

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 29, 2014
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT:	2014 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the 2014 Ontario Provincial General Election Candidate Questionnaire if a provincial general election is held this year:

- a) the Mayor **BE REQUESTED** to forward a letter to the candidates in each of the four London ridings in the 2014 Ontario provincial general election for a written response to the questions below; and
- b) the responses received from the candidates in the provincial election **BE PLACED** on the City's website as soon as they are received for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Board of Control: August 8, 2007; September 26, 2007
 Finance and Administration: July 20, 2011; September 28, 2011
 Corporate Services Committee: July 23, 2013.

BACKGROUND

There has been much recent speculation about the possibility of a provincial general election being called this spring. In previous Ontario Provincial General Elections in 2007 and 2011, and in the August 2013 London-West by-election, the City of London contacted all provincial candidates in the four London-area ridings to determine candidates' responses on a number of questions relating to London's advocacy priorities and the provincial relationship with municipalities. The responses were collected, posted on the City of London website, and reported to Council prior to the election to encourage debate and awareness concerning the municipal/provincial relationship and its impact on the City of London and local property taxpayers.

If an election is called, there will insufficient time between the date of the election call and voting day for a questionnaire report to be tabled at committee and approved by council, before circulating to candidates and posting of their responses on the City website by Civic Administration.

In the event that an election is called this spring, it is proposed that the following questionnaire be circulated to all London-area provincial candidates. Background material on the questions and web links will be made available. All responses will be collected, posted to the City website as they are received, and reported to the Corporate Services Committee. If possible, the report will also be tabled at a committee meeting prior to the election.

**City of London Candidate Questionnaire
2014 Provincial General Election**

Fostering Job Creation

- 1a) How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create jobs and support local economic development initiatives?
- 1b) How will you and your Party work with the City of London to support London's "Unlocking Prosperity" initiative to service new industrial (employment) lands in the vicinity of London's Highway 401 corridor?

Providing Municipal Governments Fiscal Room to Invest Locally

2a) How will you and your Party support the scheduled uploading of funding from municipalities to the province as implemented through the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal financial imbalance in a fair and sustainable manner?

2b) Will you and your Party commit to further upload service funding that more properly falls under provincial responsibility such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?

2c) Will you and your Party recognize that the interest arbitration system for emergency services is broken and requires a complete overhaul to ensure a transparent, independent and accountable system in which decision makers thoroughly consider a municipality's capacity to pay in reference to its financial circumstances and needs, local operational issues, appropriate and local wage comparator groups and end the practice of police/fire wage comparability?

2d) Will you and your Party work to revise the Development Charges Act to remove barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure that municipal taxpayers benefit from new sources of revenue?

Improving Economic Competitiveness by Investing in Strategic Infrastructure

3a) What are you and your Party prepared to do to support and enhance sustained and long-term provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure?

3b) How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to a fair distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investments for London?

3c) How will you and your Party support public transit? i.e. Do you and your Party support the continued dedication of Provincial Gas Tax funding for transit? Do you support the application of new revenue tools as outlined in the Metrolinx report to regions outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area?

3d) How will you or your Party work with London to support Bus Rapid Transit and London's Transportation Master Plan?

Addressing Housing Needs

4a) Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a long term sustainable federal-provincial-municipal solution to address the housing needs of low income households, those households requiring support services (i.e. mental illness, addictions, victims of domestic violence), and the housing needs of Aboriginal households?

4b). How will you and your Party address the shortfall in capital reserve contributions for non-profit and cooperative housing as well as the funding shortfall for public housing capital repairs at transfer of social housing to municipalities? How will you and your Party address the reduction in the number of rent-geared-to-income units caused by the termination of federal funding due to the Expiring Social Housing Operating Agreements? Will you and your Party support a change to Social Housing social assistance rents to the maximum shelter allowance used in the private sector rather than legislated rent scales to reduce the subsidy required from the local property taxpayer?

This report was prepared in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, the Director of Housing, and the Director of Development Finance.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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