

Friday June 6, 2014

Ontario Harness Horse Association – 2014 Election Questions

Ontario NDP Response

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?**

The Ontario NDP will review the OLG modernization strategy, but we will start with reinstating SARP and maintaining it until a new revenue-sharing program is developed in consultation with affected communities, industry and stakeholders.

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?**

This election is about holding those responsible for the OLG policy direction accountable. The Ontario NDP will review the OLG modernization strategy, and while we can't commit to firing executives, we will cap public-sector CEO salaries and make sure that changes to the gaming strategy are done in consultation with affected communities, industry and stakeholders.

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?**

Yes.

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?**

The Ontario NDP will continue to fight for stability in the horse racing and horse breeding industry by negotiating a new long-term revenue sharing program, in consultation with affected communities, industry and stakeholders. We would openly consult with citizens about potential casino locations and offer cities the right to have referendums before a new casino is built.

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?**

Once a new revenue sharing program is negotiated we would ensure funds in the horse racing industry are distributed fairly.

- 6. Will you commit to providing long-term stability to the horse-racing industry by reinstating SARP or other form of predictable revenue sharing so that horsepeople are able to plan and invest in Ontario again?**

Yes.

- 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?**

Yes. We would ensure funds in the horse racing industry are distributed fairly.