

Going forward

The Wynne Liberals got a rough ride over its last years in government by newspapers with conservative leanings.

And they deserved it.

But do not think for a second that the Progressive Conservatives of newly-elected Premier Doug Ford will escape our criticisms if they fail to live up to the promises that had Ontarians giving them a majority and therefore a literal free rein for the next four years.

Our readers, by and large, are small-c conservatives because they are small-town folk and are therefore among the hardest working, genuine,, and most family-valued people in the province.

They know money does not grow on trees. They know the struggle of making ends meet. And they know that the Wynne Liberals all but abandoned them

It is our job as a newspaper to take editorial positions that have the backs of our readers and to make sure our elected representatives take care of them properly and respectfully.

They must remember that the money they are playing with is our money, not theirs.

It is money that comes from taxes--too many taxes.

Doug Ford promised that if elected premier he would put more money back in our pockets.

Let's see that he does.

What we want as small-c conservatives is less government interfering with our lives. We want less red tape, fewer regulations, and the state nanny to pack up her bags and find another job?just not in our province.

We are not concerned, for example, that the Ford Tories threw the controversial sex-education curriculum in the trash because the Wynne Liberals really did not consult with parents. And let's not talk about its author.

Critics complain, however, that we are now left with a sex-ed curriculum that goes back to 1998 when the world was vastly different.

Those critics are correct.

But we do not expect the Ford government to dilly-dally with this. We expect they will have their consultations?with parents and educational experts?and that there will be a new curriculum by the time school restarts.

That said, we will give the PCs a honeymoon period.

After almost 15 years in opposition, it will take time for the Ford government to find its way, to lay out its priorities, to fine-tune its policies, and to then put them into law.

One does not simply flip on a switch.

This space, therefore, will be one to watch. Those who think that the power brokers at Queen's Park do not read small-town newspapers think that way at their peril.

They cannot take us for granted.

And we, as your community newspaper, will make sure of that.

It's what we do.