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TO:	MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 30, 2013
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT:	AUGUST 1, 2013 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE/UPDATE TO CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director of Intergovernmental and Community Liaison, the following information report on the August 1st Ontario Provincial London West By-Election Candidate Questionnaire **BE RECEIVED**.

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

BACKGROUND

At the Corporate Services Committee Meeting on July 23, Civic Administration reported that they had contacted all candidates running in the August 1st, 2013 Provincial London West By-Election to determine candidates' responses on a number of questions relating to the provincial relationship with municipalities, as set out in Schedule 1. As noted in the Corporate Services Committee report, due to the short time frame, the candidate responses would be reported directly to City Council at its meeting on July 30th. The responses have also been distributed electronically to members of council on July 23rd. All candidate responses that have been received are attached in Schedule 1.

PREPARED & RECOMMENDED BY:
GRANT HOPCROFT DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON



SCHEDULE 1 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

Gary Brown – Green Party of Ontario

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

The Green Party of Ontario will work with municipalities to foster prosperous local economies and resilient communities.

The Green Party will fight for policies to help small businesses and entrepreneurs to create jobs and generate wealth that stays in our communities. Our priority is lower taxes on new jobs by lowering payroll taxes on small and new businesses. Specifically, the GPO would raise the exemption level for the Employer Health Tax from \$400,000 to \$800,000 in payroll. We would also reduce red tape for small and medium-sized businesses so they continue to create jobs that support our communities. This can be best achieved with smart regulations that take the size of a business into account when developing compliance procedures.

The Green Party also supports government purchasing programs that support local businesses and sustainable procurement. We also support buy local campaigns. The GPO will oppose trade deals that restrict municipalities from implementing local purchasing programs.

The GPO believes Ontario's economic strategy should encourage investment where the is going, not where it is. We support an investment tax credit for clean technology innovation to support business development and job creation in emerging industries.

1b) How will you and your party work with the City of London to service new industrial (employment) lands in the London Highway 401 corridor?

If there is a proven need for servicing industrial lands and a proven demand for such lands then the GPO would work with the city of London to ensure such servicing is done in an efficient manner. Any such development should protect prime farmland. Food and farming is the largest employer in the province and essential to Southwestern Ontario's economy.

2a) 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?

The GPO will support the review of the fiscal situation. We must keep in mind that there is only one taxpayer and it does matter to them which level of government is reaching into their pocket. The silos we place around taxation are purely political as costs that re uploaded or downloaded are still born by the same taxpayer.

2b) 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 is committed to uploading costs. Please see previous comments about taxpayers. Whether the official cost is born by the province or the city it is the same taxpayer that is paying it. What is most important is that the decisions are made by local front line providers. They have the most experience in how to spend taxpayer money most effectively to provide these crucial services.

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

The GPO support infrastructure renewal, and will be honest with citizens about the need for revenue to fund infrastructure. The GPO is opposed to inefficient development like urban sprawl that places a heavy cost burden on taxpayers and threatens prime farmland.

The GPO supports the development of efficient, walkable communities linked by transit. We would dedicate 2% of the transportation budget for municipalities to invest in cycling and walking infrastructure. We support dedicated revenue tools to fund public transit and rail infrastructure.



Response from Gary Brown continued

The GPO supports the call for the inclusion of green infrastructure in the province's definition of infrastructure for funding purposes.

3b) Are you and your Party prepared to implement the commitment within the Southern Highways Plan for 401 interchange improvements in the London area?

The GPO is committed to reducing gridlock. Gridlock currently costs the Ontario economy over \$6 billion per year in lost productivity. History has shown that encouraging more sprawl through programs like the 401 interchange leads to more gridlock and hurts local businesses. The GPO will prioritize investing in transit and better rail service. And we will support local businesses by encouraging investment in our downtowns and main streets.

3c) How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?

The GPO will prioritize infrastructure investment to focus on those projects that support smart planning. London's recent rewriting of its water and sewer charges are an example of what should be done to promote conservation, efficiency and sustainability. As I have said at city hall, I fully support and commend London for such a forward thinking policy.

4a) How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding?

The GPO supports dedicated revenue tools to fund public transit. We support using gas tax revenue to fund public transit in communities across the province. We would dedicate 2% of the transportation budget for municipalities to invest in cycling and walking infrastructure. We would encourage cities to use the federal gas tax money for the same purpose as Toronto has.

4b) How will that plan be implemented, including timing?

This would be an immediate priority for the GPO

4c) 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?

The GPO supports transit projects as a crucial need for the design of world class cities. As your MPP I would work tirelessly, as I have locally, to see London's Smart Move vision come true.

4d) What is your Party's position with respect to the application of revenue tools recommended in the Metrolinx report to regions outside the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area?

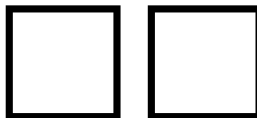
The Green Party does not support revenue tools that require other regions of the province to fund transit in the GTHA.

Ontario needs new, innovative dedicated revenue tools to fund transit expansion. The Green Party supports dedicated revenue tools that both fund transit and also serve as demand management tools by providing market incentives that reduce congestion.

By incorporating the cost of congestion into driving, people will have an incentive to choose alternate transportation options. These alternatives include transit as well as carpooling, telecommuting, walking or cycling.

