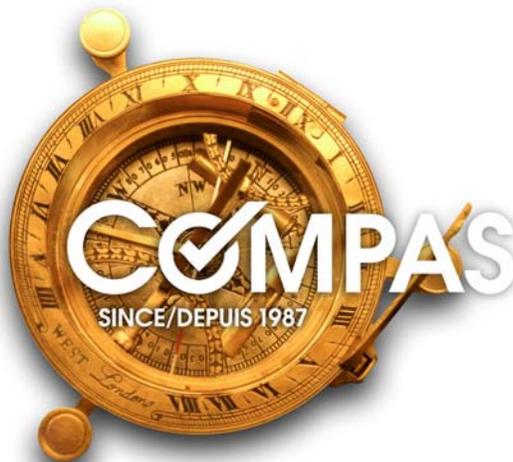


Second of Two Part Series on Ontario Dutch Disease and Government Priorities,
Part 2 on Government Priorities

**Ontario's Priorities in an Era of Constraint according to
Business Leaders—Limit Teacher Entitlements, Increase
Health Choice, Cap Health and University Spending, and
Other Solutions**

**Weekly CEO/Business Leader Poll By COMPAS in *Canadian Business*
For Publication Week of March 12th, 2012**



**COMPAS Inc.
Public Opinion and Customer Research
Week of March 12th, 2012**



1.0 Introduction

As detailed below in table 2.1, business leaders and CEOs on the COMPAS business panel favour limiting entitlements for teachers, increase health options in the private sector, capping health and university spending, and other solutions.

These are the key findings from this past week’s Internet survey of CEOs and business leaders on the COMPAS panel. The weekly business survey is undertaken for *Canadian Business* magazine.

2.0 Details

Table 2.1: Suggestions for spending reform have come from various sources including the report of economist Don Drummond. On a 7 point agreement scale where 1 means disagree strongly and 7 agree strongly, how much do you agree with each of the following views? NO RANDOMIZATION

	MEAN	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	DNK
Cut or cap pension and other financial entitlements for teachers	6.0	49	25	7	9	2	4	1	2
Reduce the role of teachers’ unions and school boards in making decisions about teacher skill upgrading	5.8	44	22	13	7	2	5	2	5
Allow more private sector supply of health services to reduce the demand on the single payer system	5.6	46	18	12	9	2	2	8	2



*Ontario Dutch Disease and Government Priorities, Part 2: Government
Priorities, Weekly CEO/Business Leader Poll by COMPAS in Canadian
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	MEAN	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	DNK
Constrain the growth of Ontario's spending on health	5.2	24	24	24	11	13	1	4	1
Allow tuition to rise	5.2	31	22	20	9	2	4	9	2
Constrain the growth of government spending on colleges and universities	5.0	24	20	24	13	6	8	5	1
Cap the growth of hospitals	4.7	15	20	22	17	15	2	6	2
Tie drug subsidies for the elderly to income	4.7	19	22	20	13	6	11	7	2
Cap spending growth on primary and secondary education to 1%	4.7	20	20	17	15	11	11	6	1

The following verbatim comments provide a nuanced sense of respondent opinion:

Canada needs Ontario to get its act together. Let's hope they do.

Cuts need to come in the public sector not small or large business, these businesses are what create jobs and drive the economy

Dalton learned his finance in Greece.

McGuinty has basically assisted Ontario into the ditch while smiling all the way and patting himself on the back. I believe his government is incapable of tackling the budget and competitiveness problem but I would like to be surprised.

Perhaps one day governments will eventually learn that you can't keep spending more than they're taking in. So the choices are more taxes or cuts to government programs. More corporate tax will further worsen the problem with Ontario's ability to sell products and would likely result in even higher unemployment. So, really it comes down to more personal income tax or cut government spending. The best solutions will likely involve a bit of both. Let's just hope that our politicians in Ontario at least have the courage and



wisdom to get started on solutions now don't wait until it's a crisis like the Greeks did.

The government needs to focus on the quality of the education our children are receiving. We are graduating people now who have no skills, no motivation and an entitled attitude. We should focus on high school trades training, so that some students will be able to enter the workforce with at least a basic understanding of a trade they can use to feed and clothe themselves.

Here is a hidden cost to our health care system. The cost is the wait that people must endure to obtain health care. This is particularly true of those people taken out of "production" pending health care. For those who are out of production to start with it is not as big an issue. Hospitals should be allowed to charge for service at least at a minimum level to recoup some of their costs. Those who pay for service could have means to recoup such as expensing on taxes. There are a lot of people that do abuse themselves and the system and frankly I am tired of paying for it. Those who abuse themselves should go to the bottom of the waiting list.

Unreasonable HC costs are being incurred by: (1) Refusal to accept complementary integrated medicine which offers effective alternative treatments with high efficacy at fractional cost; (2) Costly trials of marginally useful expensive addictive prescription drugs; (3) Lack of objective review of true medical technology.

When you find yourself in a hole, you're supposed to stop digging! It's unfortunate that our 4 year political leadership program has vision problems. When will we ever learn?



3.0 Methodology

The COMPAS web-survey of CEOs and leaders of small, medium, and large corporations was conducted March 2 - 6, 2012. Respondents constitute an essentially hand-picked panel with a higher numerical representation of small and medium-sized firms.

Because of the small population of CEOs and business leaders from which the sample was drawn, the study can be considered more accurate than comparably sized general public studies. In studies of the general public, surveys of n=85 are deemed accurate to within approximate 10.6 percentage points 19 times out of 20. The principal and investigator on this study is Conrad Winn, Ph.D.

