



ONTARIO HARNESS HORSE ASSOCIATION

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June 3, 2014

Leaders of
Ontario Liberal Party
Ontario New Democratic Party
Ontario Progressive Conservative Party

Dear.....,

I am writing you today on behalf of tens of thousands of harness horsepeople who continue to be deeply impacted by the cancellation of the Slots-at-Racetracks Program.

In the last two years, since that decision was made and despite the government's efforts, more than 10,000 people employed in our industry have lost their jobs. The government's funding package does little to provide long-term stability to our industry and the continued roll-out of the OLG's modernization strategy might serve the interests of racetrack owners, but it does little for horsepeople.

The OLG's modernization strategy has been heavily criticized by municipal leaders and other gaming stakeholders and has failed to come close to the stated financial objectives that were used to justify it. The plan has been further discredited by the Auditor General's recent findings that indicate a series of failures on behalf of the OLG and government relating to modernization.

As an industry, we have questions for all party leaders so that we can better inform horsepeople of what they can expect from each party, should they form government.

As Premier:

1. Are you prepared to cancel the current OLG modernization strategy and to properly engage stakeholders in the gaming sector, the horse-racing industry and at the municipal level, to ensure the province's plans for gaming have the support of stakeholders before rolling them out?
2. Will you commit to a clean sweep of the executive offices at the OLG to remove the entire project team that was responsible for the gaming modernization fiasco that will cost the province more than \$2 billion in revenue over the next five years, and that resulted in thousands of rural Ontario jobs being lost?

3. Will you ensure that future OLG executives do not have a bias against horse racing and do not use the agency's mandate to disrupt the industry?
4. Will you commit to ensuring that the horse-racing industry is fully integrated into the province's gaming strategy and a priority is placed on expanding gaming at racetracks as a first and primary source of gaming expansion sites in Ontario?
5. Will you ensure fairness between racetracks and the various horse-racing breeds as part of your plans for the horse-racing industry in Ontario?
6. Will you commit to providing long-term stability to the horse-racing industry by reinstating SARP or another form of predictable revenue sharing so that horsepeople are able to plan and invest in Ontario again?
7. Will you commit to establishing benchmarks, reporting procedures and timelines to ensure that racetrack operators invest in supporting and promoting live horse racing in the province?

As an industry we look forward to your answers to these questions and will be sharing your answers with our members through our newsletters, industry publications and general media distribution.

Please respond, no later than Friday, June 6, 2014, either on line through accessing this link (individual links provided), or by email to brian@ohha.ca.

Thank you for providing us with your responses to the above-mentioned issues; these are of the utmost importance to the members of our association.

Sincerely,



Brian Tropea
General Manager

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