The Green Party supports a mix of revenue tools that would generate over \$2 billion per year. We support land value taxation, congestion charges, road tolls, gas taxes, and/or additional parking fees. This revenue would be put in a dedicated transit fund to help pay for transit expansion in the GTHA and across Ontario, including London.

Along with the dedicated funding the GPO would look at all options to fund transit as great transit is a key to great cities.



Response from Gary Brown continued

5. 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?

Yes. As I have said many times at city hall and have heard echoed by some councilors, development should pay for development. I applaud the city of London in its review of development charges. Specifically in looking at zonal development charges to end the current reality of infill development DC's subsidizing greenfield development. The GPO would ensure municipalities are the beneficiaries of new sources of revenue provided development is done efficiently and sustainably to protect ratepayers now and in the future.

6a) Will you and your Party implement reform of the interest arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, considers the fiscal health of the community in arbitration decisions and provides transparent and accountable decisions?

Yes. It is essential that arbitration decisions are fair, transparent and accountable. It is important for arbitrators to take into consideration the ability of municipalities to pay while also respecting the rights of workers. I support consultation, not confrontation, with all stakeholders in designing a fairer, more transparent and accountable system.

6b) In addressing this issue, will you and your Party provide a system that 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?

Yes. Pretty well covered in the previous response.

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?

Yes. How we take care of those who need it the most is critical to all of us as a society. Affordable housing and social housing is the key to breaking out of the poverty cycle. With mental illness and domestic violence still prevalent in Ontario it is critical that we provide the support needed to the most vulnerable. The GPO has called for the government to stop spending \$1 billion per year to subsidize electricity prices for the wealthy and use those funds to support our most vulnerable citizens.

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?

Affordable housing is essential to eliminating poverty in Ontario. The GPO supports innovative solutions to this issue. We support inclusionary zoning legislation that would require developers to include a percentage of affordable housing in any new development project. This would increase the availability of affordable housing and foster integrated communities. The GPO supports raising the maximum shelter allowance to reflect the market. It is important for Ontario to provide all citizens with dignity. raising the housing allowance to suit the market in order for our most venerable to have good housing. The costs of shelters is very high and it makes economic and moral sense to provide housing and dignity to everyone.

9. Will you and your Party provide municipalities with tools for the collection of \$1 billion in unpaid Provincial Offences Act fines?

Yes.



Response from Gary Brown continued

10. Will you and your Party work with municipalities to develop a clean, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity, natural gas vehicle fuel systems combining appropriate roles for conservation, renewable energy, innovation, research and incentives?

Yes the GPO will support and make it easier for cities to enable PACE programs.

Conservation is the cheapest and greenest solution to our energy needs. The GPO will re-establish and expand the popular and successful Home Energy Savings Program.

After the government has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars on gas plants, the GPO will find for an independent review of costs and alternatives to the government's plans to spend billions on new nuclear plants. In Ontario's history no nuclear plant has come in on budget or on time.

The GPO will provide support for Co Generation energy plants such as London District Energy and support for district energy grids as we have in London to provide enterprise zones that create employment.

11. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of the recently proposed Waste Reduction Act (WRA) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?

Absolutely. Transferring the cost of waste to producers and users and away from municipalities has always been a key part of our platform.

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

Yes. But the GPO may use this tool to promote local purchasing.

13. What is your Party's position with respect to an integrated early learning, child care and education system for children, youth and families?

The GPO fully supports integrated early learning and child care. The Quebec model for child care is outstanding and would provide the framework for this.

Ali Chahbar, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

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

Our work with municipalities focuses on building strong communities. We want to help those who are looking for work to have the choice between finding new opportunities that makes use of their valuable skills and experience, or starting a business of their own. This will require urgent action on a number of fronts, but most importantly getting the economic fundamentals right and balancing the books. Our municipality's problem isn't a lack of highly skilled employees who are eager to work and grow our economy. We just need a business environment where the number of employers and private sector jobs are growing again, not shrinking.

1b) How will you and your party work with the City of London to service new industrial (employment) lands in the London Highway 401 corridor?

As referenced in our latest white paper, *Advanced Manufacturing for a Better Ontario*, we think Ontario can bring the future of manufacturing to our province. We'd use predictable energy rates to ensure that businesses can operate in a city like London without fear of skyrocketing hydro prices affecting their long-term strategy.

2a) 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?



Response from Ali Chahbar continued

It's important for the province to treat municipalities with the respect they deserve. That's why we've introduced legislation like the Capacity to Pay Act. We need to empower municipalities in order to ensure that municipal leaders can balance their books and anticipate costs. We want arbitrators to make decisions that reflect ability-to-pay, without the need for tax increases to fund settlements, adhere to defined timelines for handing down decisions, and through that, enable local governments to stick to their budget planning schedules.

2b) 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?

Our party is committed to uploading, but not on the Liberal timeline. We need to address the debt and deficit that are choking off economic development, and threatening our ability to invest in programs that matter to Ontarians.

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

We can all agree that infrastructure investment is important. That's why we need to get our house in order at Queen's Park. Runaway deficit and debt threaten our ability to invest in vital infrastructure projects that form the backbone of our community. And we need to make informed, smart decisions about how and when to invest. Kathleen Wynne's government has shown that it's not capable of those decisions, constantly putting the short-term needs of the Liberal Party ahead of the long-term needs of the province and its people.

3b) Are you and your Party prepared to implement the commitment within the Southern Highways Plan for 401 interchange improvements in the London area?

