

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2011</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>GRANT HOPCROFT DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>2011 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
--

Board of Control: August 8, 2007  
Board of Control: September 26, 2007  
Finance and Administration: July 20, 2011

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
-------------------

Municipal Council, at its meeting on July 25, resolved that the Mayor be requested to forward a letter to each of the London-area candidates in the October 6, 2011 provincial election for a written response to the following questions:

**City of London Provincial Election Candidate Questionnaire**

1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?
2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?
3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?
4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?
5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?
6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?
7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?

8. 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? 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?

9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?

10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?

11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?

12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiatives of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?

Each of the candidates was contacted by e-mail and asked to respond by 1 p.m., September 14, 2011 to ensure inclusion of their response in this report. The website, [www.london.ca/provelection](http://www.london.ca/provelection), contains links to background material for each question. Responses on behalf of fifteen candidates have been received, as noted in the attached Summary of Responses. Responses for Elgin-Middlesex-London riding are at pages 3 to 12; London-Fanshawe at pages 12 to 24; London-North-Centre at pages 24 to 35, and London West at pages 36 to 45.

As of noon September 18, responses from the following candidates have not been received:

- Elgin-Middlesex-London: Eric Loewen, Paul McKeever
- London-Fanshawe: Dave Durnin, Aref Hamadi (unable to contact), Bassam Lazar
- London-North-Centre: Mary Lou Ambrogio, Michael Spottiswood (unable to contact)
- London-West: Gary Brown

All candidates except the two candidates whom we have been unable to contact, received follow-up calls to ensure that they were aware of the deadline. Responses received are posted to the 2011 Provincial Election section of the City of London website at [www.london.ca/provelection](http://www.london.ca/provelection). If additional candidate responses are received following the completion of this report, they will be placed on the website as they are received.

During this election, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) developed a list of our “Top 12 Asks” that highlights how provincial parties can support key municipal priorities and improve the lives of all Ontarians, available at [www.amo.on.ca](http://www.amo.on.ca).

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>
<b>JILL TANSLEY, MUNICIPAL POLICY SPECIALIST</b>	<b>GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON</b>

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

### Elgin-Middlesex-London

#### Lori Baldwin-Sands – Ontario Liberal Party Elgin-Middlesex-London

##### **1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

Ontario Liberals have a long history of working with municipalities to create prosperity at the local level. We have strong working relationships with the various local governments and their regional economic development agencies and commissions.

For years Ontario Liberals have worked in partnership with local municipalities through our network of 57 Small Business Enterprise Centres that provide local entrepreneurs with the tools they need to start and grow their businesses including: easy access to local business consulting services, and business training and information on management, marketing, technology and financing. This service is managed locally, coordinated provincially, and supported by public and private sector partners. We established 12 regional offices that provide direct consulting services to high performing small and medium business across southern Ontario. In 2009/10, the network of Small Business Enterprise Centres assisted in the creation of 11,500 new businesses and 1,550 business expansions resulting in 13,600 new jobs.

The Communities in Transition initiative provides assistance to Ontario communities and industry sectors facing economic development challenges including plant closures, significant job losses and industry-wide restructuring. This flexible, tailored assistance supports innovative economic development solutions not covered under existing provincial programs. To date, Ontario Liberals have invested over \$14 million dollars on nearly 40 local and regional initiatives.

Ontario Liberals have also created funds specifically targeted to regions that experience economic difficulties. In our recent platform, *Forward.Together*, we took the advice of the Southwestern Economic Alliance (SWEA) and announced the creation of the Southwestern Ontario Economic Development Fund that will serve the City of London and surrounding areas.

##### **2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

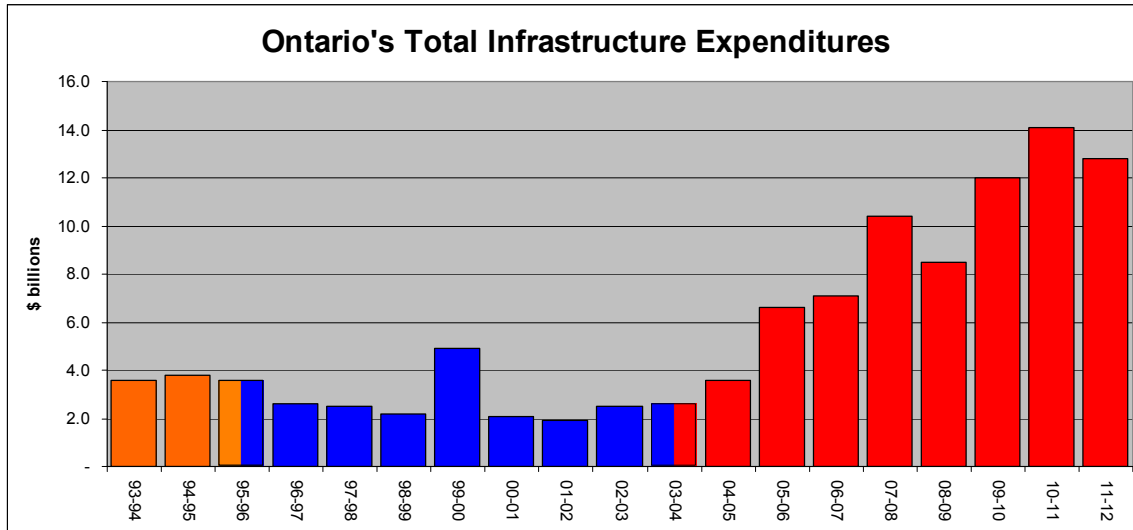
We are uploading \$2.7 billion from municipalities, freeing up room in their budgets to invest in local priorities and control property taxes. Unlike the Hudak PCs we will honour our uploading commitments, because ultimately there is only one taxpayer. We're uploading costs for seniors' drugs, court security, social assistance, public health, and public transit – with a plan to upload an additional \$500 million between now and 2018.

When the Harris-Hudak PCs were in government, they downloaded \$3 billion in costs onto municipalities – including child care, transit, housing, and public health – leading to higher property taxes and an infrastructure deficit. With the \$14 billion hole in his platform, The PCs are planning to download costs again, pushing municipalities to the brink. They have already refused to commit to completing our download, meaning \$500 million a year in new property taxes or service cuts. Recently, one of the PC candidates said that the upload will likely be stopped under a PC government.

##### **3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

The Ontario Liberals are the only party with a positive plan to improve Ontario's infrastructure, and move our province forward.

Since 2003, Ontario Liberals have made a \$62 billion infrastructure investment in Ontario communities, reversing a decade of infrastructure neglect under the PCs and the NDP. Our investments have included more than \$12 billion provided directly to municipalities to help build and repair municipal infrastructure like roads, bridges, transit, and community centres. Since 2007 alone, we have committed \$19,674,883 in funding to the City of London.



However, it isn't merely *how much* we've invested in infrastructure that sets the Ontario Liberal approach to infrastructure apart from other parties. It's also *how* we've invested. In 2005 the Ontario Liberals launched *ReNew Ontario*, the Province's first ever long-term infrastructure plan. This year, we launched *Building Together*, our second long-term plan.

Ontario's municipal partners need to know where the Province is headed, so that they can develop plans of their own. That's why long-term infrastructure planning is so important. The PCs and the NDP never had a long-term plan for infrastructure, and they still don't. In fact, the \$14 billion hole in the PC platform would mean deep cuts to healthcare and education, and a return to infrastructure neglect.

Through *Building Together* we'll invest \$35 billion in the next three years including \$12.8 this year alone. We also commit to a new Municipal Infrastructure Investment Strategy that we'll develop in partnership with municipalities and the federal government.

We are also investing in local infrastructure by improving interchanges along Highway 401 west of Highway 402. These changes will provide drivers with easier access to west London and the highway, and create 500 jobs. With support from the province, construction work will include the addition of a new interchange at Wonderland Road, a new bridge at the Veterans Memorial Parkway interchange and new ramps to allow access to south of the 401.

These improvements will support local economic growth by reducing congestion and keeping goods and services flowing. Planning and design work on the interchanges is set to begin this year.

Investing in Ontario's roads and highways is part of the Ontario Liberals' plan to create jobs, grow local economies and ensure the province remains strong and competitive for years to come.

Finally, at the recent AMO conference, we committed to a permanent, long-term municipal road and bridges fund. We call on the federal government to participate in this initiative.

Ontario Liberals are the only Party that has a strong record on infrastructure investment and we are the only Party that can be counted on to continue our strong commitment over the next decade.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

Ontario Liberals recognize that municipalities require tools to help fund local infrastructure needed to serve new growth. Development Charges are one tool that helps municipalities achieve their goals when it comes to local priorities.

We understand the concerns of municipalities as it relates to Development Charges and transit related development. We are always willing to look at proposals brought forward by municipalities – because we value the relationship we have built together. However, at this point in time, opening up the *Development Charges Act* is not something we are prioritizing. We are, however, open to looking at other ways for municipalities to generate revenue streams to fund new growth in their communities.

As mentioned above, we are committed to unloading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs. The costs that unloading will remove off of the local tax base will give municipalities extra flexibility to invest in local priorities.

Ontario Liberals have increased ongoing annual funding to municipalities every year since being elected. By 2018, our commitments to municipalities will have increased by more than 270 per cent since 2003. We have also invested more than the NDP and PCs combined when it comes to municipal infrastructure.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

Ontario Liberals recognize the importance of an integrated transportation system that focuses on all options in order to keep our economy moving. Since 2003 we have applied this approach to:

- Expand the focus of the Ministry of Transportation to include all modes of transportation, including public transit, active transportation and — in collaboration with our federal and municipal partners — areas such as marine, rail and air.
- Invest over \$10.8 billion to support public transit.

Ontario Liberals believe that the province needs effective and efficient public transit services to help foster a clean environment and a vibrant economy. We recognize that municipalities need sustainable, long-term funding support in order to introduce service improvements such as additional buses, expanded routes and improved security infrastructure.

The gas tax investment is one of our most successful initiatives — and we will continue to improve public transit across Ontario. Unlike the PCs and the NDP, Ontario Liberals have demonstrated our commitment to expanding public transit across the province. We delivered on our 2003 promise to provide two cents per litre of provincial gas tax revenues to municipalities as a source of long-term, sustainable funding for public transit. Since 2004, we have committed over \$1.9 billion in gas tax funding to 120 Ontario municipalities.

In contrast, the PCs have stated in their platform that they will dilute funding for transit by allowing gas tax funding to be spent on non-transit transportation projects. Ontario Liberals believe that gas tax funding should be spent on improving and increasing transit in Ontario. We plan to keep that revenue dedicated to improving public transit across Ontario. The NDP have provided no details in their platform about expanding transit, neglecting this important issue.

Ontario Liberals have a strong record of investing in transit. We believe in it. It is good for the economy and good for Ontario families. Ontario Liberals are the only party you can trust to invest in public transit, delivering a better system that will enable people to spend less time waiting for transit and more time with their families, and to enjoy more accessible service than ever before.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness towards taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

Ontario has a good arbitration system to resolve collective agreement issues where it is prohibited to have a work stoppage and parties cannot reach an agreement at the table. Interest arbitration guarantees that Ontario families will have 24/7 service and protection from essential services provided by our police officers and firefighters. Our government feels strongly that if negotiations come to an impasse, the arbitration process must remain strong, independent and impartial.

The PCs are not telling the full story to Ontarians when they talk about wanting to open up the legislation. Arbitrators are already required to consider the ability of municipalities to pay, the municipal and provincial economic situations and the compensation of comparable jobs in other Ontario communities. Last year, the average annual wage increase in sectors with interest arbitration was the same as the increase in private sector negotiated agreements – 2%.

Unlike the PCs, our focus is not on changing the arbitration system but, instead, on working with the parties and helping to bring them together to reach a deal at the bargaining table.

We have all seen what the results in the last two decades of the NDP and PCs swinging the pendulum from far left to far right on labour relations: confrontation and distrust. In contrast, Ontario

Liberals have worked hard to bring a balanced and fair approach to labour relations. Almost 99 percent of collective bargaining negotiations in Ontario are resolved without a day lost to a strike or lock out.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

Ontario Liberals have invested more toward affordable housing than any other party. To date, we have invested more than \$2.5 billion for repairs, new construction and rent supplements. Through our investments, we have built and repaired more than 270,000 units and provided 35,000 supplements. Our investments have benefited more than 680,000 low-income Ontarians since 2003.

Ontario Liberals are the first to develop a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and are committed to ensuring the resources are available. We recently signed an agreement with the federal government that guarantees new, four-year funding for affordable housing in Ontario (Investment in Affordable Housing — IAH). This agreement will see \$480.6 million invested in Ontario's housing stock — with \$240.3 million coming from the provincial government.

Under IAH, the City of London received \$13,673,870. We have notified service managers of their allocations so they can begin planning their projects and respond to their local needs. Service managers have the go-ahead to prepare their year-one business cases and we are prepared to flow funds and will do so as business cases are approved. This investment will improve access to affordable housing that is safe, sound and suitable for households in London and throughout our community.

Our LTAHS is the first of its kind in Ontario, providing greater flexibility to local governments so that they can create plans for housing delivery that are reflective of their unique local needs. For example, our LTAHS will enable local governments to adopt alternatives to the current chronologically based wait-list system, and will facilitate tenant transfers across wait lists or across service manager areas. Under our *Housing Services Act*, the Special Priority Policy will be clearly maintained as a provincial interest, providing priority access to rent-g geared-to-income housing for victims of domestic violence.

The future of housing depends on sustained long-term funding that is fair and will help meet the needs of Ontario. We will continue to actively lobby the federal government for a long-term deal and a national housing strategy.

Ontario Liberals are the only party in this election to discuss affordable housing in our platform. The NDP does not have a concrete housing plan and has time and time again stood against our strategic investments that have helped increase our housing stock in Ontario. Meanwhile, the PCs stated that they intend "to get out of the non-profit and co-op housing business." This is consistent with their record of downloading affordable housing to local municipalities without the funding to meet housing needs.

Ontario Liberals also recognize that housing challenges are particularly prevalent among those facing mental health and addictions issues. For this reason, our recently released Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, *Open Minds, Healthy Minds*, establishes a goal of creating more resilient communities, with better alignment of housing programs with health and employment resources, particularly for youth, people who are homeless or in shelters, and long-stay psychiatric patients. This will result in more people with mental health challenges living in safe, stable homes, and fewer living in shelters and hospitals.

**8. 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? 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?**

The interaction of social assistance with other government initiatives, including affordable housing initiatives, is being looked at in the context of the Social Assistance Review. Through the Review, we are listening to Ontarians to determine how we can make our programs more responsive to the people who need help and to provide more opportunities for them to take part in their communities and the economy. The Commissioners will be releasing their final report next summer, and we look

forward to seeing the recommendations. We remain committed to providing low-income families with a pathway out of poverty and assisting families to move from social assistance to employment more easily. Non-profit and co-operative housing providers play an important role in providing affordable housing to Ontarians. Ontario Liberals look forward to continuing to work with our housing stakeholders and other levels of government to identify opportunities to help create affordable housing.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g. financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to Extended Producer Responsibility. Many jurisdictions across Canada and around the world have widespread acceptance of the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility — or EPR — as an integral component of any successful waste management strategy. We are continuously making progress and striving for improvements to our existing EPR programs:

- The Blue Box program is delivered through municipalities and partially funded by producers.
- We have an electronic or e-waste program that is creating growing awareness of the importance of recycling the many electronic products we use every day from computers to printers to televisions. Currently, the program has diverted 63,000 tons of e-waste.
- We have a program for used tires that has diverted 25 million tires and is bringing in new business, innovation and jobs in the green economy. As a result of the program several companies have established processing facilities in Ontario.

