceed with plans to build new nuclear plants and will conduct a comprehensive environmental assessment that looks at safety and cost before we proceed with any electricity plan. All large-scale electricity generation must be publicly-owned, publicly accountable and affordable. Secret contracts with private power producers are not the way we will do business. We will make changes over the next four years to ensure large-scale generation will be publicly owned and openly accountable to taxpayers.