The 401 interchange project is important for Ontario's highway network and for London. We need to ensure that Ontario's finances are in order, so that we can pay for these projects. Only by eliminating waste and mismanagement can we guarantee important infrastructure upgrades, which could have been paid for by the billions wasted in the gas plant and eHealth scandals.

3c) How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?

We're happy to work with partners at all levels of government and in the private sector to ensure that tax dollars are used in a respectful, productive way. We need to ensure that the infrastructure we build is part of a long-term plan, not some snap political decision at the last minute of an election campaign.

4a) How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding?

Improved public transit will keep this province moving. The Liberals have had ten years to improve transit in our region. Recognizing the impact of gridlock on urban municipalities across the province, we want to work with municipal partners to ensure results. With regards to the provincial gas tax, the Ontario PC's currently have a bill before the legislature that would allow all municipalities (not just those with transit systems) access to gas tax revenue and the power to decide which transportation infrastructure projects are deserving of the funds (roads, bridges etc..).

4b) How will that plan be implemented, including timing?

Any plan for improving transit will be dependent on how quickly we can identify inefficiencies and waste. We will work with municipalities to ensure their needs are met, and that long-term plans are put in place to best serve the population of our city.

4c) 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?

Good transportation systems and roads are critical to creating new jobs and a stronger economy. We are open to projects that would keep this province moving, and open to working with partners at all levels of government to ensure gridlock is reduced. If elected, I will pursue transit and road projects that reduce gridlock and give families more time at home together.

**Response from Ali Chahbar continued****4d) What is your Party's position with respect to the application of revenue tools recommended in the Metrolinx report to regions outside the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area?**

Metrolinx wants to pile \$2 billion in taxes onto Ontario's taxpayers. We strongly believe that the \$2 billion Metrolinx has proposed can be found by reducing waste and inefficiency in the provincial government. Ontario taxpayers are already shouldering a heavy tax burden, so before we commit to new taxes to support infrastructure projects, we need to end the overspending on wasteful things like eHealth, Ornge and cancelling gas plants.

5. 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 know that a growing economy will create more tax revenue for all levels of government. That's why we need to get this province's house in order. At a time when families in our province are struggling just to get by and home ownership is beyond the reach of many young families, we simply cannot afford to put even more new taxes on homes. We need to get the fundamentals right: reducing red tape, providing reliable and affordable energy, and competitive tax rates.

6a) Will you and your Party implement reform of the interest arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, considers the fiscal health of the community in arbitration decisions and provides transparent and accountable decisions?

The Ontario PC's have consistently called for changes to our province's broken arbitration system. We recognize that employee compensation makes up the biggest single expense for most municipal governments. Without control of that, municipal leaders can't control their budgets. Our current arbitration system forces municipalities to either cut important public services to pay for employees, or to gouge taxpayers. That's not fair and it's something we will seek to address.

6b) In addressing this issue, will you and your Party provide a system that 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?

See above answer

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?

We all want London to be a great place for people to start and raise a family. But under the Liberals, the waitlist for affordable housing continues to grow. We should help those people who are unable to buy a home of their own and rely on the support of the government. This is why we've spent so much time talking about living within our means. A consequence of 10 years of reckless overspending is that the types of services we value are put at risk.

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 "one size fits all" approach for social services doesn't work, because not all social welfare recipients face the same challenges. We would implement user-centered funding of social assistance requirements, to ensure resources and efforts are concentrated on each recipient.



Response from Ali Chahbar continued

One of the ways we can innovate in this sector is through the implementation of social impact bonds. That model would allow Ontarians to invest in successful programs in each of their communities, while reducing the burden on taxpayers and improving results for recipients.

9. Will you and your Party provide municipalities with tools for the collection of \$1 billion in unpaid *Provincial Offences Act* fines?

Ontario must do everything in its power to ensure fines are paid, and work with municipalities to make sure they have the tools to collect fines. This isn't just a revenue issue, it's an issue of provincial law enforcement. In the last election, we committed to work with municipalities to collect those fines by giving them the tools to find serial offenders. The Liberals waited until their 9th budget to take any action on this file, which AMO, the OAPSB and the Drummond Report had already flagged as a major concern.

10. Will you and your Party work with municipalities to develop a clean, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity, natural gas vehicle fuel systems combining appropriate roles for conservation, renewable energy, innovation, research and incentives?

As laid out in our white paper, *Paths to Prosperity – Affordable Energy*, we believe that affordable energy is a cornerstone of economic growth. If Ontario keeps driving its power rates up with expensive energy subsidies, we'll keep losing jobs and employers. The Ontario PC's are committed to ensuring that future wind and solar projects are subject to tests like demand assessment, competitive bidding and local approval. We want to provide consumers more renewable offerings through their electricity bill or online by making it easier to choose green energy from private sector retailers voluntarily.

11. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of the recently proposed Waste Reduction Act (WRA) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?

Since the Liberals created the first eco-taxes in 2008, the Ontario PC's have demanded that those needless levies be scrapped. Over the last five years, the Liberals have forced consumers to pick up the tab for recycling tires, electronics, paint cans and batteries. The Liberals have left Ontario's recycling rate stalled at 23 per cent for more than a decade.

The Ontario PC's would return government to its true role as the regulator and allow the private sector to manage its own recycling. Under our plan, government would set measurable and achievable recycling targets, establish environmental standards and measure outcomes.