We also believe that it makes sense that the companies that design and sell the products that eventually wind up as waste should play a bigger part in the recovery, recycling or managing of these products and that packaging. Ontario Liberals are committed to a national discussion on recycling, packaging and roles of industry as part of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

While there are many different approaches to EPR, we are looking to find approaches that meet the unique needs of Ontario businesses and families alike. We will continue to draw on the best ideas from producers, manufacturers, retailers and other partners about how best to move forward.

Ontario Liberals are the only party to articulate a comprehensive waste vision that connects the environment and the economy and will layout a smart waste policy based on the principles of EPR.

The PCs position on waste is to make municipal taxpayers, rather than polluters, pay the costs of disposal. The NDP has promised \$2.8 billion in wasteful subsidies for fossil fuels, suggesting they do not understand the need to ensure that those who generate environmentally harmful products pay the costs that these products impose on society.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

As set out in the 2009 Ontario budget, Ontario's public service bodies (i.e., municipalities, hospitals, universities, colleges, school boards, charities and qualifying non-profit organizations) would be able to claim rebates for the provincial portion of the single sales tax, so that the net effect of the tax on each sector would be fiscally neutral relative to the amount of PST currently paid by these sectors. As with the GST, the rebates would be a percentage of the tax paid.

As a result of this rebate, municipalities are not paying any more sales tax under the HST than they did under the old PST.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to an accessible Ontario by 2025 – and we want to get it right. We are committed to uploading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs and the costs that this exercise will remove off of the local tax base will provide municipalities with more capacity and flexibility to invest in their communities, including more accessible services.

People with disabilities have long been faced with barriers that limit their abilities as individuals and limit our strength as a province. We must move forward. Improving accessibility is good for business and good for our economy. With an aging population, organizations that improve accessibility will

gain a competitive advantage. Every year in Canada, people with disabilities spend about \$25 billion. That is a market no one can afford to overlook.

We are phasing-in implementation over several years through to 2025 to allow organizations the flexibility to plan and make improvements over time. Where it makes sense, we are streamlining requirements across standards to reduce costs and minimize burden. We are committed to supporting the public and private sectors in meeting the requirements by offering educational tools and resource materials to help organizations understand and meet accessibility requirements.

The AODA represents a real culture change in the way accessibility issues are addressed in Ontario and we have worked closely with municipalities, businesses, advocates and disability communities to find the right balance. Leading change is not always easy, but we know that a more accessible Ontario is not only the smart thing to do — it is the right thing to do.

## **12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiative of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

The War of 1812 Bicentennial offers a unique opportunity to showcase Ontario's rich heritage while promoting tourism and local economic growth. Ontario Liberals recognize that this event will enrich Ontarians' lives and attract visitors from across Ontario, Canada and the United States. We have invested over \$32M in improving and enhancing War of 1812 heritage sites and \$1.6M for bicentennial culture projects and initiatives within the arts, heritage and library sectors. We are also pleased to have specifically supported the Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance by providing over \$1.4M to the seven regional groups who are planning and developing 1812 activities across Ontario.

Ontario Liberals are committed to continuing to work with our regional heritage and tourism partners to celebrate this event.

We support the celebration of Ontario's arts and culture through Culture Days. Ontario agencies such as the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Heritage Trust are partners and supporters of Culture Days in Ontario and specifically Celebrate the Artist Weekend. Ontario Liberals will continue to support Culture Days recognizing that this event brings awareness of arts and culture to local communities.

## **Kathy Cornish – New Democratic Party of Ontario Elgin-Middlesex-London**

### **1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

Living in St. Thomas, I am acutely aware of the problems facing the people in my riding. The Ontario NDP and I are committed to building bridges with the municipal governments in the entire riding to build strong and vibrant communities. We have committed to implement targeted tax credits and tax cuts to help local businesses succeed (e.g. \$350 million tax credits for new capital investment and training, a \$100 million refundable Job Creation Tax Credit refunding companies \$5,000 per new hire, and a one-half percent cut in the small business tax). We will control costs and put more money in people's pockets by removing the HST from hydro, heating and gasoline so they can spend more in their local communities. And we will increase transfers to municipalities for transit, roads and housing to ensure that the infrastructure and services are in place to support economic growth. Finally, I will commit myself to working with our federal counterpart in my riding to get these things done, regardless of political stripe. A good idea is a good idea no matter who thinks of it.

### **2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

I support the ongoing implementation of recommendations of the PMFSDR. If elected, we will match the current provincial-municipal cost sharing arrangements and uploading schedule. We will also provide municipalities with new support for transit by increasing provincial support to 50% of the operating transit subsidy.

### **3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**



Everyone knows there is a serious gap in municipal infrastructure funding. Above the committed \$35 billion in infrastructure investments over the next three years, we will increase transit operating funding mentioned above (which should help free up funding for municipal investments in transit capital), and invest \$210 million over three years to help municipalities with road and bridge repairs. Again I want to reiterate that we must work at all levels of government to get the job done and I will work with and for the people of Elgin-Middlesex-London. Politics only matters when we work for the common good.

It is also important that when we talk about infrastructure, we are not only taking about roads, sewers, bridges and the like, but also recreational infrastructure like arenas, soccer fields, and other facilities that encourage healthy living and build healthy communities.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

Development must pay for itself. We will start by removing the discount that developers get to recover their costs related to recreation services, library services, old age homes, space for child care, health department services, and ambulance stations. It is important to remember that these "recovery costs" are ultimately a burden placed on individual taxpayers. If both the province and municipalities are to keep personal and property tax rates under control, development must pay for itself.

We are committed to preventing the most expensive kind of development to service – urban sprawl. It is self evident that urban sprawl costs both the municipal and provincial governments more in terms of service. We will put an end to government backroom deals to exempt developers from growth limits, such as those set out in the Greenbelt Act, and we will balance the playing field when it comes to new development by putting an end to developer "SLAPP" lawsuits used to silence local opposition to mega-projects. It is important that community input is welcome and considered in growth planning and mega-projects.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

As above, we will invest an extra \$375 million over and above the 2 cents/litre gas tax and take on half of the after fare-box cost of operating municipal transit systems for municipalities that agree to freeze their transit fees. We will also invest in new transit projects and upgrades for public transit systems (this will include investments in bus systems, as well as rail, light rail, etc. I fully support the City of London in its partnership with other municipalities in calling for a high speed rail corridor). We will make the 2 cents/litre provincial gas tax transit allocation permanent. We will add \$60 million to our budget for funding roads and bridges.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

I recognize that this has been a concern for municipal governments but in the context of the whole province, this is not something we can address with a "one-size fits all" approach. I believe that the independence of arbitrators from government is crucial to the collective bargaining process. I do not believe that imposing conditions on arbitrators is a simple solution. Broad consultations with both the municipalities and their employees would need to be undertaken before any reform could be considered.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

A long-term commitment to building housing is needed to allow housing providers to effectively plan and implement affordable housing projects. I will commit to meeting with all the stakeholders to

ensure we find the best solution. Party politics has no place in caring for the most vulnerable in our society.

For too long, housing policy in Ontario has been driven by Ottawa – with the province simply following the federal government's lead – often with several years delay – with cost-sharing agreements. The NDP recognizes the need for stable and predictable funding and supports long-term funding the expansion of affordable housing.

Our plan will include long term targets for the creation of new affordable housing, access to low-cost financing for renovations and retrofit measures--like the \$5000 home retrofit rebate--to make maintaining a household budget more affordable.

We will proceed with our long term commitment whether or not the Federal government joins as in a partner. However, we will work with our Federal NDP counterparts to put pressure on the federal government to develop, fund and implement a national affordable housing strategy. And of course the affordability measures we have introduced in our platform, such as taking the HST off of electricity and heating bills, will help lower income families in particular with the cost of keep a roof over their heads.

**8. 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? 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?**

I recognize the challenges in securing funding for repairs that face cooperatives and non-profit housing. I can say without reservation that both current shelter allowances and legislated rent scales are inadequate to meet the financial needs of cooperatives or families in need of housing assistance. Ontario's NDP will be making an announcement address this in the near future.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

The Government has delayed action on extended producer responsibility for three years. In fact, since the eco-fee fiasco, they have backtracked on producer responsibility by paying \$20 million to Stewardship Ontario – letting industry off the hook for these costs. Peter Tabuns (NDP Toronto-Danforth) made it clear that New Democrats would like to see the unremitted eco fees sent to municipalities, who are again in charge of disposing and recycling fire extinguishers, rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, needles, mercury-containing devices and pharmaceuticals."

Conservatives say they won't bring in eco-fees, and they will get rid of eco-fees on electronics, but don't say how they will fund recycling programs (most likely, this will mean that the costs will fall to municipal property taxpayers).

Both the Ontario NDP and the federal NDP strongly support extended producer responsibility. We are the only party to call for stronger oversight of the industry-run system, to call for stronger targets for diversion, and penalties to companies who fail to achieve diversion.

We will complete the long-stalled review of the Waste Reduction Act, making sure that the cost of recycling and safely disposing materials is the responsibility of the companies that produce the products so they don't end up on property tax bills or as an eco-fee.

New Democrats believe we need, in part, to refocus attention on reducing waste in the first place, and ways to promote reuse of products – both of which are more cost-effective and environmentally benign than recycling.

We will strengthen regulations to reduce over packaging in cooperation with other jurisdictions. Again, it is important to remember that this will require a willingness to work with the federal level of government as well as the private sector to encourage change. I want to take this opportunity to point out that there are private sector business interests in London already, who have developed packaging waste reduction alternatives and such measures can lead to job creation opportunities.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

Ontario's NDP will be providing significant relief from the HST to Ontario citizens and municipalities alike by removing the HST from home heating and hydro, and by lowering the HST on gasoline. This measure will help municipalities by putting more money in peoples' pockets which they can spend in their local communities. It also helps municipalities directly as the HST reduction on gasoline will lead directly to lower municipal fuel costs for London's vehicle fleet. We do not plan further exemptions from the HST at this time.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

I support the implementation of the AODA to make our communities inclusive of all people. I have volunteers with disabilities assisting on my campaign, and we selected a campaign office location which has accessible entrances, because I believe it is important to be as inclusive as possible. New Democrats are however concerned that the lack of coordination in releasing the various standards has prevented municipalities from fully understanding the costs and implications of these standards. We are committed to working closely with municipalities to find ways to address the challenges of implementing the standards.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiatives of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

Elgin-Middlesex-London has wonderfully diverse communities and we celebrate that diversity with numerous festivals and other initiatives throughout the year. It is important that funding continue to be available to support such activities through the Trillium Fund. Not only do these activities contribute to the quality of life in our communities, they also have significant economic benefits for tourism and businesses. And as we have always done, my party and I will continue to support such activities through our direct participation whenever possible, purchasing advertisements in programs, having booths at events, and attending official ceremonies.

**Eric Loewen – Green Party of Ontario Elgin-Middlesex-London**

no response as of noon Sunday, September 18

**Paul McKeever – Freedom Party of Ontario Elgin-Middlesex-London**

no response as of noon Sunday, September 18

**Jeff Yurek – Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Elgin-Middlesex-London**

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your survey with our campaign.

During the last eight years, life has become unaffordable for too many families. Surprise new taxes have taken repeated bites out of the family budget. Expensive energy experiments have sent hydro bills skyrocketing. The provincial government has become too big, too bureaucratic, and too meddlesome in municipal affairs.

We need to bring change to Ontario. *Changebook* is our party's commitment to Ontario families should we form government on October 6th. It's been built from conversations with families at coffee shops and hockey arenas; on the phone through email, Twitter and Facebook; and our unprecedented Have Your Say Ontario survey.

And it comes from conversations we've had with community leaders like you.

You deserve a partner that gives you clear rules and honest answers. Local governments have a difficult job to do, balancing demographics, demand for services, and tax bases. Given the challenges of recent years, you've had to make tough choices.

A reliable partner at Queen's Park is absolutely crucial for you to set your own budgets and properly plan for the future. For nearly eight years Dalton McGuinty handed out unsustainable collective agreements that set the benchmark for arbitration with your public sector unions. Even while Ontario is saddled with record deficits and a struggling economy, arbitrators are still awarding unions excessive contracts that far exceed what municipalities can afford. Ontario needs change.

The arbitration system is badly broken. I will ensure public sector agreements reflect the ability of families to pay the bills. I will bring more transparency and accountability to the arbitration system, requiring arbitrators to justify their decisions to you and your constituents. And I will provide you with

clear and tight timeframes that you can count on. Long, drawn out negotiations are not fair to the workers, they're not fair to municipalities, and they're not fair to Ontario families.

When it comes to stable infrastructure spending, for the past eight years all we've seen are backtracks, flip flops and U-turns from the McGuinty Liberals. The same infrastructure projects get announced, reannounced, and sometimes re-re-announced –but never built.

This kind of uncertainty will come to an end under an Ontario PC government. We will be a partner you can trust. Unlike Dalton McGuinty, we will not try to be all things to all people or make promises we know we won't keep.

On the subject of provincial gas tax funding allocation, we will fix the broken provincial gas tax program and give every municipality access to provincial gas tax funds. We will ensure that no municipality receives less funding, but more importantly that no municipality gets left out or left behind. I will end Dalton McGuinty's practice of making value judgments and let you spend more on your transportation priorities, whether it is a road, a bridge, or a bus.

You also raised the issue of development charges.

The last thing Ontario needs is yet another new tax. At a time when families are struggling just to get by, and the Canadian dream of home ownership is out of reach to more and more young families, we simply cannot afford to put even more new taxes on homes.

I believe it's the government's role to create the right conditions for the private sector to succeed, to create jobs – and then get out of the way. That means getting the fundamentals right, principles like reducing red tape, providing reliable and affordable energy, and competitive tax rates.

For eight years, the McGuinty Liberals have chipped away at your authority to decide what's best for your communities. From overriding your Official Plans to freezing prime land because puddles sometimes form there when it rains to forcing massive industrial wind farms where they're not wanted – local councils have been robbed of a say over what happens in their communities.

Even in the face of strenuous local objections, and more than 70 municipalities passing resolutions, Dalton McGuinty continues to plough ahead with giant industrial wind farms without any consultation with local councils or residents.

To me, it makes no sense that you have the power to say where a local hot dog stand or 7-Eleven goes but not industrial wind turbines – the height of 40-storey buildings – that are built over hundreds of acres of prime agricultural land.

It's unfair. It's undemocratic. And under a Tim Hudak government it will end. Our government will restore the local decision making powers that were stripped away by the McGuinty Liberals and the Green Energy Act.

I believe the secret to good government comes from respecting your partners, keeping your word, sticking to a budget, and staying true to your principles. That's the kind of partner I will be.

To read more about the change we're proposing for Ontario families, I encourage you to visit [www.changebook.ca](http://www.changebook.ca)

Sincerely,  
Tim Hudak, Ontario PC Leader

## **London-Fanshawe**

### **Teresa Armstrong – New Democratic Party of Ontario London-Fanshawe**

#### **1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

I am well aware of the particularly difficult situation the City of London has been facing, as my spouse Bill serves on City Council. The Ontario NDP and I are committed to close and regular consultation with municipalities and their municipal associations. If elected the NDP will work in partnership with municipalities to build strong and vibrant communities. We will implement targeted tax credits and tax cuts to help local businesses succeed (e.g. \$350 million tax credits for new capital investment and training, a \$100 million refundable Job Creation Tax Credit refunding companies \$5,000 per new hire, and a one-half percent cut in the small business tax). We will

control costs and put more money in people's pockets by removing the HST from hydro, heating and gasoline so they can spend more in their local communities. And we will increase transfers to municipalities for transit, roads and housing to ensure that the infrastructure and services are in place to support economic growth. Finally, I will also work in cooperative partnership with London-Fanshawe's federal MP Irene Mathyssen to ensure that there is support for initiatives that require all three levels of government to be involved.

