



JULIA MUNRO

MPP – York Simcoe



Budget Response – MPP Julia Munro, York-Simcoe

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For 14 years, this Liberal Government has made life harder for Ontario families and businesses.

This week, the Wynne Liberals released a budget that just goes to prove that hard-working Ontario families will continue to pay more and get less.

The Wynne Liberals are claiming that they've fixed our province's economic challenges by presenting a so-called "balanced" budget, but that is simply not the case. This is not a balanced budget. Ontario continues to be the largest sub-national debtor in the world, at more than \$300 billion and climbing. This has more than doubled since the Liberals came to office. This government spends more money on servicing its debt interest than it does on post-secondary education and community safety combined.

The government is hiding a more than \$5 billion operational deficit through cash grabs, unauthorized pension assets, and one-time and unusual revenue. The Wynne Liberals are cooking the books a year before the next election.

On top of that, the Liberals have no plan in this budget to get the debt under control. They've more than doubled the debt in just 14 years-- Ontario is worse off as a result. This government is eroding the services that families and seniors in our community depend on today, while placing a burden on our children and grandchildren tomorrow.

While this budget appears rosy, the truth is that this government is trying to win back the affection of voters with big spending and new programs.

At the end of the day we have to remember that a Liberal is a Liberal. This Liberal government always goes back to their old ways. If they win the next election, they will raise your taxes, cut your health care, and hike your hydro rates once again. It is my sincere hope that a PC government will have the opportunity to turn this province around.

The Ontario PC Caucus cannot, and will not, support a budget that makes life harder. We will continue to stand up for Ontario families and taxpayers against this reckless government. I will continue to be a voice for our community on the issues that matter most.