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

The Liberals have racked up record debt and deficits. Simply put, we cannot commit to this without knowing the true state of the province's finances and we need to keep in mind the \$30 billion hole Dalton McGuinty and Kathleen Wynne have left for taxpayers and their families.

13. What is your Party's position with respect to an integrated early learning, child care and education system for children, youth and families?

We believe in providing Ontario's children with the best education possible, in order to ensure this province's bright young minds have every advantage. But Liberal waste and mismanagement puts at risk all those programs that matter to our families. We need to get the provincial debt and deficit under control, in order to safeguard our education system.



Ken Coran, Ontario Liberal Party

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

The Ontario Liberal Party's 2013 Budget, A Fair and Prosperous Ontario, focuses on supporting our communities so that they can thrive. The Ontario Liberal's plan for jobs and growth builds on strong economic fundamentals supported by government policy and investments in six key areas:

1. **competitive business climate** — supporting a competitive tax system and effective regulation promotes new business investment for job creation and economic growth;
2. **modern infrastructure** — investing in local transit, roads, schools and hospitals is a key foundation for a productive economy;
3. **highly skilled workforce** — investing in skills and education, as well as youth employment, ensures the people of this province can work and prosper;
4. **promoting entrepreneurship and innovation** — strengthening Ontario's ability to transform ideas into innovative goods and services for the global economy;
5. **going global** — working with business to expand market access for goods and services beyond Ontario's borders to other provinces, the United States and emerging economies; and
6. **vibrant and strong communities** — helping all communities and regional economies benefit from job creation and economic growth.

Improving the province's productivity performance is key to addressing Ontario's economic challenges and ensuring future prosperity. By focusing on these six areas — and working in partnership with local businesses, labour, academia and the communities they are all located in — the government is doing its part to enable Ontario's economy to be more productive and competitive.

The Province, with its municipal partners, plans to continue to revitalize infrastructure in Ontario. The government plans to invest more than \$35 billion over the next three years, including almost \$13.5 billion in 2013–14. Infrastructure investments would remain focused on the most critical areas such as transportation, health care and education, consistent with the government's long-term infrastructure plan, *Building Together*. These planned investments support over 100,000 jobs on average each year across the province and align with the government's commitment to eliminate the deficit by 2017–18.

In October 2012, the government launched a permanent Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF). It also replenished and made permanent the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF).

- Since October 2012, the government has committed \$15 million through the SWODF, leveraging a total investment of nearly \$120 million and helping create and protect 2,200 jobs.
- Since 2008, the government has committed more than \$60.6 million through the EODF, leveraging a total investment of nearly \$591 million. These investments are helping create and protect 14,100 jobs in eastern Ontario.

I am proud of the investments that the Ontario Liberal Party is making in local companies so that they can focus on being the innovative drivers of our economy. Allowing communities to prosper and thrive through supporting innovation and local economic initiatives is the Ontario Liberal Way and as your MPP, I will work to continue this style of support for London.



Response from Ken Coran continued

1b) How will you and your party work with the City of London to service new industrial (employment) lands in the London Highway 401 corridor?

The Ontario Liberal Party believes that communities that are well-designed and planned attract jobs and investment. That is why Ontario's simple and streamlined land use planning system gives municipalities the major role in planning decisions. Working with local governments is key in ensuring they meet local needs.

The Ontario government has allocated \$100 million for the construction of the new London highway interchanges. Working in partnership with the City of London, work has begun on getting people into the city of London with greater ease.

This is all in addition to the \$78.7 million that the Ontario government has invested in highway infrastructure in the London area.

As a local guy, I know that getting to and from London is essential for businesses and their customers. As an MPP, I will work to ensure the continued development of infrastructure that attracts investment, keeps our city moving and thriving and our families safer on local roads.

2a) 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?

In 2013, London will benefit from over \$54 Million in combined uploads and supports and our party remains committed to uploading \$1.5 billion per year in social assistance and court security costs by 2018, as agreed through the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review.

The Harris government patted themselves on the back for their fiscal management, but in reality, just passed the buck to mayors and local councils. They downloaded over \$3 billion of costs onto municipalities – including child care, transit, housing, and public health – leading to higher property taxes and an infrastructure deficit

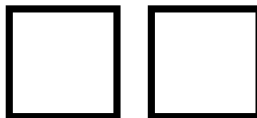
2b) Will you and your party commit to uploading further municipal funding responsibilities to the province for services such as Public Health, Social Services and Land Ambulance?

While I do not know of any plans to broaden the scope of the uploading agreement, I do believe that it is important for the province to continue to support the work of our municipalities. That's why I am proud of the many ways that Ontario's Liberal government has invested in municipalities including \$50 Million for affordable housing in London since 2003.

Conversely, the Harris Government cut all funding for affordable housing, and cancelled construction of units being built. Tim Hudak also refused to commit to completing our support for municipalities, which would result in an additional \$500 million a year in new municipal property taxes or service cuts.

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

The Ontario Liberal government has been committed to investing in Ontario's infrastructure. Since 2003, we have provided municipalities with over \$13 billion in infrastructure funding, including over \$1.5 billion for municipal roads and bridges. As well, over this same time period, we've invested more than \$85 billion in building new and repairing existing infrastructure – this is more than double the previous two governments combined. During a time of economic downturn, these much needed investments have not only worked towards rebuilding our cities, but they created and helped support more than 600,000 jobs. While we've built or are about to complete 24 brand-new hospitals and 100 major hospital renovation and expansion projects, the PCs closed 28 hospitals and fired 6,000 nurses.