**2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

Yes the Ontario NDP and I support the ongoing implementation of recommendations of the PMFSDR. We will match the current provincial-municipal cost sharing arrangements and uploading schedule. We will also provide municipalities with new support for transit by increasing provincial support to 50% of the operating transit subsidy (\$375 M a year when fully phased in).

**3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

Municipalities face a significant funding infrastructure funding gap. We will proceed with the committed \$35 billion in infrastructure investments over the next three years. In addition to increasing transit operating funding mentioned above (which should help free up funding for municipal investments in transit capital), we will invest \$210 million over three years to help municipalities with road and bridge repairs. Again, it is important to have an MPP who will regularly meet and consult with the federal MP on infrastructure investments and encourage federal government support, something the current MPP has failed to do since the 2006 federal election when New Democrat Irene Mathyssen was elected. Regardless of party affiliation, I am open to working with all of London's elected officials to support our community's priorities.

It is also important that when we talk about infrastructure, we are not only taking about roads, sewers, bridges and the like, but also recreational infrastructure like arenas, soccer fields, and other facilities that encourage healthy living and build healthy communities.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

We will review the development act to ensure that development pays for itself. And we will start by removing the discount that developers get to recover their costs related to recreation services, library services, old age homes, space for child care, health department services, and ambulance stations. It is important to remember that these "recovery costs" are ultimately a burden placed on individual taxpayers. If both the province and municipalities are to keep personal and property tax rates under control, development must pay for itself.

We are committed to preventing the most expensive kind of development to service – urban sprawl. Garbage pick-up, snow removal and transit access to sprawl is less efficient and more costly to municipalities. Likewise, urban sprawl leads to more expensive provincial service delivery in areas such as education and health. We will put an end to government backroom deals to exempt developers from growth limits, such as those set out in the Greenbelt Act, and we will balance the playing field when it comes to new development by putting an end to developer "SLAPP" lawsuits used to silence local opposition to mega-projects. It is important that community input is welcome and considered in growth planning and mega-projects.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

As above, we will invest an extra \$375 million over and above the 2 cents/litre gas tax and take on half of the after fare-box cost of operating municipal transit systems for municipalities that agree to freeze their transit fees. We will also invest in new transit projects and upgrades for public transit systems (this will include investments in bus systems, as well as rail, light rail, etc. I fully support the City of London in its partnership with other municipalities in calling for a high speed rail corridor). We

will make the 2 cents/litre provincial gas tax transit allocation permanent. We will add \$60 million to our budget for funding roads and bridges.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

I recognize that this has been a particular concern for the City of London, but in the context of the whole province, this is not something we can address with a "one-size fits all" approach.

I believe that the independence of arbitrators from government is crucial to the collective bargaining process. I do not believe that imposing conditions on arbitrators is a simple solution. Broad consultations with both the municipalities and their employees would need to be undertaken before any reform could be considered.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

A long-term commitment to building housing is needed to allow housing providers to effectively plan and implement affordable housing projects. I've met with local realtors and homebuilders, as well as anti-poverty activists and listened to their suggestions and as an MPP I will continue to do so.

For too long, housing policy in Ontario has been driven by Ottawa – with the province simply following the federal government's lead – often with several years delay – with cost-sharing agreements. The NDP recognizes the need for stable and predictable funding and supports long-term funding for the expansion of affordable housing.

Our plan will include long term targets for the creation of new affordable housing, access to low-cost financing for renovations, and retrofit measures--like the \$5000 home retrofit rebate--to make maintaining a household budget more affordable.

We will proceed with our long term commitment whether or not the Federal government joins as a partner. However, we will work with our Federal NDP counterparts to put pressure on the federal government to develop, fund and implement a national affordable housing strategy. And of course the affordability measures we have introduced in our platform, such as taking the HST off of electricity and heating bills, will help lower income families in particular with the cost of keeping a roof over their heads.

**8. 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? 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?**

I recognize the challenges in securing funding for repairs that face cooperatives and non-profit housing. I can say without reservation that both current shelter allowances and legislated rent scales are inadequate to meet the financial needs of cooperatives or families in need of housing assistance. Ontario's NDP will be making an announcement to address this in the near future.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

The Government has delayed action on extended producer responsibility for three years. In fact, since the eco-fee fiasco, they have backtracked on producer responsibility by paying \$20 million to Stewardship Ontario – letting industry off the hook for these costs. My friend and Ontario NDP colleague Peter Tabuns has publicly stated: "The Liberal government set this whole mess rolling. Now that everyone's got a problem to deal with, they can't just turn their backs on it. They have to resolve it." Peter Tabuns made it clear that New Democrats would like to see the unremitted eco fees sent to municipalities, who are again in charge of disposing and recycling fire extinguishers, rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, needles, mercury-containing devices and

pharmaceuticals."

Conservatives say they won't bring in eco-fees, and they will get rid of eco-fees on electronics, but don't say how they will fund recycling programs (most likely, this will mean that the costs will fall to municipal property taxpayers).

Both the Ontario NDP and the federal NDP strongly support extended producer responsibility. We are the only party to call for stronger oversight of the industry-run system, to call for stronger targets for diversion, and penalties to companies who fail to achieve diversion.

We will complete the long-stalled review of the Waste Reduction Act, making sure that the cost of recycling and safely disposing of materials is the responsibility of the companies that produce the products so they don't end up on property tax bills or as an eco-fee.

New Democrats believe we need, in part, to refocus attention on reducing waste in the first place, and on ways to promote reuse of products – both of which are more cost-effective and environmentally benign than recycling.

In cooperation with other jurisdictions, we will strengthen regulations to reduce overpackaging. Again, it is important to remember that this will require a willingness to work with the federal level of government as well as the private sector to encourage change. I want to take this opportunity to point out that there are private sector business interests in London already, who have developed packaging waste reduction alternatives, and such measures can lead to job creation opportunities.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

Ontario's NDP will be providing significant relief from the HST to Ontario citizens and municipalities alike by removing the HST from home heating and hydro, and by lowering the HST on gasoline. This measure will help municipalities by putting more money in peoples' pockets which they can spend in their local communities. It also helps municipalities directly as the HST reduction on gasoline will lead directly to lower municipal fuel costs for London's vehicle fleet. We do not plan further exemptions from the HST at this time.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

I support the implementation of the AODA to make our communities inclusive of all people. I have volunteers with disabilities assisting on my campaign, and we selected a campaign office location which has accessible entrances and washrooms, because I believe it is important to be as inclusive as possible. New Democrats are however concerned that the lack of coordination in releasing the various standards has prevented municipalities from fully understanding the costs and implications of these standards. We are committed to working closely with municipalities to find ways to address the challenges of implementing the standards.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiatives of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

London has a wonderfully diverse community and we celebrate that diversity with numerous festivals and other initiatives throughout the year. Whether it is the Sunfest, Pride, or Home County Folk Festival, or cultural festivals such as Festa Italiana, or special celebrations such as the War of 1812 Bi-Centennial, it is important that funding continue to be available to support such activities through the Trillium Fund. Not only do these activities contribute to the quality of life in our community, they also have significant economic benefits for tourism and businesses in our community. And as we have always done, my party and I will continue to support such activities through our direct participation whenever possible, purchasing advertisements in programs, having booths at events, and attending official ceremonies.

**Dave Durnin – Freedom Party of Canada London- Fanshawe** – no response as of noon Sunday, September 18

**Aref Hamadi – Independent London-Fanshawe**– have been unable to contact

**Tim Harnick – Ontario Libertarian Party London-Fanshawe**

**1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

Individuals and voluntary organizations are much better at creating prosperity and supporting innovation and community development. Municipalities can only transfer wealth from those who have created it to those who have not. An Ontario Libertarian Government would severely limit the size of government. We believe the only moral use of force is to protect Life, Liberty and Property. We believe taxation is theft and undesirable. Ontarians would keep most of their wealth and spend it in their local economies as they see fit. Since personal purchases represent 70% of the GDP having more wealth at our disposal would lead to prosperity, charity and abundance.

**2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

There is only one taxpayer, and he or she doesn't care which one has their hand in his or her pocket. Libertarians would not rob Peter to pay Paul. It is outside our mandate to extort wealth from one group of citizens and gift it to another group. When people are allowed to keep their wealth and spend it as they choose there is less need for socialist schemes.

**3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

Libertarians believe in Liberty and personal responsibility. Local communities could easily afford to have private companies competing to build whatever is needed since they would not be sending 50% of their wealth to Robber Barons in Toronto.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

All laws that go beyond the protection of Life, Liberty and Property are seen as immoral by Libertarians. We would actively shut down all coercive ministries, agencies and commissions that extort wealth from patriots for the enrichment of special interest groups or put obstacles in the way of individuals and voluntary organizations trying to provide useful goods and services.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

Libertarians abhor government-mandated monopolies. Transit would be returned to the private sector in a free market economy. Cities like Hong Kong with privately operated public transit systems provide better service at competitive prices.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

Again, there is only one taxpayer. Neither the city nor the province is willing to raise the taxes required to pay for all the responsibilities they have assumed from the citizens. Both levels of government want the other level to shoulder the costs. The only systems Ontario Libertarians would manage would be the Police and the Courts. We would also support the activities of our National Defence Force to protect Ontarians from foreign aggressors. Schemes and programs beyond our mandate would be shut down.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**



It is beyond the Libertarian mandate to perpetuate the poverty underclass created by the socialist statist since the 1960's. A truly free market will raise everyone's standard of living. Prosperous people will be more charitable. Poor people will climb out of poverty in a Libertarian Society. Families will be in fashion again and will help each other in times of need. No more nanny state or Premier Dad to control your life. If government were severely limited and individuals took responsibility for their decisions and actions, the need for government-provided housing would be substantially reduced and charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity would be able to take care of the few truly in need.

**8. 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? 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?**

A Libertarian Government would stay out of the housing market. It is beyond our mandate to rob from Peter to build a house for Paul.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

One has to wonder why cities have assumed responsibility for collecting garbage from private residences. Maybe they should mow the grass, too. Libertarians believe in property rights. A person who owns property is more likely to maintain it. Libertarians would be in charge of the Courts and any harm one citizen perpetrates on another's Life, Liberty or Property would be dealt with thereafter all other arbitration has failed. A Libertarian Government believes that victims of crime be compensated by the aggressor. Restitution would be required in addition to fines and/ or jail time. The socialist hug a thug agenda would be scrapped.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

Taxation is Theft and is repugnant to Libertarians. We would eliminate as much taxation as possible. If a Libertarian Government would offer a service it would charge a fee NOT a tax. The private sector would be free to offer that same service and the citizen would have a choice. Libertarians abhor Monopolies and Corporate Welfare.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

Laws beyond protecting Life, Liberty and property are seen as an immoral use of force by Libertarians. A Libertarian Government would lower taxes so individuals and businesses could provide a suitable level of access (if they want to attract the business of handicapped individuals) without going hat in hand to some bureaucrat in Toronto.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiatives of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

Robbing Peter to pay for a party being thrown by Paul is repugnant to Libertarians. If a special interest group wants to throw a party they would need to recruit an entrepreneur in their group to raise the funds themselves. A Libertarian Government would be there to protect Life, Liberty and Property only.

**Bassam Lazar – Green Party of Ontario London-Fanshawe**  
no response as of noon Sunday, September 18

**Cheryl Miller – Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario London-Fanshawe**

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your survey with our campaign.

During the last eight years, life has become unaffordable for too many families. Surprise new taxes have taken repeated bites out of the family budget. Expensive energy experiments have sent hydro bills skyrocketing. The provincial government has become too big, too bureaucratic, and too meddling in municipal affairs.

We need to bring change to Ontario. *Changebook* is our party's commitment to Ontario families should we form government on October 6th. It's been built from conversations with families at coffee shops and hockey arenas; on the phone through email, Twitter and Facebook; and our unprecedented Have Your Say Ontario survey.

And it comes from conversations we've had with community leaders like you.

You deserve a partner that gives you clear rules and honest answers. Local governments have a difficult job to do, balancing demographics, demand for services, and tax bases. Given the challenges of recent years, you've had to make tough choices.

A reliable partner at Queen's Park is absolutely crucial for you to set your own budgets and properly plan for the future. For nearly eight years Dalton McGuinty handed out unsustainable collective agreements that set the benchmark for arbitration with your public sector unions. Even while Ontario is saddled with record deficits and a struggling economy, arbitrators are still awarding unions excessive contracts that far exceed what municipalities can afford. Ontario needs change.

The arbitration system is badly broken. I will ensure public sector agreements reflect the ability of families to pay the bills. I will bring more transparency and accountability to the arbitration system, requiring arbitrators to justify their decisions to you and your constituents. And I will provide you with clear and tight timeframes that you can count on. Long, drawn out negotiations are not fair to the workers, they're not fair to municipalities, and they're not fair to Ontario families.

When it comes to stable infrastructure spending, for the past eight years all we've seen are backtracks, flip flops and U-turns from the McGuinty Liberals. The same infrastructure projects get announced, reannounced, and sometimes re-re-announced –but never built.

This kind of uncertainty will come to an end under an Ontario PC government. We will be a partner you can trust. Unlike Dalton McGuinty, we will not try to be all things to all people or make promises we know we won't keep.

On the subject of provincial gas tax funding allocation, we will fix the broken provincial gas tax program and give every municipality access to provincial gas tax funds. We will ensure that no municipality receives less funding, but more importantly that no municipality gets left out or left behind. I will end Dalton McGuinty's practice of making value judgments and let you spend more on your transportation priorities, whether it is a road, a bridge, or a bus.

You also raised the issue of development charges.

The last thing Ontario needs is yet another new tax. At a time when families are struggling just to get by, and the Canadian dream of home ownership is out of reach to more and more young families, we simply cannot afford to put even more new taxes on homes.

I believe it's the government's role to create the right conditions for the private sector to succeed, to create jobs – and then get out of the way. That means getting the fundamentals right, principles like reducing red tape, providing reliable and affordable energy, and competitive tax rates.

For eight years, the McGuinty Liberals have chipped away at your authority to decide what's best for your communities. From overriding your Official Plans to freezing prime land because puddles sometimes form there when it rains to forcing massive industrial wind farms where they're not wanted – local councils have been robbed of a say over what happens in their communities.

Even in the face of strenuous local objections, and more than 70 municipalities passing resolutions, Dalton McGuinty continues to plough ahead with giant industrial wind farms without any consultation with local councils or residents.

To me, it makes no sense that you have the power to say where a local hot dog stand or 7-Eleven goes but not industrial wind turbines – the height of 40-storey buildings – that are built over hundreds of acres of prime agricultural land.

It's unfair. It's undemocratic. And under a Tim Hudak government it will end. Our government will

restore the local decision making powers that were stripped away by the McGuinty Liberals and the Green Energy Act.

I believe the secret to good government comes from respecting your partners, keeping your word, sticking to a budget, and staying true to your principles. That's the kind of partner I will be.

