

Ontario Election Issue – Taxes on Aviation

By Kevin Psutka, COPA president and CEO

When I wrote a [letter to Ontario Premier Wynne](#) immediately after the budget was released, and followed up with a [request](#) for Ontario members to contact their MPPs, an election had not been called. Now that one is in progress, I contacted the three major parties (Liberal, PC, NDP) for their position on the issue of increasing the tax on aviation gasoline and whether or not they will do anything to improve the airport infrastructure.

The various platforms have been released:

Liberal <http://ontarioliberalplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Building-the-Next-Generation-of-Infrastructure.pdf>

PC <http://ontariopc.com/millionjobsplan/>

NDP <http://ourplan.ontariondp.ca/?source=homepage>

None of the plans addresses anything about aviation. The Liberals' plan, however, builds on the budget and therefore continues on the path of spending money from various sources, including aviation taxes, on non-aviation projects.

I have contacted each of the parties to ask for their position on the issue raised with the Premier in my letter and I hope to be able to report on their responses in the 4 June edition of eFlight.

In the meantime, Ontario members are encouraged to engage their local candidates on this issue, using points raised in my letter to the Premier, and push them for a party position that supports a viable airport network in Ontario.

For members elsewhere in Canada, keep this issue in mind when you engage your MPPs. The feds have off-loaded airports, thanks to the [National Airports Policy](#), and several provinces have either ignored or are trying to milk aviation, thinking that there is lots of capacity to do so.

Politicians need to be constantly reminded that critical links in our national transportation system are at stake when they take the attitude, as the Ontario Liberals have, that aviation does not matter.