Response from Ken Coran continued

These investments have made tangible results for the city of London. Since 2007, we have committed \$19,674,883 in funding to London under the Build Canada Fund - Major Infrastructure Component, including:

- \$18,141,550 for the Huron Elgin London Project (HELP) for Clean Water – London-Southeast Reservoir
- \$1,533,333 for the Huron Elgin London Project (HELP) for Clean Water – London-Green Power at W12A Landfill

3b) Are you and your Party prepared to implement the commitment within the Southern Highways Plan for 401 interchange improvements in the London area?

In 2012/13, the Ontario Liberal government will be investing \$2.4 billion to repair and expand provincial highways and bridges. This includes \$1.87 billion for southern Ontario, creating more than 18,500 direct and indirect jobs.

Improving Ontario's transportation network is part of the Ontario Liberal government's plan to strengthen the economy.

Within this plan is a commitment to new interchanges and interchange improvements along Highway 401. The Ontario Liberal government is committed to this plan and we are moving forward. Other key highway investments planned between 2012 and 2016 include:

- constructing the Windsor Essex Parkway
- extending Highway 407 easterly
- widening Highway 401 express and collector lanes between the Highway 401/403/410 interchange and Hurontario Street in Mississauga
- building a new interchange at Highway 6 (Hanlon Expressway) and Laird Road in Guelph
- widening Highway 417 from Nicholas Street to Ottawa Road 174 in Ottawa

3c) How will you and your party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?

In order to build a prosperous and fair Ontario, I believe that we need prosperous local communities. This is why the Ontario Liberal party has continually worked with our municipal partners to ensure that they have the flexibility to address local needs without being burdened by costs.

In June 2012, the new Ontario government launched *Building Together*, a new Long-Term Infrastructure Plan to strengthen our economy, create jobs, and improve Ontarians' quality of life.

Through *Building Together*, we'll continue to make significant investments our vital infrastructure over the next decade, starting with \$35 billion over the next three years. Ontarians will see:

- Better roads, bridges, and public transit – so Ontarians can spend less time commuting and get home safely to spend more time with their families.
- Hospitals and schools in their communities that match Ontarians' expectations for world class healthcare and education.
- Continued investments in water and wastewater systems that will keep Ontario's drinking water clean and safe.



Response from Ken Coran continued

In addition our unprecedented investments in Ontario's infrastructure, we're also helping municipalities invest in their own vital infrastructure through Infrastructure Ontario's loan program.

- Since 2003, the Infrastructure Ontario Loan Program has approved more than \$4.5 billion in affordable loans to 287 municipalities and other recipients, across the province, to help them upgrade their infrastructure.

We've invested more in infrastructure than any previous government since the 1960s (and almost quadruple what was invested under the previous PC Government). The Hudak PC's voted against infrastructure stimulus, which helped create jobs when our economy needs them the most, saying it was "too much". The NDP have also made no sincere plan to invest in infrastructure. Their only plan is to raise taxes on Ontario businesses during an economic recovery.

Building Together provides clarity, sustainability and greater predictability in Ontario's infrastructure policies for the next decade.

4a) How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding?

Helping families spend more time together by easing traffic congestion while working to keep our air cleaner and reducing smog days is important to Ontario Liberals because it is important to Ontario families.

Before the Ontario Liberals came in to office, municipalities had no consistent provincial funding for public transit. Through this funding, municipalities can count on the Liberal government to provide reliable annual support for transit. While the PCs downloaded \$3 billion in costs onto municipalities, the Ontario Liberals have supported municipalities by contributing more than \$2.6 billion in Gas Tax funding to Ontario municipalities, including \$324 million for the past program year.

To show our long-term commitment to supporting local transit, as a part of the 2013 Ontario Budget, the Ontario Liberal government passed the *Dedicated Funding for Public Transportation Act, 2013*, which made the Gas Tax program permanent. The PCs voted against this funding, which is consistent with their history of trying to permanently shift the costs of transit on to the backs of municipalities. The NDP don't seem to know what their plan is for transit- they complain about a lack of transit funding but consistently vote against funding increases and advocate for arbitrary fare freezes that would hamstring transit systems even further.

The Ontario Liberal's commitment will allow municipalities to upgrade transit infrastructure, increase accessibility for riders, purchase conventional and specialized transit vehicles, add additional routes, and extend hours of service. All of which mean less traffic on our roads, less pollution in the air and less pressure on municipal budgets to increase property taxes.

The Ontario Liberal government's investments are paying off. In 2011, there was an increase of more than 171 million passenger trips compared to 2003

4b) How will that plan be implemented, including timing?

This year, the Ontario government made its Gas Tax Program permanent to help municipalities improve public transit, ease traffic congestion and reduce air pollution. The new program will continue an uninterrupted flow of funding and was created as part of the 2013 Budget to provide stability for municipalities and help them plan.

4c) 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?

Our Ontario Liberal government believes that families should spend more time together and less time on the road, that is why we are the only party that has built any real transit in the past 20 years.

As a part of our recognition for the need to invest in public transit, we have invested more than \$16.1 billion in building and expanding transit in Ontario.



Response from Ken Coran continued

The PCs simply don't have a serious plan for public transit. They say they want to build subways only – but have no plan to pay for them and their flimsy proposal admits that. When they were in power, the Harris PCs cancelled the Eglinton West subway –costing \$150 million in wasted taxpayer dollars, because they claimed that subways were too expensive.