To read more about the change we're proposing for Ontario families, I encourage you to visit [www.changebook.ca](http://www.changebook.ca)

Sincerely, Tim Hudak, Ontario PC Leader

## **Khalil Ramal – Ontario Liberal Party London-Fanshawe**

### **1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

Ontario Liberals have a long history of working with municipalities to create prosperity at the local level. We have strong working relationships with the various local governments and their regional economic development agencies and commissions.

For years Ontario Liberals have worked in partnership with local municipalities through our network of 57 Small Business Enterprise Centres that provide local entrepreneurs with the tools they need to start and grow their businesses including: easy access to local business consulting services, and business training and information on management, marketing, technology and financing. This service is managed locally, coordinated provincially, and supported by public and private sector partners. We established 12 regional offices that provide direct consulting services to high performing small and medium business across southern Ontario. In 2009/10, the network of Small Business Enterprise Centres assisted in the creation of 11,500 new businesses and 1,550 business expansions resulting in 13,600 new jobs.

The Communities in Transition initiative provides assistance to Ontario communities and industry sectors facing economic development challenges including plant closures, significant job losses and industry-wide restructuring. This flexible, tailored assistance supports innovative economic development solutions not covered under existing provincial programs. To date, Ontario Liberals have invested over \$14 million dollars on nearly 40 local and regional initiatives.

Ontario Liberals have also created funds specifically targeted to regions that experience economic difficulties. In our recent platform, *Forward.Together*, we took the advice of the Southwestern Economic Alliance (SWEA) and announced the creation of the Southwestern Ontario Economic Development Fund that will serve the City of London and surrounding areas.

### **2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

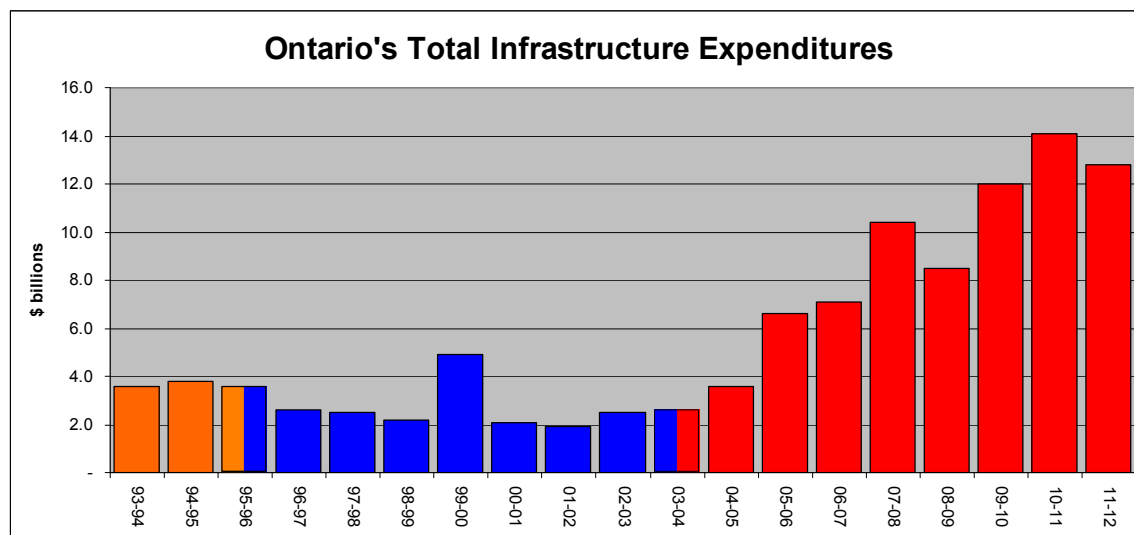
We are uploading \$2.7 billion from municipalities, freeing up room in their budgets to invest in local priorities and control property taxes. Unlike the Hudak PCs we will honour our uploading commitments, because ultimately there is only one taxpayer. We're uploading costs for seniors' drugs, court security, social assistance, public health, and public transit – with a plan to upload an additional \$500 million between now and 2018.

When the Harris-Hudak PCs were in government, they downloaded \$3 billion in costs onto municipalities – including child care, transit, housing, and public health – leading to higher property taxes and an infrastructure deficit. With the \$14 billion hole in his platform, The PCs are planning to download costs again, pushing municipalities to the brink. They have already refused to commit to completing our download, meaning \$500 million a year in new property taxes or service cuts. Recently, one of the PC candidates said that the upload will likely be stopped under a PC government.

### **3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

The Ontario Liberals are the only party with a positive plan to improve Ontario's infrastructure, and move our province forward.

Since 2003, Ontario Liberals have made a \$62 billion infrastructure investment in Ontario communities, reversing a decade of infrastructure neglect under the PCs and the NDP. Our investments have included more than \$12 billion provided directly to municipalities to help build and repair municipal infrastructure like roads, bridges, transit, and community centres. Since 2007 alone, we have committed \$19,674,883 in funding to the City of London.



However, it isn't merely *how much* we've invested in infrastructure that sets the Ontario Liberal approach to infrastructure apart from other parties. It's also *how* we've invested. In 2005 the Ontario Liberals launched *ReNew Ontario*, the Province's first ever long-term infrastructure plan. This year, we launched *Building Together*, our second long-term plan.

Ontario's municipal partners need to know where the Province is headed, so that they can develop plans of their own. That's why long-term infrastructure planning is so important. The PCs and the NDP never had a long-term plan for infrastructure, and they still don't. In fact, the \$14 billion hole in the PC platform would mean deep cuts to healthcare and education, and a return to infrastructure neglect.

Through *Building Together* we'll invest \$35 billion in the next three years including \$12.8 this year alone. We also commit to a new Municipal Infrastructure Investment Strategy that we'll develop in partnership with municipalities and the federal government.

We are also investing in local infrastructure by improving interchanges along Highway 401 west of Highway 402. These changes will provide drivers with easier access to west London and the highway, and create 500 jobs. With support from the province, construction work will include the addition of a new interchange at Wonderland Road, a new bridge at the Veterans Memorial Parkway interchange and new ramps to allow access to south of the 401.

These improvements will support local economic growth by reducing congestion and keeping goods and services flowing. Planning and design work on the interchanges is set to begin this year.

Investing in Ontario's roads and highways is part of the Ontario Liberals' plan to create jobs, grow local economies and ensure the province remains strong and competitive for years to come.

Finally, at the recent AMO conference, we committed to a permanent, long-term municipal road and bridges fund. We call on the federal government to participate in this initiative.

Ontario Liberals are the only Party that has a strong record on infrastructure investment and we are the only Party that can be counted on to continue our strong commitment over the next decade.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

Ontario Liberals recognize that municipalities require tools to help fund local infrastructure needed to serve new growth. Development Charges are one tool that helps municipalities achieve their goals when it comes to local priorities.

We understand the concerns of municipalities as it relates to Development Charges and transit related development. We are always willing to look at proposals brought forward by municipalities – because we value the relationship we have built together. However, at this point in time, opening up the *Development Charges Act* is not something we are prioritizing. We are, however, open to

looking at other ways for municipalities to generate revenue streams to fund new growth in their communities.

As mentioned above, we are committed to unloading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs. The costs that unloading will remove off of the local tax base will give municipalities extra flexibility to invest in local priorities.

Ontario Liberals have increased ongoing annual funding to municipalities every year since being elected. By 2018, our commitments to municipalities will have increased by more than 270 per cent since 2003. We have also invested more than the NDP and PCs combined when it comes to municipal infrastructure.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

Ontario Liberals recognize the importance of an integrated transportation system that focuses on all options in order to keep our economy moving. Since 2003 we have applied this approach to:

- Expand the focus of the Ministry of Transportation to include all modes of transportation, including public transit, active transportation and — in collaboration with our federal and municipal partners — areas such as marine, rail and air.
- Invest over \$10.8 billion to support public transit.

Ontario Liberals believe that the province needs effective and efficient public transit services to help foster a clean environment and a vibrant economy. We recognize that municipalities need sustainable, long-term funding support in order to introduce service improvements such as additional buses, expanded routes and improved security infrastructure.

The gas tax investment is one of our most successful initiatives — and we will continue to improve public transit across Ontario. Unlike the PCs and the NDP, Ontario Liberals have demonstrated our commitment to expanding public transit across the province. We delivered on our 2003 promise to provide two cents per litre of provincial gas tax revenues to municipalities as a source of long-term, sustainable funding for public transit. Since 2004, we have committed over \$1.9 billion in gas tax funding to 120 Ontario municipalities.

In contrast, the PCs have stated in their platform that they will dilute funding for transit by allowing gas tax funding to be spent on non-transit transportation projects. Ontario Liberals believe that gas tax funding should be spent on improving and increasing transit in Ontario. We plan to keep that revenue dedicated to improving public transit across Ontario. The NDP have provided no details in their platform about expanding transit, neglecting this important issue.

Ontario Liberals have a strong record of investing in transit. We believe in it. It is good for the economy and good for Ontario families. Ontario Liberals are the only party you can trust to invest in public transit, delivering a better system that will enable people to spend less time waiting for transit and more time with their families, and to enjoy more accessible service than ever before.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness towards taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

Ontario has a good arbitration system to resolve collective agreement issues where it is prohibited to have a work stoppage and parties cannot reach an agreement at the table. Interest arbitration guarantees that Ontario families will have 24/7 service and protection from essential services provided by our police officers and firefighters. Our government feels strongly that if negotiations come to an impasse, the arbitration process must remain strong, independent and impartial.

The PCs are not telling the full story to Ontarians when they talk about wanting to open up the legislation. Arbitrators are already required to consider the ability of municipalities to pay, the municipal and provincial economic situations and the compensation of comparable jobs in other Ontario communities. Last year, the average annual wage increase in sectors with interest arbitration was the same as the increase in private sector negotiated agreements – 2%.

Unlike the PCs, our focus is not on changing the arbitration system but, instead, on working with the parties and helping to bring them together to reach a deal at the bargaining table.

We have all seen what the results in the last two decades of the NDP and PCs swinging the pendulum from far left to far right on labour relations: confrontation and distrust. In contrast, Ontario Liberals have worked hard to bring a balanced and fair approach to labour relations. Almost 99 percent of collective bargaining negotiations in Ontario are resolved without a day lost to a strike or lock out.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

Ontario Liberals have invested more toward affordable housing than any other party. To date, we have invested more than \$2.5 billion for repairs, new construction and rent supplements. Through our investments, we have built and repaired more than 270,000 units and provided 35,000 supplements. Our investments have benefited more than 680,000 low-income Ontarians since 2003.

Ontario Liberals are the first to develop a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and are committed to ensuring the resources are available. We recently signed an agreement with the federal government that guarantees new, four-year funding for affordable housing in Ontario (Investment in Affordable Housing — IAH). This agreement will see \$480.6 million invested in Ontario's housing stock — with \$240.3 million coming from the provincial government.

Under IAH, the City of London received \$13,673,870. We have notified service managers of their allocations so they can begin planning their projects and respond to their local needs. Service managers have the go-ahead to prepare their year-one business cases and we are prepared to flow funds and will do so as business cases are approved. This investment will improve access to affordable housing that is safe, sound and suitable for households in London and throughout our community.

Our LTAHS is the first of its kind in Ontario, providing greater flexibility to local governments so that they can create plans for housing delivery that are reflective of their unique local needs. For example, our LTAHS will enable local governments to adopt alternatives to the current chronologically based wait-list system, and will facilitate tenant transfers across wait lists or across service manager areas. Under our *Housing Services Act*, the Special Priority Policy will be clearly maintained as a provincial interest, providing priority access to rent-geared-to-income housing for victims of domestic violence.

The future of housing depends on sustained long-term funding that is fair and will help meet the needs of Ontario. We will continue to actively lobby the federal government for a long-term deal and a national housing strategy.

Ontario Liberals are the only party in this election to discuss affordable housing in our platform. The NDP does not have a concrete housing plan and has time and time again stood against our strategic investments that have helped increase our housing stock in Ontario. Meanwhile, the PCs stated that they intend "to get out of the non-profit and co-op housing business." This is consistent with their record of downloading affordable housing to local municipalities without the funding to meet housing needs.

Ontario Liberals also recognize that housing challenges are particularly prevalent among those facing mental health and addictions issues. For this reason, our recently released Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, *Open Minds, Healthy Minds*, establishes a goal of creating more resilient communities, with better alignment of housing programs with health and employment resources, particularly for youth, people who are homeless or in shelters, and long-stay psychiatric patients. This will result in more people with mental health challenges living in safe, stable homes, and fewer living in shelters and hospitals.

**8. 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? 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?**

The interaction of social assistance with other government initiatives, including affordable housing

initiatives, is being looked at in the context of the Social Assistance Review. Through the Review, we are listening to Ontarians to determine how we can make our programs more responsive to the people who need help and to provide more opportunities for them to take part in their communities and the economy. The Commissioners will be releasing their final report next summer, and we look forward to seeing the recommendations. We remain committed to providing low-income families with a pathway out of poverty and assisting families to move from social assistance to employment more easily. Non-profit and co-operative housing providers play an important role in providing affordable housing to Ontarians. Ontario Liberals look forward to continuing to work with our housing stakeholders and other levels of government to identify opportunities to help create affordable housing.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g. financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to Extended Producer Responsibility. Many jurisdictions across Canada and around the world have widespread acceptance of the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility — or EPR — as an integral component of any successful waste management strategy. We are continuously making progress and striving for improvements to our existing EPR programs:

- The Blue Box program is delivered through municipalities and partially funded by producers.
- We have an electronic or e-waste program that is creating growing awareness of the importance of recycling the many electronic products we use every day from computers to printers to televisions. Currently, the program has diverted 63,000 tons of e-waste.
- We have a program for used tires that has diverted 25 million tires and is bringing in new business, innovation and jobs in the green economy. As a result of the program several companies have established processing facilities in Ontario.

We also believe that it makes sense that the companies that design and sell the products that eventually wind up as waste should play a bigger part in the recovery, recycling or managing of these products and that packaging. Ontario Liberals are committed to a national discussion on recycling, packaging and roles of industry as part of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

While there are many different approaches to EPR, we are looking to find approaches that meet the unique needs of Ontario businesses and families alike. We will continue to draw on the best ideas from producers, manufacturers, retailers and other partners about how best to move forward.

Ontario Liberals are the only party to articulate a comprehensive waste vision that connects the environment and the economy and will layout a smart waste policy based on the principles of EPR.

The PCs position on waste is to make municipal taxpayers, rather than polluters, pay the costs of disposal. The NDP has promised \$2.8 billion in wasteful subsidies for fossil fuels, suggesting they do not understand the need to ensure that those who generate environmentally harmful products pay the costs that these products impose on society.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

As set out in the 2009 Ontario budget, Ontario's public service bodies (i.e., municipalities, hospitals, universities, colleges, school boards, charities and qualifying non-profit organizations) would be able to claim rebates for the provincial portion of the single sales tax, so that the net effect of the tax on each sector would be fiscally neutral relative to the amount of PST currently paid by these sectors. As with the GST, the rebates would be a percentage of the tax paid.

As a result of this rebate, municipalities are not paying any more sales tax under the HST than they did under the old PST.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to an accessible Ontario by 2025 – and we want to get it right. We are committed to uploading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs and the costs that this exercise will remove off of the local tax base will provide municipalities with more capacity and flexibility to invest in their communities, including more accessible services.

