



For a Better Ontario. Leadership Matters.

**To: Mary Cornish, Chair
Equal Pay Coalition
374 Bathurst Street,
Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 2S6**

From: The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

Re: Equal pay Coalition Survey

Thank you for your letter dated September 11, 2007. We appreciate the Equal Pay Coalition taking the time to share the concerns of its members. John Tory and Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario are a strong believers in and advocates of better opportunities and prosperity for Ontario families.

Ontario has some of the most talented, innovative and hard-working people in the world. Yet, in virtually every area that is critical to Ontario's future success, the province is now lagging behind: in environmental protection; in the readiness of our energy and health systems; and, most critically, in the economy. Ontario's economic challenges are the most acute in the manufacturing sector; since 2005, Ontario has lost more than 140,000 manufacturing jobs, many of these held by women.

Addressing these issues requires leadership, and action. Our plan to build a more prosperous Ontario addresses each of these issues – providing the strong business fundamentals that make investors choose our province, and investing in the cultural, educational, health care and environmental benefits that make people choose Ontario as their home. Fair taxes and a reduced overall tax burden for families is yet another aspect of our plan.

Two key themes emerge from your letter: honouring the Ontario government's pay equity obligations and increasing the minimum wage to \$10/hour.

A John Tory government will honour the government's pay equity obligations as determined by courts as a result of the Charter challenges and would ensure that the court decisions in this regard are respected and upheld.

On the matter of the minimum wage, we intend to ensure that politics is taken out of the issue of determining the minimum wage in Ontario. We strongly believe that a sensible balance needs to be struck on this matter that does not drive minimum wage jobs out of the province while ensuring that minimum wage keeps up with the cost of



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living. This balance can be best achieved by an independent commission that our government will strike upon election.

Please take the time to review our platform, “*For a Better Ontario: Leadership Matters*”, and our Costing Document, both of which can be found at www.leadershipmatters.ca. *Leadership Matters* is not just an election platform, it is a plan for government. Our plan was developed after more than two years of consultations with members of our party and other Ontarians from across the province and it provides greater details about our commitments than we are able to provide in this forum.