The NDP don't seem to know what their plan is for transit- they complain about a lack of transit funding but consistently vote against funding increases and advocate for arbitrary fare freezes that would hamstring transit systems even further.

Only the Ontario Liberal government has provided substantial support to municipalities to build their own transit initiatives, including, for example:

- o Committing up to \$600 million in support of Ottawa's light rail transit plan – the largest single transit infrastructure investment in Ottawa's history.
- o Committing up to \$300 million in support of Waterloo Region's rapid transit initiative – the largest single transit infrastructure investment in the Region's history.
- o Supporting Brampton's ZÜM bus rapid transit project through the 2006 Move Ontario investment. The Province has provided \$95 million to the city for the project.

4d) What is your Party's position with respect to the application of revenue tools recommended in the Metrolinx report to regions outside the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area?

The Metrolinx report that was recently submitted to the government applies to the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA), which includes Toronto, Durham, York, Peel, Halton and Hamilton. The Ontario Liberal government does not believe nor have we recommended that areas outside of the GTHA should fund the next wave of transit projects in the GTHA.

Ontarians have told us that they want to spend less time commuting and more time at home with their families. That is why only Ontario Liberals have committed to finding real solutions to get the people of this province moving with ease.

5) 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?

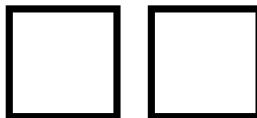
I believe that development charges are an important tool that helps support good, sustainable growth in cities and towns across Ontario. They help municipalities pay for needed infrastructure that increased growth requires, like roads and sewers.

I am not aware of any plans to amend the Development Charges Act at this time. If elected, I commit to having an early conversation with the Minister about working to ensure that the City of London and other municipalities have the flexibility they need to pay for important municipal infrastructure. I invite you to provide me with more information on your perspective on this issue, as I would like to have a constructive dialogue moving forward.

6a) Will you and your Party implement reform of the interest arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, considers the fiscal health of the community in arbitration decisions and provides transparent and accountable decisions?

Over a year ago, the Ontario Liberal Party brought forward a focused and balanced package to ensure transparency and timeliness in the interest arbitration system that would have addressed these concerns by requiring parties to make written submissions and decision-makers to provide written reasons for their decisions. The measures proposed in 2012 also required arbitrators to ensure a timely resolution.

Unfortunately, that part of our budget was stripped out and voted down by the Ontario PCs and the NDP despite broad acceptance of the need for the changes. Because they voted against our reforms, we have had to start the reform process again without the measures that we proposed to provide increased accountability with written submissions, transparency with written decisions, and timely decisions.



Response from Ken Coran continued

Those changes would have made a real difference for municipalities, and the public. In our recent Throne Speech we re-committed to helping our partners build an arbitration system that is fair for workers, fair for municipalities and fair for taxpayers, and we remain committed to these changes.

6b) In addressing this issue, will you and your Party provide a system that 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've lived in and loved London for decades, and I'm very aware of the challenges we face locally. I'm particularly proud to be representing a party that has recognized local fiscal concerns by delivering billions dollars to municipalities through uploading, as well as necessary infrastructure dollars by making the gas tax permanent. All this means that the City of London is better able to deliver the services London families count on.

When it comes to broader reforms, the only responsible path for the provincial government is to work with *all* parties to come up with a solution we can all live with. History has shown us what happens when governments are elected who tilt too far to the right or the left – municipalities and local residents get caught in the middle.

In June 2012, The PCs decided to join the NDP and vote down arbitration reforms at committee. This was the wrong approach and hindered progress towards a fair, balanced and transparent system.

There is an urgent need for an interest arbitration system that will recognize London's fiscal reality and local needs. It is always hard to make changes, and that is why the Wynne Government is committed to a process that will bring the parties to the table to work together to find common ground – a fair and sustainable interest arbitration framework that reflects the social and financial realities of Ontario today.

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?

I am proud that the Liberal Government has provided over \$3 Billion dollars for affordable housing since 2003 - the largest such investment in Ontario's history - and has created the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. If elected, I will work to ensure that we continue to support the city of London and housing providers across the province and I will be part of our effort to pressure the federal government to commit to long term funding for affordable housing.

The NDP claim to support the vulnerable, but voted against our Government's Ontario Child Benefit, our seven increases to social assistance rates, 22,000 new affordable child care spaces, and raising the minimum wage.

In addition, The PC Party, slashed social assistance payments by 22%, froze the minimum wage in Ontario for 9 years and ended construction of all social housing during their last stay in Government.

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?

These issues cannot be fully addressed until the Federal government commits to a long-term housing funding and a national housing strategy. The Ontario Liberal government is actively working with municipalities, housing providers, and other provinces and territories to press this issue, and I will be part of that effort.

The issue of rent scales has been raised as part of our government's Review of Social Assistance and we will continue to explore options related to rent scales for social assistance recipients living in Rent Geared to Income housing.



Response from Ken Coran continued

The PC Party, in contrast, slashed social assistance payments by 22%, froze the minimum wage in Ontario for 9 years and ended construction of all social housing during their last stay in Government.

9. Will you and your Party provide municipalities with tools for the collection of \$1 billion in unpaid Provincial Offences Act fines?

Our government continues to work with municipal partners to keep pace with the increasing number of Provincial Offences Act charges laid each year and to improve justice services.