People with disabilities have long been faced with barriers that limit their abilities as individuals and limit our strength as a province. We must move forward. Improving accessibility is good for business and good for our economy. With an aging population, organizations that improve accessibility will gain a competitive advantage. Every year in Canada, people with disabilities spend about \$25 billion. That is a market no one can afford to overlook.

We are phasing-in implementation over several years through to 2025 to allow organizations the flexibility to plan and make improvements over time. Where it makes sense, we are streamlining requirements across standards to reduce costs and minimize burden. We are committed to supporting the public and private sectors in meeting the requirements by offering educational tools and resource materials to help organizations understand and meet accessibility requirements.

The AODA represents a real culture change in the way accessibility issues are addressed in Ontario and we have worked closely with municipalities, businesses, advocates and disability communities to find the right balance. Leading change is not always easy, but we know that a more accessible Ontario is not only the smart thing to do — it is the right thing to do.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiative of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

The War of 1812 Bicentennial offers a unique opportunity to showcase Ontario's rich heritage while promoting tourism and local economic growth. Ontario Liberals recognize that this event will enrich Ontarians' lives and attract visitors from across Ontario, Canada and the United States. We have invested over \$32M in improving and enhancing War of 1812 heritage sites and \$1.6M for bicentennial culture projects and initiatives within the arts, heritage and library sectors. We are also pleased to have specifically supported the Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance by providing over \$1.4M to the seven regional groups who are planning and developing 1812 activities across Ontario.

Ontario Liberals are committed to continuing to work with our regional heritage and tourism partners to celebrate this event.

We support the celebration of Ontario's arts and culture through Culture Days. Ontario agencies such as the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Heritage Trust are partners and supporters of Culture Days in Ontario and specifically Celebrate the Artist Weekend. Ontario Liberals will continue to support Culture Days recognizing that this event brings awareness of arts and culture to local communities.

## **London-North-Centre**

**Mary Lou Ambrogio – Freedom Party of Ontario London-North-Centre**

no response as of noon Sunday, September 18

**Nancy Branscombe – Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario  
London-North-Centre**

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your survey with our campaign.

During the last eight years, life has become unaffordable for too many families. Surprise new taxes have taken repeated bites out of the family budget. Expensive energy experiments have sent hydro bills skyrocketing. The provincial government has become too big, too bureaucratic, and too meddlesome in municipal affairs.

We need to bring change to Ontario. *Changebook* is our party's commitment to Ontario families should we form government on October 6th. It's been built from conversations with families at coffee shops and hockey arenas; on the phone through email, Twitter and Facebook; and our unprecedented Have Your Say Ontario survey.

And it comes from conversations we've had with community leaders like you.

You deserve a partner that gives you clear rules and honest answers. Local governments have a difficult job to do, balancing demographics, demand for services, and tax bases. Given the challenges of recent years, you've had to make tough choices.

A reliable partner at Queen's Park is absolutely crucial for you to set your own budgets and properly plan for the future. For nearly eight years Dalton McGuinty handed out unsustainable



collective agreements that set the benchmark for arbitration with your public sector unions. Even while Ontario is saddled with record deficits and a struggling economy, arbitrators are still awarding unions excessive contracts that far exceed what municipalities can afford. Ontario needs change.

The arbitration system is badly broken. I will ensure public sector agreements reflect the ability of families to pay the bills. I will bring more transparency and accountability to the arbitration system, requiring arbitrators to justify their decisions to you and your constituents. And I will provide you with clear and tight timeframes that you can count on. Long, drawn out negotiations are not fair to the workers, they're not fair to municipalities, and they're not fair to Ontario families.

When it comes to stable infrastructure spending, for the past eight years all we've seen are backtracks, flip flops and U-turns from the McGuinty Liberals. The same infrastructure projects get announced, reannounced, and sometimes re-re-announced –but never built.

This kind of uncertainty will come to an end under an Ontario PC government. We will be a partner you can trust. Unlike Dalton McGuinty, we will not try to be all things to all people or make promises we know we won't keep.

On the subject of provincial gas tax funding allocation, we will fix the broken provincial gas tax program and give every municipality access to provincial gas tax funds. We will ensure that no municipality receives less funding, but more importantly that no municipality gets left out or left behind. I will end Dalton McGuinty's practice of making value judgments and let you spend more on your transportation priorities, whether it is a road, a bridge, or a bus.

You also raised the issue of development charges.

The last thing Ontario needs is yet another new tax. At a time when families are struggling just to get by, and the Canadian dream of home ownership is out of reach to more and more young families, we simply cannot afford to put even more new taxes on homes.

I believe it's the government's role to create the right conditions for the private sector to succeed, to create jobs – and then get out of the way. That means getting the fundamentals right, principles like reducing red tape, providing reliable and affordable energy, and competitive tax rates.

For eight years, the McGuinty Liberals have chipped away at your authority to decide what's best for your communities. From overriding your Official Plans to freezing prime land because puddles sometimes form there when it rains to forcing massive industrial wind farms where they're not wanted – local councils have been robbed of a say over what happens in their communities.

Even in the face of strenuous local objections, and more than 70 municipalities passing resolutions, Dalton McGuinty continues to plough ahead with giant industrial wind farms without any consultation with local councils or residents.

To me, it makes no sense that you have the power to say where a local hot dog stand or 7-Eleven goes but not industrial wind turbines – the height of 40-storey buildings – that are built over hundreds of acres of prime agricultural land.

It's unfair. It's undemocratic. And under a Tim Hudak government it will end. Our government will restore the local decision making powers that were stripped away by the McGuinty Liberals and the Green Energy Act.

I believe the secret to good government comes from respecting your partners, keeping your word, sticking to a budget, and staying true to your principles. That's the kind of partner I will be.

To read more about the change we're proposing for Ontario families, I encourage you to visit [www.changebook.ca](http://www.changebook.ca)

Sincerely,  
Tim Hudak, Ontario PC Leader

**Steve Holmes – New Democratic Party of Ontario London-North-Centre**

**1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local**

## **economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

We are committed to close and regular consultation with municipalities and their municipal associations. The NDP will work in partnership with municipalities to build strong and vibrant communities regardless of the outcome of the Oct 6 election. If elected we will implement targeted tax credits and tax cuts to help local businesses succeed (e.g. \$350 million tax credits for new capital investment and training, a \$100 million refundable Job Creation Tax Credit refunding companies \$5,000 per new hire, and a one-half percent cut in the small business tax). We will control costs and put more money in people's pockets by removing the HST from hydro, heating and gasoline so they can spend more in their local communities. And we will increase transfers to municipalities for transit, roads and housing to ensure that the infrastructure and services are in place to support economic growth. Finally, I will also seek a cooperative partnership with Federal MPs representing London North Centre, Fanshawe and West to ensure that there is support for initiatives that require all three levels of government to be involved.

### **2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

The Ontario NDP and I support the ongoing implementation of recommendations of the PMFSDR. We will match the current provincial-municipal cost sharing arrangements and uploading schedule. We will also provide municipalities with new support for transit by increasing provincial support to 50% of the operating transit subsidy (\$375 M a year when fully phased in).

### **3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

Municipalities face a significant infrastructure funding gap. We will proceed with the committed \$35 billion in infrastructure investments over the next three years. In addition to increase transit operating funding mentioned above (which should help free up funding for municipal investments in transit capital), we will invest \$210 million over three years to help municipalities with road and bridge repairs. Regardless of party affiliation, I am open to working with all of London's elected officials to support our community's priorities.

It is also important that when we talk about infrastructure, we are not only taking about roads, sewers, bridges and the like, but also recreational infrastructure like arenas, soccer fields, and other facilities that encourage healthy living and build healthy communities, the relationship with Western Fair District is a good example of reaching these goals.

### **4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

We will review the development act to ensure that development pays for itself. And we will start by removing the discount that developers get to recover their costs related to recreation services, library services, old age homes, space for child care, health department services, and ambulance stations. It is important to remember that these "recovery costs" are ultimately a burden placed on individual taxpayers. If both the province and municipalities are to keep personal and property tax rates under control, development must pay for itself. London's Mayor has after all based many of his goals on growth income.

We are committed to preventing the most expensive kind of development to service – urban sprawl. Garbage pick-up, snow removal and transit access to sprawl is less efficient and more costly to municipalities. Likewise, urban sprawl leads to more expensive provincial service delivery in areas such as education and health. We will put an end to government backroom deals to exempt developers from growth limits, such as those set out in the Greenbelt Act, and we will balance the playing field when it comes to new development by putting an end to developer "SLAPP" lawsuits used to silence local opposition to mega-projects. It is important that community input is welcome and considered in growth planning and mega-projects.

### **5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and**

**Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

As above, we will invest an extra \$375 million over and above the 2 cents/litre gas tax and take on half of the after fare-box cost of operating municipal transit systems for municipalities that agree to freeze their transit fares. We will also invest in new transit projects and upgrades for public transit systems (this will include investments in bus systems, as well as rail, light rail, etc. I fully support the City of London in its partnership with other municipalities in calling for a high speed rail corridor). We will make the 2 cents/litre provincial gas tax transit allocation permanent. We will add \$60 million to our budget for funding roads and bridges.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

I recognize that this has been a particular concern for the City of London, but in the context of the whole province, this is not something we can address with a "one-size fits all" approach.

I believe that the independence of arbitrators from government is crucial to the collective bargaining process. I do not believe that imposing conditions on arbitrators is a simple solution. Broad consultations with both the municipalities and their employees would need to be undertaken before any reform could be considered. I would encourage Municipal management to negotiate a fair and binding collective agreement prior to the arbitration process as I believe an agreement that is forced upon either of the parties is not the most desired outcome of either party.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

A long-term commitment to building housing is needed to allow housing providers to effectively plan and implement affordable housing projects. I've met with local realtors and homebuilders, as well as anti-poverty activists and listened to their suggestions and as an MPP I will continue to do so, this consultation is crucial.

For too long, housing policy in Ontario has been driven by Ottawa – with the province simply following the federal government's lead – often with several years delay – with cost-sharing agreements. The NDP recognizes the need for stable and predictable funding and supports long-term funding the expansion of affordable housing.

Our plan will include long term targets for the creation of new affordable housing, access to low-cost financing for renovations and retrofit measures (like the \$5000 home retrofit rebate) to make maintaining a household budget more affordable.

We will proceed with our long term commitment whether or not the Federal government joins us in a partnership. However, we will work with our Federal NDP counterparts to put pressure on the federal government to develop, fund and implement a national affordable housing strategy. And of course the affordability measures we have introduced in our platform, such as taking the HST off of electricity and heating bills, will help lower income families in particular with the cost of keeping a roof over their heads.

**8. 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? 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?**

I recognize the challenges in securing funding for repairs that face cooperatives and non-profit housing first hand as a partner in the Tolpiddle complex and I can say without reservation that both current shelter allowances and legislated rent scales are inadequate to meet the financial needs of cooperatives or families in need of housing assistance. Ontario's NDP will be making an announcement address this in the near future.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

As a labour activist I have been promoting this issue for more than several years the Government has delayed action on extended producer responsibility for three years. In fact, since the eco-fee fiasco, they have backtracked on producer responsibility by paying \$20 million to Stewardship Ontario – letting industry off the hook for these costs. My friend and Ontario NDP colleague Peter Tabuns has publicly stated: "The Liberal government set this whole mess rolling. Now that everyone's got a problem to deal with, they can't just turn their backs on it. They have to resolve it." Peter Tabuns made it clear that New Democrats would like to see the unremitted eco fees sent to municipalities, who are again in charge of disposing and recycling fire extinguishers, rechargeable batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, needles, mercury-containing devices and pharmaceuticals."

Conservatives say they won't bring in eco-fees, and they will get rid of eco-fees on electronics, but don't say how they will fund recycling programs (most likely, this will mean that the costs will fall to municipal property taxpayers).

Both the Ontario NDP and the federal NDP strongly support extended producer responsibility. We are the only party to call for stronger oversight of the industry-run system, to call for stronger targets for diversion, and penalties to companies who fail to achieve diversion.

We will complete the long-stalled review of the Waste Reduction Act, making sure that the cost of recycling and safely disposing materials is the responsibility of the companies that produce the products so they don't end up on property tax bills or as an eco-fee.

New Democrats believe we need, in part, to refocus attention on reducing waste in the first place, and ways to promote reuse of products – both of which are more cost-effective and environmentally benign than recycling.

We will strengthen regulations to reduce overpackaging in cooperation with other jurisdictions. Again, it is important to remember that this will require a willingness to work with the federal level of government as well as the private sector to encourage change. I want to take this opportunity to point out that there are private sector business interests in London already, who have developed packaging waste reduction alternatives and such measures can lead to job creation opportunities.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

Ontario's NDP will be providing significant relief from the HST to Ontario citizens and municipalities alike by removing the HST from home heating and hydro, and by lowering the HST on gasoline. This measure will help municipalities by putting more money in peoples' pockets which they can spend in their local communities. It also helps municipalities directly as the HST reduction on gasoline will lead directly to lower municipal fuel costs for London's vehicle fleet. Recognizing the process required to negotiate total removal of HST requires federal agreement we do not plan further exemptions from the HST at this time.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

I support the implementation of the AODA to make our communities inclusive of all people. There are several people with input to this legislation at London Transit and they have stated their sharing of concerns similar to those of New Democrats that the lack of coordination in releasing the various standards has prevented municipalities from fully understanding the costs and implications of these standards. We are committed to working closely with municipalities to find ways to address the challenges of implementing the standards.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiatives of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

London has a wonderfully diverse community and we celebrate that diversity with numerous festivals and other initiatives throughout the year. Whether it is the Sunfest, Pride, or Home County Folk Festival, or cultural festival such as Festa Italiana, or special celebrations and recognitions such as the War of 1812 Bi-Centennial and the Tolpuddle Monument, it is important that funding continue to

be available to support such activities through the Trillium Fund. Not only do these activities contribute to the quality of life in our community, they also have significant economic benefits for tourism and businesses in our community. And as we have always done, my party and I will continue to support such activities through our direct participation whenever possible, purchasing advertisements in programs, having booths at events, and attending official ceremonies.

## **Kevin Labonte – Green Party of Ontario London-North-Centre**

### **1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

We will provide clear, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity system. The Green Party will prioritize investments in energy efficiency and conservation to reduce the effects of rising energy prices. We will strengthen the Feed-in Tariff program to require local ownership, local decision making and local financial benefits for energy projects. We will establish a transparent timeline for FIT pricing reviews and reductions. Through these policies we will ensure that the green energy jobs of the future benefit local communities first and foreign companies second.

### **2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

The Green Party will meet the promised upload of \$1.5 billion in social service and court security costs by 2018. We have pledged not to download costs, or add new ones to Ontario's limited property tax base. We are not opposed to looking at additional uploading where that service would be better served by it.

### **3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

If elected we will create a separate, new, predictable and permanent fund for municipal roads and bridges once the budget is balanced, and we will provide funding for municipalities to invest in safe roads and trails for active transportation.

### **4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

We fully Support a review of the Development Charges Act so that growth pays for itself without unsustainable burdens on property taxpayers.

### **5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

We will make permanent the Provincial Gas Tax revenue of about \$318 million for transit.

### **6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

We will work with you to revise the arbitration process to ensure transparency, and to require consideration of local circumstances and government's ability to pay when deciding public sector wage settlements.

### **7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?

We will consolidate housing programs with current funding to allow more local decision making and seek innovative partnerships with the private sector to increase the availability of affordable housing.

