

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 25, 2015</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC INNOVATION</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>2015 FEDERAL ELECTION</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That, on the recommendation of the Director of Community and Economic Innovation, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the 2015 Federal General Election:

- a) The Mayor **BE REQUESTED** to forward a letter to all candidates in each of the four London ridings in the 2015 Federal General Election for a written response to the questions in Appendix B;
- b) The responses received from the candidates **BE PLACED** on the City of London's website as soon as they are received for information.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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- Finance and Administration Committee – May 4, 2011 – 2011 Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire Responses
- Finance and Administration Committee – March 30, 2011 – 2011 Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire
- Board of Control Report – October 8, 2008 – Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire Responses
- Board of Control Report – September 10, 2008 - 2008 Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire
- Board of Control, November 22, 2006 - Federal By-Election Candidate Questionnaire Responses
- Board of Control – November 1, 2006 – Federal By-Election Candidate Questionnaire
- Board of Control – January 18, 2006 – Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire Responses
- City Council Report – December 19, 2005 – Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire
- Board of Control – December 14, 2005 – Federal Election Candidate Questionnaire

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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The 2015 Federal Election is an opportunity for municipalities to advocate on issues affecting communities across Canada. Over the past year, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has consulted local governments and citizens across Canada about what issues matter to them leading into the election. The feedback from this process has informed FCM's 2015 Federal Election Platform "Strengthening Canada's Hometowns" (attached as Appendix A).

FCM's 2015 Federal Election Platform focuses in five specific areas:

- Local jobs and growth
- Livable communities
- Safe cities and communities
- Environmentally sustainable cities and communities
- Global municipal connections

In previous federal elections, the City of London has conducted a questionnaire about municipal issues for candidates running in the four London ridings (North Centre, London West, London-Fanshawe, and Elgin-Middlesex-London). The purpose of this questionnaire is to seek candidates' perspectives on issues affecting the City of London's and Canadian municipalities generally. The responses have been collected, posted on the City of London website, and reported to Council prior to the election. No analysis is conducted of the responses, as this process is nonpartisan and instead is intended to encourage debate and awareness concerning the municipal/federal relationship and its impact on the City of London.

As an example, the Ontario 2014 Provincial Election questionnaires are currently available online, and to date this page has been accessed 761 times:

[www.london.ca/About-London/provincial-election/Pages/City-of-London-Questionnaire.aspx](http://www.london.ca/About-London/provincial-election/Pages/City-of-London-Questionnaire.aspx)

This report recommends that a similar questionnaire be conducted for the 2015 Federal General Election now set for October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. It is proposed that the questionnaire attached in Appendix B be circulated via a letter from the Mayor to all London federal candidates. Web links to background material will be made available. The questionnaire is organized into the five priority areas identified by FCM, with questions written to be specific to the City of London and Southwestern Ontario. The questionnaire has been shortened from previous years, to make it more candidate and reader friendly.

Should Council approved this recommendation, all responses will be collected, posted to the City website as they are received, and reported to the Corporate Services Committee. If possible, the report will also be tabled at a committee meeting prior to the election. A communication's strategy is being developed to promote the results of the questionnaire. Candidate responses will also be kept on file as background materials for future discussion with London's area Members of Parliament following the election.

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>
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<b>KRISTEN PAWELEC SPECIALIST, COMMUNITY REPORTING AND PLANNING</b>	

cc. Senior Leadership Team

## **Appendix A**

See attached PDF [Strengthening Canada's Hometowns.](#)

## **Appendix B**

### **City of London Candidate Questionnaire 2015 Canadian Federal Election**

#### **Local Jobs and Growth**

1. How will you and your Party commit to strengthening the regional economy of Southwest Ontario and specifically the London area?
2. What are you and your Party prepared to do to support and enhance dedicated funding for municipal infrastructure programs?
3. Will you and your Party support permanent dedicated funding for municipal public transit projects?

#### **Livable Communities**

4. Will you and your Party maintain Canada's existing federal affordable housing programs and agreements and build on programs that provide housing support and reduce homelessness?

#### **Safe Cities and Communities**

5. Will you and your Party support municipalities in ensuring safe communities through efforts such as the development of a new approach to funding policing in Canada and new investments in emergency response and disaster mitigation?

#### **Environmentally Sustainable Cities and Communities**

6. How will you and your Party ensure municipalities are supported in environmental sustainability efforts such as responding and adapting to climate change?

#### **Global Municipal Connections**

7. How will you and your Party involve municipal governments as partners to advance municipal engagement in the international arena?
8. What other actions will you and your Party take to strengthen the competitiveness, prosperity, and quality of life of Canada's cities and local municipal governments?