When POA responsibilities were transferred to municipalities, the ministry provided them with all the tools the province used to enforce POA fines, including:

- Providing access to Ministry of Transportation databases to help municipalities find current addresses for fine defaulters
- Assisting in the development of municipal on-line fine payment systems to make it easier to pay POA fines
- Assisting in the development of municipal on-line fine payment systems to make it easier to pay POA fines

In addition to these enforcement tools, our government has appointed 35 full-time justices of the Peace since 2010. These new Justices have helped municipalities in addressing workload pressures in courts.

10. Will you and your Party work with municipalities to develop a clean, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity, natural gas vehicle fuel systems combining appropriate roles for conservation, renewable energy, innovation, research and incentives?

Our government is taking action to enhance energy planning, and give municipalities a stronger voice in the siting of energy projects.

We have asked the Independent Electricity System Operator and the Ontario Power Authority to work together to develop recommendations on a new regional planning process that will focus on improved siting of large energy infrastructure. They will report back to us with an implementation plan on August 1st.

We are also providing funding for municipalities to develop Municipal Energy Plans that will incorporate energy, infrastructure, growth, and land use planning. Municipal Energy Plans will support economic development, increase conservation, and identify renewable energy opportunities.

Including consultations with local municipalities and residents is an essential part of the government's new approach to the siting of energy production facilities.

11. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of the recently proposed Waste Reduction Act (WRA) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?

Londoners want an Ontario where recycling generates new investment, new recycling plants, new Ontario-made products and new jobs. The Waste Reduction Act proposes to do just that. The Harris government chose to download millions in costs to municipalities for the disposal of hazardous goods, when they chose to get rid of eco-fees.

This act calls for producers to pay a higher proportion of Blue Box costs, lifting the burden borne by municipal property tax payers.

In addition, this act is designed to kick-start more recycling by institutions and businesses – whose recycling rate of 13% distantly trails the efforts of householders who recycle 46% of their wastes.



Response from Ken Coran continued

12. Will you and your party make municipalities exempt or zero-rate the provincial portion of the HST for Municipalities?

Currently municipalities claim an HST rebate of 78% on the provincial portion of the tax under the Public Services Body rebate scheme. The 78% rebate was introduced along with the HST in order to ensure no new burden was placed on municipalities when the HST was created. In 2012 that rebate totaled nearly \$1.2 billion across the Province; to increase the rebate to 100% of the provincial portion would cost roughly an additional \$330 million each year.

13. What is your party's position with respect to an integrated early learning, childcare and education system for children, youth, and families?

Ontario is emerging as a leader in the delivery of early years programs and services. With the province-wide introduction of full-day kindergarten, Ontario is at the forefront of a global transformation in early learning. Efforts to modernize child care and to create Best Start Child and Family Centres are also transforming the way programs and services are delivered, leading to better outcomes for children and a more seamless experience for families.

Ontario's current early years services are robust and responsive. Every day, thousands of children and their families receive quality care and support from early years professionals in diverse communities across the province. While there is still fragmentation among and between services and service gaps, we are moving in the right direction. Now is the time to build on the positive steps we have taken over the last ten years to ensure we are harnessing the full capacity available to provide the best services and respond to the busy lives of Ontario families.

The Ontario Early Years Policy Framework builds on our collective progress and provides a vision for the early years to ensure children, from birth to age six, have the best possible start in life. The framework is supported by a set of principles and is meant to provide strategic direction to our early years partners both within and outside of government. Moving forward, the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework will guide our collective approach to the development and delivery of early years programs and services for children and families.

Al Gretzky, Freedom Party of Ontario

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

The first step to supporting municipalities will be to aggressively attack the debt and get Ontario back into a have province position.

1b) How will you and your party work with the City of London to service new industrial (employment) lands in the London Highway 401 corridor?

We have no plans to change any existing agreements; We will not recommend any new spending.

2a) 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?

We have no plans to make any changes to existing agreements.

2b) 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?

Until we have the debt under control we do not plan any new spending.

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

Where it is cost effective we plan to support current agreements.



Response from Al Gretzky continued

3b) Are you and your Party prepared to implement the commitment within the Southern Highways Plan for 401 interchange improvements in the London area?

Until the debt is brought under control we do not plan any new spending.

3c) How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?

By making representation to the government and ensuring that agreements are kept.

4a) How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding?

We have no plans to change existing agreements; Will not recommend any new spending.

4b) How will that plan be implemented, including timing?

With no new agreements there would not be any timetable

4c) 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 are open to working with any partner for the betterment of London.

4d) What is your Party's position with respect to the application of revenue tools recommended in the Metrolinx report to regions outside the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area?

We are not recommending any new spending.

5. 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 be agreeable to reviewing any idea that could help the municipality as long as it does not require new funding.

6a) Will you and your Party implement reform of the interest arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, considers the fiscal health of the community in arbitration decisions and provides transparent and accountable decisions?

While this is an important issue and needs to be addressed, it will not be a priority.

6b) In addressing this issue, will you and your Party provide a system that 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 believe strongly that there is currently too much government interference in our lives and this is an issue that needs addressing.

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?

We will work with all interested parties to reach the best solutions to any concerns.

**Response from Al Gretzky continued**

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?

Once the debt has been brought under control, we can look at other issues. Until then we need to bring spending under control and find alternatives

9. Will you and your Party provide municipalities with tools for the collection of \$1 billion in unpaid *Provincial Offences Act* fines?

We do not plan to expand the powers of any level of government.