**8. 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? 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?**

I will support a change to Social Housing assistance rents back to a liveable standard, but will emphasize access to support and opportunities to help those that are willing and able to seek employment.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

We commit to shifting the tax burden for waste disposal from municipal property taxpayers to industry through extended producer responsibility laws.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

Where it is prudent to do so, we will. At this time we have not looked at this issue.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

The needs of those with disabilities are very important to our party, and we believe that the provincial and municipal governments must work together to find the best and most cost effective ways to implement the new standards of the AODA.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiatives of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

Cultural initiatives are vital to promoting a strong sense of community; we will work with municipalities to assist them where ever possible to ensure that these events are successful.

## **Deb Matthews – Liberal Party of Ontario London-North-Centre**

**1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

Ontario Liberals have a long history of working with municipalities to create prosperity at the local level. We have strong working relationships with the various local governments and their regional economic development agencies and commissions.

For years Ontario Liberals have worked in partnership with local municipalities through our network of 57 Small Business Enterprise Centres that provide local entrepreneurs with the tools they need to start and grow their businesses including: easy access to local business consulting services, and business training and information on management, marketing, technology and financing. This service is managed locally, coordinated provincially, and supported by public and private sector partners. We established 12 regional offices that provide direct consulting services to high performing small and medium business across southern Ontario. In 2009/10, the network of Small Business Enterprise Centres assisted in the creation of 11,500 new businesses and 1,550 business expansions resulting in 13,600 new jobs.

The Communities in Transition initiative provides assistance to Ontario communities and industry sectors facing economic development challenges including plant closures, significant job losses and

industry-wide restructuring. This flexible, tailored assistance supports innovative economic development solutions not covered under existing provincial programs. To date, Ontario Liberals have invested over \$14 million dollars on nearly 40 local and regional initiatives.

Ontario Liberals have also created funds specifically targeted to regions that experience economic difficulties. In our recent platform, *Forward Together*, we took the advice of the Southwestern Economic Alliance (SWEA) and announced the creation of the Southwestern Ontario Economic Development Fund that will serve the City of London and surrounding areas.

**2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

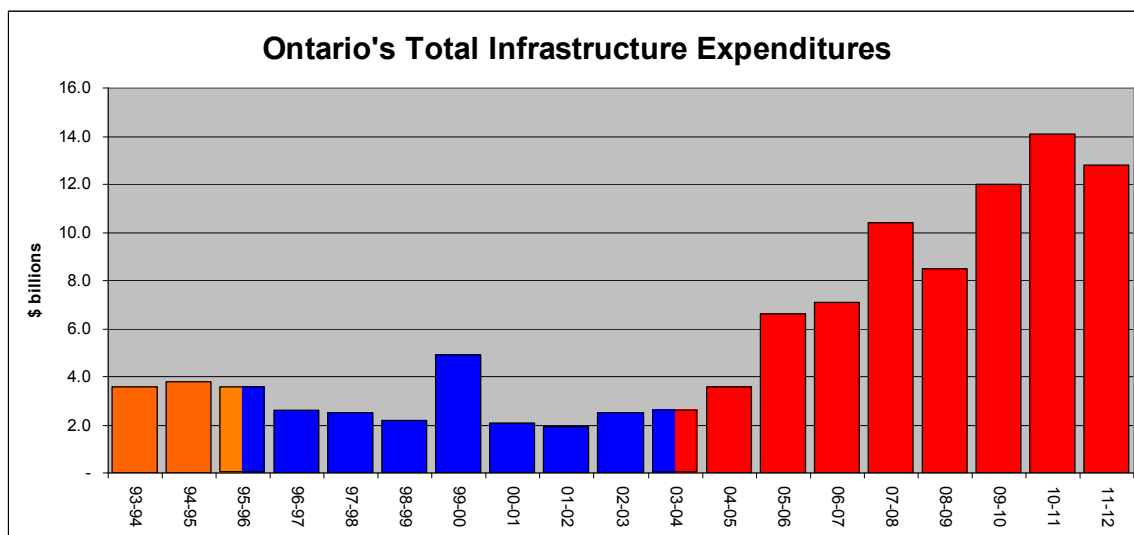
We are uploading \$2.7 billion from municipalities, freeing up room in their budgets to invest in local priorities and control property taxes. Unlike the Hudak PCs we will honour our uploading commitments, because ultimately there is only one taxpayer. We're uploading costs for seniors' drugs, court security, social assistance, public health, and public transit – with a plan to upload an additional \$500 million between now and 2018.

When the Harris-Hudak PCs were in government, they downloaded \$3 billion in costs onto municipalities – including child care, transit, housing, and public health – leading to higher property taxes and an infrastructure deficit. With the \$14 billion hole in his platform, The PCs are planning to download costs again, pushing municipalities to the brink. They have already refused to commit to completing our download, meaning \$500 million a year in new property taxes or service cuts. Recently, one of the PC candidates said that the upload will likely be stopped under a PC government.

**3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

The Ontario Liberals are the only party with a positive plan to improve Ontario's infrastructure, and move our province forward.

Since 2003, Ontario Liberals have made a \$62 billion infrastructure investment in Ontario communities, reversing a decade of infrastructure neglect under the PCs and the NDP. Our investments have included more than \$12 billion provided directly to municipalities to help build and repair municipal infrastructure like roads, bridges, transit, and community centres. Since 2007 alone, we have committed \$19,674,883 in funding to the City of London.



However, it isn't merely *how much* we've invested in infrastructure that sets the Ontario Liberal approach to infrastructure apart from other parties. It's also *how* we've invested. In 2005 the Ontario Liberals launched *ReNew Ontario*, the Province's first ever long-term infrastructure plan. This year, we launched *Building Together*, our second long-term plan.

Ontario's municipal partners need to know where the Province is headed, so that they can develop plans of their own. That's why long-term infrastructure planning is so important. The PCs and the NDP never had a long-term plan for infrastructure, and they still don't. In fact, the \$14 billion hole in the PC platform would mean deep cuts to healthcare and education, and a return to infrastructure neglect.

Through *Building Together* we'll invest \$35 billion in the next three years including \$12.8 this year alone. We also commit to a new Municipal Infrastructure Investment Strategy that we'll develop in partnership with municipalities and the federal government.

We are also investing in local infrastructure by improving interchanges along Highway 401 west of Highway 402. These changes will provide drivers with easier access to west London and the highway, and create 500 jobs. With support from the province, construction work will include the addition of a new interchange at Wonderland Road, a new bridge at the Veterans Memorial Parkway interchange and new ramps to allow access to south of the 401.

These improvements will support local economic growth by reducing congestion and keeping goods and services flowing. Planning and design work on the interchanges is set to begin this year.

Investing in Ontario's roads and highways is part of the Ontario Liberals' plan to create jobs, grow local economies and ensure the province remains strong and competitive for years to come.

Finally, at the recent AMO conference, we committed to a permanent, long-term municipal road and bridges fund. We call on the federal government to participate in this initiative.

Ontario Liberals are the only Party that has a strong record on infrastructure investment and we are the only Party that can be counted on to continue our strong commitment over the next decade.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

Ontario Liberals recognize that municipalities require tools to help fund local infrastructure needed to serve new growth. Development Charges are one tool that helps municipalities achieve their goals when it comes to local priorities.

We understand the concerns of municipalities as it relates to Development Charges and transit related development. We are always willing to look at proposals brought forward by municipalities – because we value the relationship we have built together. However, at this point in time, opening up the *Development Charges Act* is not something we are prioritizing. We are, however, open to looking at other ways for municipalities to generate revenue streams to fund new growth in their communities.

As mentioned above, we are committed to uploading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs. The costs that uploading will remove off of the local tax base will give municipalities extra flexibility to invest in local priorities.

Ontario Liberals have increased ongoing annual funding to municipalities every year since being elected. By 2018, our commitments to municipalities will have increased by more than 270 per cent since 2003. We have also invested more than the NDP and PCs combined when it comes to municipal infrastructure.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

Ontario Liberals recognize the importance of an integrated transportation system that focuses on all options in order to keep our economy moving. Since 2003 we have applied this approach to:

- Expand the focus of the Ministry of Transportation to include all modes of transportation, including public transit, active transportation and — in collaboration with our federal and municipal partners — areas such as marine, rail and air.
- Invest over \$10.8 billion to support public transit.

Ontario Liberals believe that the province needs effective and efficient public transit services to help foster a clean environment and a vibrant economy. We recognize that municipalities need sustainable, long-term funding support in order to introduce service improvements such as additional buses, expanded routes and improved security infrastructure.

The gas tax investment is one of our most successful initiatives — and we will continue to improve public transit across Ontario. Unlike the PCs and the NDP, Ontario Liberals have demonstrated our



commitment to expanding public transit across the province. We delivered on our 2003 promise to provide two cents per litre of provincial gas tax revenues to municipalities as a source of long-term, sustainable funding for public transit. Since 2004, we have committed over \$1.9 billion in gas tax funding to 120 Ontario municipalities.

In contrast, the PCs have stated in their platform that they will dilute funding for transit by allowing gas tax funding to be spent on non-transit transportation projects. Ontario Liberals believe that gas tax funding should be spent on improving and increasing transit in Ontario. We plan to keep that revenue dedicated to improving public transit across Ontario. The NDP have provided no details in their platform about expanding transit, neglecting this important issue.

Ontario Liberals have a strong record of investing in transit. We believe in it. It is good for the economy and good for Ontario families. Ontario Liberals are the only party you can trust to invest in public transit, delivering a better system that will enable people to spend less time waiting for transit and more time with their families, and to enjoy more accessible service than ever before.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness towards taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

Ontario has a good arbitration system to resolve collective agreement issues where it is prohibited to have a work stoppage and parties cannot reach an agreement at the table. Interest arbitration guarantees that Ontario families will have 24/7 service and protection from essential services provided by our police officers and firefighters. Our government feels strongly that if negotiations come to an impasse, the arbitration process must remain strong, independent and impartial.

The PCs are not telling the full story to Ontarians when they talk about wanting to open up the legislation. Arbitrators are already required to consider the ability of municipalities to pay, the municipal and provincial economic situations and the compensation of comparable jobs in other Ontario communities. Last year, the average annual wage increase in sectors with interest arbitration was the same as the increase in private sector negotiated agreements – 2%.

Unlike the PCs, our focus is not on changing the arbitration system but, instead, on working with the parties and helping to bring them together to reach a deal at the bargaining table.

We have all seen what the results in the last two decades of the NDP and PCs swinging the pendulum from far left to far right on labour relations: confrontation and distrust. In contrast, Ontario Liberals have worked hard to bring a balanced and fair approach to labour relations. Almost 99 percent of collective bargaining negotiations in Ontario are resolved without a day lost to a strike or lock out.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

Ontario Liberals have invested more toward affordable housing than any other party. To date, we have invested more than \$2.5 billion for repairs, new construction and rent supplements. Through our investments, we have built and repaired more than 270,000 units and provided 35,000 supplements. Our investments have benefited more than 680,000 low-income Ontarians since 2003.

Ontario Liberals are the first to develop a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and are committed to ensuring the resources are available. We recently signed an agreement with the federal government that guarantees new, four-year funding for affordable housing in Ontario (Investment in Affordable Housing — IAH). This agreement will see \$480.6 million invested in Ontario's housing stock — with \$240.3 million coming from the provincial government.

Under IAH, the City of London received \$13,673,870. We have notified service managers of their allocations so they can begin planning their projects and respond to their local needs. Service managers have the go-ahead to prepare their year-one business cases and we are prepared to flow funds and will do so as business cases are approved. This investment will improve access to affordable housing that is safe, sound and suitable for households in London and throughout our community.

Our LTAHS is the first of its kind in Ontario, providing greater flexibility to local governments so that they can create plans for housing delivery that are reflective of their unique local needs. For example, our LTAHS will enable local governments to adopt alternatives to the current chronologically based wait-list system, and will facilitate tenant transfers across wait lists or across service manager areas. Under our *Housing Services Act*, the Special Priority Policy will be clearly maintained as a provincial interest, providing priority access to rent-geared-to-income housing for victims of domestic violence.

The future of housing depends on sustained long-term funding that is fair and will help meet the needs of Ontario. We will continue to actively lobby the federal government for a long-term deal and a national housing strategy.

Ontario Liberals are the only party in this election to discuss affordable housing in our platform. The NDP does not have a concrete housing plan and has time and time again stood against our strategic investments that have helped increase our housing stock in Ontario. Meanwhile, the PCs stated that they intend “to get out of the non-profit and co-op housing business.” This is consistent with their record of downloading affordable housing to local municipalities without the funding to meet housing needs.

Ontario Liberals also recognize that housing challenges are particularly prevalent among those facing mental health and addictions issues. For this reason, our recently released Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, *Open Minds, Healthy Minds*, establishes a goal of creating more resilient communities, with better alignment of housing programs with health and employment resources, particularly for youth, people who are homeless or in shelters, and long-stay psychiatric patients. This will result in more people with mental health challenges living in safe, stable homes, and fewer living in shelters and hospitals.

**8. 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? 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?**

The interaction of social assistance with other government initiatives, including affordable housing initiatives, is being looked at in the context of the Social Assistance Review. Through the Review, we are listening to Ontarians to determine how we can make our programs more responsive to the people who need help and to provide more opportunities for them to take part in their communities and the economy. The Commissioners will be releasing their final report next summer, and we look forward to seeing the recommendations. We remain committed to providing low-income families with a pathway out of poverty and assisting families to move from social assistance to employment more easily. Non-profit and co-operative housing providers play an important role in providing affordable housing to Ontarians. Ontario Liberals look forward to continuing to work with our housing stakeholders and other levels of government to identify opportunities to help create affordable housing.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g. financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to Extended Producer Responsibility. Many jurisdictions across Canada and around the world have widespread acceptance of the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility — or EPR — as an integral component of any successful waste management strategy. We are continuously making progress and striving for improvements to our existing EPR programs:

- The Blue Box program is delivered through municipalities and partially funded by producers.
- We have an electronic or e-waste program that is creating growing awareness of the importance of recycling the many electronic products we use every day from computers to printers to televisions. Currently, the program has diverted 63,000 tons of e-waste.
- We have a program for used tires that has diverted 25 million tires and is bringing in new business, innovation and jobs in the green economy. As a result of the program several companies have established processing facilities in Ontario.

We also believe that it makes sense that the companies that design and sell the products that eventually wind up as waste should play a bigger part in the recovery, recycling or managing of these products and that packaging. Ontario Liberals are committed to a national discussion on recycling, packaging and roles of industry as part of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

While there are many different approaches to EPR, we are looking to find approaches that meet the unique needs of Ontario businesses and families alike. We will continue to draw on the best ideas from producers, manufacturers, retailers and other partners about how best to move forward.

Ontario Liberals are the only party to articulate a comprehensive waste vision that connects the environment and the economy and will layout a smart waste policy based on the principles of EPR.

The PCs position on waste is to make municipal taxpayers, rather than polluters, pay the costs of disposal. The NDP has promised \$2.8 billion in wasteful subsidies for fossil fuels, suggesting they do not understand the need to ensure that those who generate environmentally harmful products pay the costs that these products impose on society.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

As set out in the 2009 Ontario budget, Ontario's public service bodies (i.e., municipalities, hospitals, universities, colleges, school boards, charities and qualifying non-profit organizations) would be able to claim rebates for the provincial portion of the single sales tax, so that the net effect of the tax on each sector would be fiscally neutral relative to the amount of PST currently paid by these sectors. As with the GST, the rebates would be a percentage of the tax paid.

As a result of this rebate, municipalities are not paying any more sales tax under the HST than they did under the old PST.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to an accessible Ontario by 2025 – and we want to get it right. We are committed to uploading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs and the costs that this exercise will remove off of the local tax base will provide municipalities with more capacity and flexibility to invest in their communities, including more accessible services.

People with disabilities have long been faced with barriers that limit their abilities as individuals and limit our strength as a province. We must move forward. Improving accessibility is good for business and good for our economy. With an aging population, organizations that improve accessibility will gain a competitive advantage. Every year in Canada, people with disabilities spend about \$25 billion. That is a market no one can afford to overlook.

We are phasing-in implementation over several years through to 2025 to allow organizations the flexibility to plan and make improvements over time. Where it makes sense, we are streamlining requirements across standards to reduce costs and minimize burden. We are committed to supporting the public and private sectors in meeting the requirements by offering educational tools and resource materials to help organizations understand and meet accessibility requirements.

The AODA represents a real culture change in the way accessibility issues are addressed in Ontario and we have worked closely with municipalities, businesses, advocates and disability communities to find the right balance. Leading change is not always easy, but we know that a more accessible Ontario is not only the smart thing to do — it is the right thing to do.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiative of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

The War of 1812 Bicentennial offers a unique opportunity to showcase Ontario's rich heritage while promoting tourism and local economic growth. Ontario Liberals recognize that this event will enrich Ontarians' lives and attract visitors from across Ontario, Canada and the United States. We have invested over \$32M in improving and enhancing War of 1812 heritage sites and \$1.6M for bicentennial culture projects and initiatives within the arts, heritage and library sectors. We are also pleased to have specifically supported the Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance by providing over \$1.4M to the seven regional groups who are planning and developing 1812 activities across Ontario.

Ontario Liberals are committed to continuing to work with our regional heritage and tourism partners to celebrate this event.

We support the celebration of Ontario's arts and culture through Culture Days. Ontario agencies such as the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Heritage Trust are partners and supporters of Culture Days in Ontario and specifically Celebrate the Artist Weekend.

Ontario Liberals will continue to support Culture Days recognizing that this event brings awareness of arts and culture to local communities.

**Michael Spottiswood – Pauper Party of Ontario** London-North-Centre -  
unable to contact

## London-West

### Chris Bentley – Ontario Liberal Party London-West

#### **1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

Ontario Liberals have a long history of working with municipalities to create prosperity at the local level. We have strong working relationships with the various local governments and their regional economic development agencies and commissions.

For years Ontario Liberals have worked in partnership with local municipalities through our network of 57 Small Business Enterprise Centres that provide local entrepreneurs with the tools they need to start and grow their businesses including: easy access to local business consulting services, and business training and information on management, marketing, technology and financing. This service is managed locally, coordinated provincially, and supported by public and private sector partners. We established 12 regional offices that provide direct consulting services to high performing small and medium business across southern Ontario. In 2009/10, the network of Small Business Enterprise Centres assisted in the creation of 11,500 new businesses and 1,550 business expansions resulting in 13,600 new jobs.

The Communities in Transition initiative provides assistance to Ontario communities and industry sectors facing economic development challenges including plant closures, significant job losses and industry-wide restructuring. This flexible, tailored assistance supports innovative economic development solutions not covered under existing provincial programs. To date, Ontario Liberals have invested over \$14 million dollars on nearly 40 local and regional initiatives.

Ontario Liberals have also created funds specifically targeted to regions that experience economic difficulties. In our recent platform, *Forward.Together*, we took the advice of the Southwestern Economic Alliance (SWEA) and announced the creation of the Southwestern Ontario Economic Development Fund that will serve the City of London and surrounding areas.

#### **2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

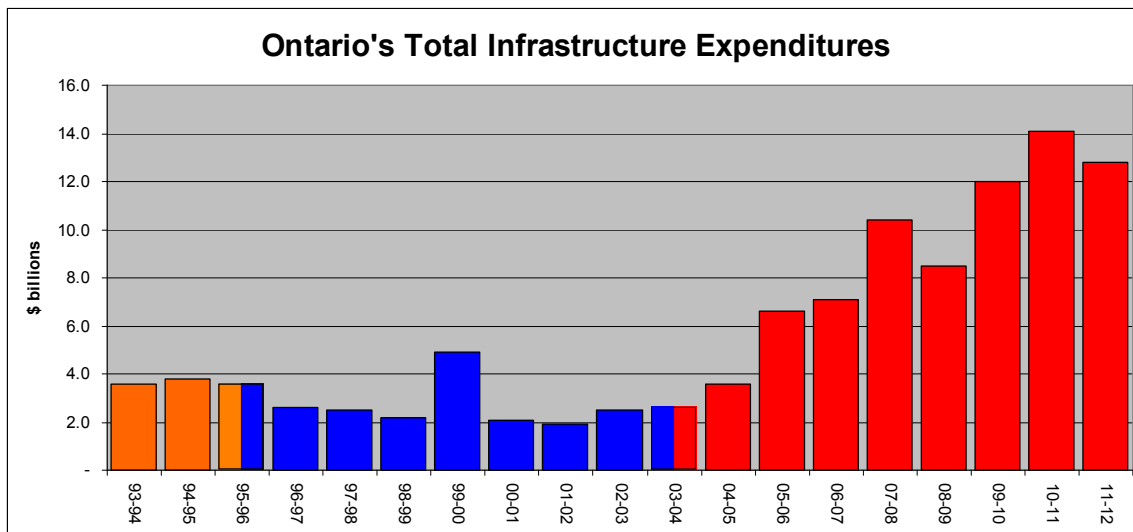
We are uploading \$2.7 billion from municipalities, freeing up room in their budgets to invest in local priorities and control property taxes. Unlike the Hudak PCs we will honour our uploading commitments, because ultimately there is only one taxpayer. We're uploading costs for seniors' drugs, court security, social assistance, public health, and public transit – with a plan to upload an additional \$500 million between now and 2018.

When the Harris-Hudak PCs were in government, they downloaded \$3 billion in costs onto municipalities – including child care, transit, housing, and public health – leading to higher property taxes and an infrastructure deficit. With the \$14 billion hole in his platform, The PCs are planning to download costs again, pushing municipalities to the brink. They have already refused to commit to completing our download, meaning \$500 million a year in new property taxes or service cuts. Recently, one of the PC candidates said that the upload will likely be stopped under a PC government.

#### **3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

The Ontario Liberals are the only party with a positive plan to improve Ontario's infrastructure, and move our province forward.

Since 2003, Ontario Liberals have made a \$62 billion infrastructure investment in Ontario communities, reversing a decade of infrastructure neglect under the PCs and the NDP. Our investments have included more than \$12 billion provided directly to municipalities to help build and repair municipal infrastructure like roads, bridges, transit, and community centres. Since 2007 alone, we have committed \$19,674,883 in funding to the City of London.



However, it isn't merely *how much* we've invested in infrastructure that sets the Ontario Liberal approach to infrastructure apart from other parties. It's also *how* we've invested. In 2005 the Ontario Liberals launched *ReNew Ontario*, the Province's first ever long-term infrastructure plan. This year, we launched *Building Together*, our second long-term plan.

Ontario's municipal partners need to know where the Province is headed, so that they can develop plans of their own. That's why long-term infrastructure planning is so important. The PCs and the NDP never had a long-term plan for infrastructure, and they still don't. In fact, the \$14 billion hole in the PC platform would mean deep cuts to healthcare and education, and a return to infrastructure neglect.

Through *Building Together* we'll invest \$35 billion in the next three years including \$12.8 this year alone. We also commit to a new Municipal Infrastructure Investment Strategy that we'll develop in partnership with municipalities and the federal government.

We are also investing in local infrastructure by improving interchanges along Highway 401 west of Highway 402. These changes will provide drivers with easier access to west London and the highway, and create 500 jobs. With support from the province, construction work will include the addition of a new interchange at Wonderland Road, a new bridge at the Veterans Memorial Parkway interchange and new ramps to allow access to south of the 401.

These improvements will support local economic growth by reducing congestion and keeping goods and services flowing. Planning and design work on the interchanges is set to begin this year.

Investing in Ontario's roads and highways is part of the Ontario Liberals' plan to create jobs, grow local economies and ensure the province remains strong and competitive for years to come.

Finally, at the recent AMO conference, we committed to a permanent, long-term municipal road and bridges fund. We call on the federal government to participate in this initiative.

Ontario Liberals are the only Party that has a strong record on infrastructure investment and we are the only Party that can be counted on to continue our strong commitment over the next decade.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

Ontario Liberals recognize that municipalities require tools to help fund local infrastructure needed to serve new growth. Development Charges are one tool that helps municipalities achieve their goals when it comes to local priorities.

We understand the concerns of municipalities as it relates to Development Charges and transit related development. We are always willing to look at proposals brought forward by municipalities – because we value the relationship we have built together. However, at this point in time, opening up the *Development Charges Act* is not something we are prioritizing. We are, however, open to looking at other ways for municipalities to generate revenue streams to fund new growth in their communities.

As mentioned above, we are committed to uploading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs. The costs that uploading will remove off of the local tax base will give municipalities extra flexibility to invest in local priorities.

Ontario Liberals have increased ongoing annual funding to municipalities every year since being elected. By 2018, our commitments to municipalities will have increased by more than 270 per cent since 2003. We have also invested more than the NDP and PCs combined when it comes to municipal infrastructure.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

Ontario Liberals recognize the importance of an integrated transportation system that focuses on all options in order to keep our economy moving. Since 2003 we have applied this approach to:

- Expand the focus of the Ministry of Transportation to include all modes of transportation, including public transit, active transportation and — in collaboration with our federal and municipal partners — areas such as marine, rail and air.
- Invest over \$10.8 billion to support public transit.

Ontario Liberals believe that the province needs effective and efficient public transit services to help foster a clean environment and a vibrant economy. We recognize that municipalities need sustainable, long-term funding support in order to introduce service improvements such as additional buses, expanded routes and improved security infrastructure.

The gas tax investment is one of our most successful initiatives — and we will continue to improve public transit across Ontario. Unlike the PCs and the NDP, Ontario Liberals have demonstrated our commitment to expanding public transit across the province. We delivered on our 2003 promise to provide two cents per litre of provincial gas tax revenues to municipalities as a source of long-term, sustainable funding for public transit. Since 2004, we have committed over \$1.9 billion in gas tax funding to 120 Ontario municipalities.

In contrast, the PCs have stated in their platform that they will dilute funding for transit by allowing gas tax funding to be spent on non-transit transportation projects. Ontario Liberals believe that gas tax funding should be spent on improving and increasing transit in Ontario. We plan to keep that revenue dedicated to improving public transit across Ontario. The NDP have provided no details in their platform about expanding transit, neglecting this important issue.

Ontario Liberals have a strong record of investing in transit. We believe in it. It is good for the economy and good for Ontario families. Ontario Liberals are the only party you can trust to invest in public transit, delivering a better system that will enable people to spend less time waiting for transit and more time with their families, and to enjoy more accessible service than ever before.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness towards taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

Ontario has a good arbitration system to resolve collective agreement issues where it is prohibited to have a work stoppage and parties cannot reach an agreement at the table. Interest arbitration guarantees that Ontario families will have 24/7 service and protection from essential services provided by our police officers and firefighters. Our government feels strongly that if negotiations come to an impasse, the arbitration process must remain strong, independent and impartial.

The PCs are not telling the full story to Ontarians when they talk about wanting to open up the legislation. Arbitrators are already required to consider the ability of municipalities to pay, the municipal and provincial economic situations and the compensation of comparable jobs in other Ontario communities. Last year, the average annual wage increase in sectors with interest arbitration was the same as the increase in private sector negotiated agreements — 2%.

Unlike the PCs, our focus is not on changing the arbitration system but, instead, on working with the parties and helping to bring them together to reach a deal at the bargaining table.

We have all seen what the results in the last two decades of the NDP and PCs swinging the pendulum from far left to far right on labour relations: confrontation and distrust. In contrast, Ontario Liberals have worked hard to bring a balanced and fair approach to labour relations. Almost 99 percent of collective bargaining negotiations in Ontario are resolved without a day lost to a strike or lock out.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

Ontario Liberals have invested more toward affordable housing than any other party. To date, we have invested more than \$2.5 billion for repairs, new construction and rent supplements. Through our investments, we have built and repaired more than 270,000 units and provided 35,000 supplements. Our investments have benefited more than 680,000 low-income Ontarians since 2003.

Ontario Liberals are the first to develop a Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and are committed to ensuring the resources are available. We recently signed an agreement with the federal government that guarantees new, four-year funding for affordable housing in Ontario (Investment in Affordable Housing — IAH). This agreement will see \$480.6 million invested in Ontario's housing stock — with \$240.3 million coming from the provincial government.

Under IAH, the City of London received \$13,673,870. We have notified service managers of their allocations so they can begin planning their projects and respond to their local needs. Service managers have the go-ahead to prepare their year-one business cases and we are prepared to flow funds and will do so as business cases are approved. This investment will improve access to affordable housing that is safe, sound and suitable for households in London and throughout our community.

Our LTAHS is the first of its kind in Ontario, providing greater flexibility to local governments so that they can create plans for housing delivery that are reflective of their unique local needs. For example, our LTAHS will enable local governments to adopt alternatives to the current chronologically based wait-list system, and will facilitate tenant transfers across wait lists or across service manager areas. Under our *Housing Services Act*, the Special Priority Policy will be clearly maintained as a provincial interest, providing priority access to rent-geared-to-income housing for victims of domestic violence.

The future of housing depends on sustained long-term funding that is fair and will help meet the needs of Ontario. We will continue to actively lobby the federal government for a long-term deal and a national housing strategy.

Ontario Liberals are the only party in this election to discuss affordable housing in our platform. The NDP does not have a concrete housing plan and has time and time again stood against our strategic investments that have helped increase our housing stock in Ontario. Meanwhile, the PCs stated that they intend "to get out of the non-profit and co-op housing business." This is consistent with their record of downloading affordable housing to local municipalities without the funding to meet housing needs.

Ontario Liberals also recognize that housing challenges are particularly prevalent among those facing mental health and addictions issues. For this reason, our recently released Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, *Open Minds, Healthy Minds*, establishes a goal of creating more resilient communities, with better alignment of housing programs with health and employment resources, particularly for youth, people who are homeless or in shelters, and long-stay psychiatric patients. This will result in more people with mental health challenges living in safe, stable homes, and fewer living in shelters and hospitals.

**8. 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? 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?**

The interaction of social assistance with other government initiatives, including affordable housing initiatives, is being looked at in the context of the Social Assistance Review. Through the Review, we are listening to Ontarians to determine how we can make our programs more responsive to the people who need help and to provide more opportunities for them to take part in their communities and the economy. The Commissioners will be releasing their final report next summer, and we look forward to seeing the recommendations. We remain committed to providing low-income families with a pathway out of poverty and assisting families to move from social assistance to employment more easily. Non-profit and co-operative housing providers play an important role in providing affordable



housing to Ontarians. Ontario Liberals look forward to continuing to work with our housing stakeholders and other levels of government to identify opportunities to help create affordable housing.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g. financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to Extended Producer Responsibility. Many jurisdictions across Canada and around the world have widespread acceptance of the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility — or EPR — as an integral component of any successful waste management strategy. We are continuously making progress and striving for improvements to our existing EPR programs:

- The Blue Box program is delivered through municipalities and partially funded by producers.
- We have an electronic or e-waste program that is creating growing awareness of the importance of recycling the many electronic products we use every day from computers to printers to televisions. Currently, the program has diverted 63,000 tons of e-waste.
- We have a program for used tires that has diverted 25 million tires and is bringing in new business, innovation and jobs in the green economy. As a result of the program several companies have established processing facilities in Ontario.

We also believe that it makes sense that the companies that design and sell the products that eventually wind up as waste should play a bigger part in the recovery, recycling or managing of these products and that packaging. Ontario Liberals are committed to a national discussion on recycling, packaging and roles of industry as part of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

While there are many different approaches to EPR, we are looking to find approaches that meet the unique needs of Ontario businesses and families alike. We will continue to draw on the best ideas from producers, manufacturers, retailers and other partners about how best to move forward.

Ontario Liberals are the only party to articulate a comprehensive waste vision that connects the environment and the economy and will layout a smart waste policy based on the principles of EPR.

The PCs position on waste is to make municipal taxpayers, rather than polluters, pay the costs of disposal. The NDP has promised \$2.8 billion in wasteful subsidies for fossil fuels, suggesting they do not understand the need to ensure that those who generate environmentally harmful products pay the costs that these products impose on society.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

As set out in the 2009 Ontario budget, Ontario's public service bodies (i.e., municipalities, hospitals, universities, colleges, school boards, charities and qualifying non-profit organizations) would be able to claim rebates for the provincial portion of the single sales tax, so that the net effect of the tax on each sector would be fiscally neutral relative to the amount of PST currently paid by these sectors. As with the GST, the rebates would be a percentage of the tax paid.

As a result of this rebate, municipalities are not paying any more sales tax under the HST than they did under the old PST.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

Ontario Liberals are committed to an accessible Ontario by 2025 – and we want to get it right. We are committed to uploading the costs that were forced onto the backs of the municipal sector by the PCs and the costs that this exercise will remove off of the local tax base will provide municipalities with more capacity and flexibility to invest in their communities, including more accessible services.

People with disabilities have long been faced with barriers that limit their abilities as individuals and limit our strength as a province. We must move forward. Improving accessibility is good for business and good for our economy. With an aging population, organizations that improve accessibility will gain a competitive advantage. Every year in Canada, people with disabilities spend about \$25 billion. That is a market no one can afford to overlook.

We are phasing-in implementation over several years through to 2025 to allow organizations the flexibility to plan and make improvements over time. Where it makes sense, we are streamlining requirements across standards to reduce costs and minimize burden. We are committed to supporting the public and private sectors in meeting the requirements by offering educational tools and resource materials to help organizations understand and meet accessibility requirements.

The AODA represents a real culture change in the way accessibility issues are addressed in Ontario and we have worked closely with municipalities, businesses, advocates and disability communities to find the right balance. Leading change is not always easy, but we know that a more accessible Ontario is not only the smart thing to do — it is the right thing to do.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiative of municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

The War of 1812 Bicentennial offers a unique opportunity to showcase Ontario's rich heritage while promoting tourism and local economic growth. Ontario Liberals recognize that this event will enrich Ontarians' lives and attract visitors from across Ontario, Canada and the United States. We have invested over \$32M in improving and enhancing War of 1812 heritage sites and \$1.6M for bicentennial culture projects and initiatives within the arts, heritage and library sectors. We are also pleased to have specifically supported the Western Corridor War of 1812 Bicentennial Alliance by providing over \$1.4M to the seven regional groups who are planning and developing 1812 activities across Ontario.

Ontario Liberals are committed to continuing to work with our regional heritage and tourism partners to celebrate this event.

We support the celebration of Ontario's arts and culture through Culture Days. Ontario agencies such as the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Heritage Trust are partners and supporters of Culture Days in Ontario and specifically Celebrate the Artist Weekend. Ontario Liberals will continue to support Culture Days recognizing that this event brings awareness of arts and culture to local communities.

**Gary Brown – Green Party of Ontario London-West** - no response as of noon  
Sunday September 18

**Jeff Buchanan – New Democratic Party of Ontario London-West**

**1. How will you and your Party work with municipalities to create prosperity, support local economic initiatives, innovation, and community development?**

The NDP will continue to work in partnership with municipalities to build strong and vibrant communities. Along with my New Democrat colleagues, I am committed to close and regular consultation with municipalities and their municipal associations. I will work in cooperative partnership to ensure that there is support for initiatives that require all three levels of government to be involved. We will implement targeted tax credits and tax cuts to help local businesses succeed (e.g. tax credits for new capital investment and training, a Job Creation Tax Credit that will apply to *all* new hires, and a one-half percent cut in the small business tax). We will make it the law that Ontario's money is spent here in Ontario to create good jobs. We will control costs and put more money in people's pockets by removing the HST from hydro, heating and gasoline so they can spend more in their local communities. And we will increase transfers to municipalities for transit, roads and housing to ensure that the infrastructure and services are in place to support economic growth.

**2. How will you and your Party support the ongoing implementation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR) as a measure to restore the provincial-municipal fiscal imbalance in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner? Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?**

Yes. It makes no sense that municipalities should be on the hook financially for programs they don't control. The Ontario NDP and I support the ongoing implementation of recommendations of the PMFSDR. We will match the current provincial-municipal cost sharing arrangements and uploading schedule. We will also split transit operating costs 50/50. And we make a commitment not to download the cost of hazardous household waste disposal onto municipalities, or consumers in the form of eco-fees

**3. What are you and your Party prepared to do to maintain and support provincial and federal**

**investment in municipal infrastructure? How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?**

Municipalities face a significant funding infrastructure funding gap. We will proceed with the committed \$35 billion in infrastructure investments over the next three years. In addition to the increased transit funds mentioned above (which should help free up funding for municipal investments in transit capital), we will introduce a new three-year dedicated fund that will provide \$70 million annually to help municipalities with road and bridge repair. I also think it important to recognize that infrastructure includes not only roads, sewers, bridges and the like, but also recreational infrastructure like arenas, soccer fields, and other facilities that encourage healthy living and build healthy communities.

**4. Will you and your Party commit to an early review of the Development Charges Act to remove some of the statutory exemptions and other barriers to full funding of growth related costs and to explicitly ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue?**

We will review the development act to ensure that development pays for itself. And we will start by removing the discount that developers get to recover their costs related to recreation services, library services, old age homes, space for child care, health department services, and ambulance stations. It is important to remember that these "recovery costs" are ultimately a burden placed on individual taxpayers. Development must pay for itself.

We are committed to preventing urban sprawl. City services become much less efficient and more costly when we have excessive sprawl. Similarly, provincial service delivery of education and health becomes much more costly with urban sprawl. We will put an end to government backroom deals to exempt developers from growth limits, such as those set out in the Greenbelt Act, and we will balance the playing field when it comes to new development by putting an end to developer "SLAPP" lawsuits used to silence local opposition to mega-projects. It is important that community input is encouraged and respected in growth planning and mega-projects.

**5. How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding? How will that plan be implemented, including timing? What is your Party's position for working in partnership with Federal and Municipal officials supporting a specific transit initiative of a municipality, e.g. Bus Rapid Transit?**

As mentioned in questions 2 & 3, we will invest an extra \$375 million over and above the 2 cents/litre gas tax. We will take on half of the after fare-box cost of operating municipal transit systems for municipalities that agree to freeze their transit fees. We will also invest in new transit projects and upgrades for public transit systems. This may include investments in projects like light rail. (I fully support London in calling for a high speed rail corridor). We will make the 2 cents/litre provincial gas tax transit allocation permanent. And we will allot \$70 million to our annual budget for funding roads and bridges.

**6. Will you and your Party implement a new arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, recognizes the limits of the municipal public purse, the relationship between the municipalities and their employee groups, in particular the emergency service workers, and reflects relevant comparator groups and labour market conditions in individual communities?**

This has been a prominent issue in London recently and I do recognize some of the concerns. However, I believe that the independence of arbitrators from government is crucial to the collective bargaining process. I do not believe that imposing conditions on arbitrators is a simple solution. Broad consultations with both the municipalities and their employees would need to be undertaken before any reform could be considered.

**7. Will you and your Party work with the City of London to develop a 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 as identified in the City of London's position paper entitled "Towards a Community Addiction and Mental Health Strategy for the City of London"? Will you and your Party agree to approve and release capital commitments for new affordable housing units?**

A long-term commitment to building housing is needed to allow housing providers to effectively plan

and implement affordable housing projects. For too long, housing policy in Ontario has been driven by Ottawa – with the province simply following the federal government’s lead. The NDP recognizes the need for stable and predictable funding and supports long-term funding the expansion of affordable housing.

Our plan will include long term targets for the creation of new affordable housing. And we will provide access to low-cost financing for renovations and retrofit measures to make maintaining a household budget more affordable.

We will proceed with our long term commitment whether or not the Federal government joins as in a partner. However, we will work with our Federal NDP counterparts to put pressure on the federal government to develop, fund and implement a national affordable housing strategy. And of course the affordability measures we have introduced in our platform, such as taking the HST off of electricity and heating bills, will help all families.

**8. 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? 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?**

I recognize the challenges in securing funding for repairs that face cooperatives and non-profit housing. I can say without hesitation that both current shelter allowances and legislated rent scales are inadequate to meet the financial needs of cooperatives or families in need of housing assistance. Ontario's NDP will be making an announcement addressing this in the near future.

**9. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?**

Both the Ontario NDP and the federal NDP strongly support extended producer responsibility. We are the only party to call for stronger oversight of the industry-run system, to call for stronger targets for diversion, and penalties to companies who fail to achieve diversion.

We will complete the long-stalled review of the Waste Reduction Act, making sure that the cost of recycling and safely disposing materials is the responsibility of the companies that produce the products so they don't end up on property tax bills or as an eco-fee.

New Democrats believe we need, in part, to refocus attention on reducing waste in the first place, and ways to promote reuse of products – both of which are more cost-effective and environmentally benign than recycling.

We will strengthen regulations to reduce over packaging in cooperation with other jurisdictions. There are private sector business interests in London already, who have developed packaging waste reduction alternatives and such measures can lead to job creation opportunities.

**10. Will you and your Party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for municipalities?**

Ontario's NDP will be providing significant relief from the HST to Ontario citizens and municipalities alike by removing the HST from home heating and hydro, and by lowering the HST on gasoline. In addition to putting more money in Londoners' pockets, it will also help London directly as the HST reduction on gasoline will lead to lower municipal fuel costs for London's vehicle fleet. We do not plan further exemptions from the HST at this time.

**11. The City of London is supportive of the objectives of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). How will you and your Party address the question of sustainable implementation and funding which must accompany the new standards?**

I support the implementation of the AODA to make our communities inclusive of all people. New Democrats are however concerned that the lack of coordination in releasing the various standards has prevented municipalities from fully understanding the costs and implications of these standards. We are committed to working closely with municipalities to find ways to address the challenges of implementing the standards.

**12. How will you and your Party continue to be supportive of the cultural initiatives of**

## **municipalities such as the War of 1812 Celebrations and Culture Days?**

London is a uniquely diverse community and it is wonderful how we are able to celebrate that diversity with numerous festivals and other initiatives throughout the year. Whether it is the Sunfest, Pride, or Home County Folk Festival, or cultural festival such as the Polish Festival or Mexican Fiesta, or special celebrations such as the War of 1812 Bi-Centennial, it is important that funding continue to be available to support such activities through the Trillium Fund. Not only do these activities contribute to the quality of life in our community, they also have significant economic benefits for tourism and businesses in our community. Along with my family, I look forward to many of these events every year and I look forward to helping them prosper.

## **Ali Chahbar – Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario London-West**

Thank you for your letter and for sharing your survey with our campaign.

During the last eight years, life has become unaffordable for too many families. Surprise new taxes have taken repeated bites out of the family budget. Expensive energy experiments have sent hydro bills skyrocketing. The provincial government has become too big, too bureaucratic, and too meddlesome in municipal affairs.

We need to bring change to Ontario. *Changebook* is our party's commitment to Ontario families should we form government on October 6th. It's been built from conversations with families at coffee shops and hockey arenas; on the phone through email, Twitter and Facebook; and our unprecedented Have Your Say Ontario survey.

And it comes from conversations we've had with community leaders like you.

You deserve a partner that gives you clear rules and honest answers. Local governments have a difficult job to do, balancing demographics, demand for services, and tax bases. Given the challenges of recent years, you've had to make tough choices.

A reliable partner at Queen's Park is absolutely crucial for you to set your own budgets and properly plan for the future. For nearly eight years Dalton McGuinty handed out unsustainable collective agreements that set the benchmark for arbitration with your public sector unions. Even while Ontario is saddled with record deficits and a struggling economy, arbitrators are still awarding unions excessive contracts that far exceed what municipalities can afford. Ontario needs change.

The arbitration system is badly broken. I will ensure public sector agreements reflect the ability of families to pay the bills. I will bring more transparency and accountability to the arbitration system, requiring arbitrators to justify their decisions to you and your constituents. And I will provide you with clear and tight timeframes that you can count on. Long, drawn out negotiations are not fair to the workers, they're not fair to municipalities, and they're not fair to Ontario families.

When it comes to stable infrastructure spending, for the past eight years all we've seen are backtracks, flip flops and U-turns from the McGuinty Liberals. The same infrastructure projects get announced, reannounced, and sometimes re-re-announced –but never built.

This kind of uncertainty will come to an end under an Ontario PC government. We will be a partner you can trust. Unlike Dalton McGuinty, we will not try to be all things to all people or make promises we know we won't keep.

On the subject of provincial gas tax funding allocation, we will fix the broken provincial gas tax program and give every municipality access to provincial gas tax funds. We will ensure that no municipality receives less funding, but more importantly that no municipality gets left out or left behind. I will end Dalton McGuinty's practice of making value judgments and let you spend more on your transportation priorities, whether it is a road, a bridge, or a bus.

You also raised the issue of development charges.

The last thing Ontario needs is yet another new tax. At a time when families are struggling just to get by, and the Canadian dream of home ownership is out of reach to more and more young families, we simply cannot afford to put even more new taxes on homes.

I believe it's the government's role to create the right conditions for the private sector to succeed, to create jobs – and then get out of the way. That means getting the fundamentals right, principles like reducing red tape, providing reliable and affordable energy, and competitive tax rates.

For eight years, the McGuinty Liberals have chipped away at your authority to decide what's best for your communities. From overriding your Official Plans to freezing prime land because puddles sometimes form there when it rains to forcing massive industrial wind farms where they're not wanted – local councils have been robbed of a say over what happens in their communities.

Even in the face of strenuous local objections, and more than 70 municipalities passing resolutions, Dalton McGuinty continues to plough ahead with giant industrial wind farms without any consultation with local councils or residents.

To me, it makes no sense that you have the power to say where a local hot dog stand or 7-Eleven goes but not industrial wind turbines – the height of 40-storey buildings – that are built over hundreds of acres of prime agricultural land.

It's unfair. It's undemocratic. And under a Tim Hudak government it will end. Our government will restore the local decision making powers that were stripped away by the McGuinty Liberals and the Green Energy Act.

I believe the secret to good government comes from respecting your partners, keeping your word, sticking to a budget, and staying true to your principles. That's the kind of partner I will be.

To read more about the change we're proposing for Ontario families, I encourage you to visit [www.changebook.ca](http://www.changebook.ca)

Sincerely,  
Tim Hudak, Ontario PC Leader

**Tim Hodges – Freedom Party of Ontario London-West**

You can find all of Freedom Party's 2011 election planks at:  
<http://www.freedomparty.on.ca/2011election/2011electionplanks/2011electionplanks.htm>