10. Will you and your Party work with municipalities to develop a clean, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity, natural gas vehicle fuel systems combining appropriate roles for conservation, renewable energy, innovation, research and incentives?

We will gladly work with municipalities who support sound planning, conservation and innovation.

11. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of the recently proposed Waste Reduction Act (WRA) 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 support the most cost effective way of handling the problem.

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

We do not plan to make any changes to existing agreements.

13. What is your Party's position with respect to an integrated early learning, child care and education system for children, youth and families?

We plan no new spending in this area.

Peggy Sattler, New Democratic Party of Ontario

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

We need a positive plan to create jobs in communities like London struggling with high unemployment. While Liberals and Conservatives stick to tired approaches that give tax cuts to companies that cut workers, New Democrats have proposed rewarding companies when they make new investments in machinery and equipment, hire workers, and upgrade skills. We have also recently pushed to strengthen municipal input and accountability in government programs, pushing through amendments to Bill 11 (Attracting Investment and Creating Jobs – Southwest Ontario Development Fund) that would.

1b) How will you and your party work with the City of London to service new industrial (employment) lands in the London Highway 401 corridor?

The NDP will work closely with the City of London to support the development of employment lands along Highway 401.

**Response from Peggy Sattler continued**

2a) 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?

The NDP will respect the recommendations of the PMFSDR and follow through with agreed upon uploads of Ontario Works Benefits and court security and work with municipalities to provide supports that are fair and sustainable and doesn't leave municipalities unable to meet rising costs.

2b) 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 will work with municipal stakeholders to discuss fair and sustainable cost-sharing of key services. During the 2011 election we proposed to share half of the operating costs of municipal transit, which would free additional funds for municipal infrastructure.

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

Provincial infrastructure cuts – including an overall reduction in infrastructure funding and a delay in the promised fund for municipal roads and bridges – puts stress on municipal budgets and compromises important investments. Municipalities need predictable funding for operating costs and infrastructure. During the 2011 election NDP committed to invest \$35 billion over the next three years to pay for much needed infrastructure projects across the province (matching government commitment) and \$210 million over three years to help municipalities with road and bridge repairs. In addition, New Democrats committed to sharing 50% of municipal transit operating costs, freeing more funding for capital investments.

3b) Are you and your Party prepared to implement the commitment within the Southern Highways Plan for 401 interchange improvements in the London area?

The NDP is committed to improving transportation options for residents and business in the London area as outlined in the Southern Highways Plan.

3c) How will you and your Party ensure that the province commits to an equitable distribution of provincial and federal infrastructure investment?

By partnering with the City of London, AMO and other stakeholders.

4a) How will you and your Party support public transit, in particular the nature, extent and application of dedicated Provincial Gas Tax funding?

4b) How will that plan be implemented, including timing?

4c) 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 support the permanent allocation of the 2 cents of the provincial gas tax to municipalities with transit systems. We recognize that this alone does not provide enough support for the operation of local transit systems. That's why during the last election we proposed a return to 50% provincial share of municipal operating costs of transit in the last election.

4d) What is your Party's position with respect to the application of revenue tools recommended in the Metrolinx report to regions outside the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area?

New Democrats are committed to improving and expanding transit and transportation in Ontario. Families across Ontario spend far too long on congested roads, while lacking viable transit alternatives. Ontario needs a plan that is balanced, fair and effective -- that means families shouldn't be hit with new taxes and tolls they can't afford, while corporations get new loopholes and giveaways they don't need. We welcome Metrolinx' report and are listening to people about the best way to build transit and find the means to do it.

**Response from Peggy Sattler continued**

5. 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?

The NDP has supported a review of the Development Charges Act to ensure that municipalities are able to access the funds they need to pay infrastructure costs associated with new development.

6a) Will you and your Party implement reform of the interest arbitration system that provides greater fairness toward taxpayers, considers the fiscal health of the community in arbitration decisions and provides transparent and accountable decisions?

6b) In addressing this issue, will you and your Party provide a system that 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?

The NDP supports a fair arbitration process..

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?

Waiting lists for affordable housing are at an all-time high. One in five Ontario families live in inadequate housing (unaffordable, overcrowded or in ill repair). The gap between incomes and rents for low- to moderate-income households in Ontario has widened since 2002 by 20 per cent. Meanwhile the government has reduced spending on affordable housing programs by \$500 million over the past three years, and has failed to set any targets for new affordable housing. The NDP would invest in new affordable housing and repair existing sub-standard housing, and set attainable targets for increasing affordable housing for the people that need it the most.

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 NDP is committed to setting targets for new affordable housing and repairs to existing housing. We also want to make sure that rents are fair for tenants. Over two years has passed since the government passed its Affordable Housing Bill, but the same complex and counterproductive Rent-Geared-to Income system is still in place. Rents soar for tenants who earn more than \$440 a month, creating an added barrier to employment. The NDP will fight for changes that simplify rent scales and stop penalizing tenants who work.

9. Will you and your Party provide municipalities with tools for the collection of \$1 billion in unpaid *Provincial Offences Act* fines?

The amount of unpaid fines from provincial offenses has doubled since 2002. For years, Municipalities have been seeking provincial government support to measures to help reduce unpaid fines and improve collections to pay for badly needed municipal services. The government keeps saying it will act, but measures to ease collection could take another two years. Meanwhile municipalities are being denied access to funds for crucial services. The NDP will work to expedite long overdue legislative and regulatory changes needed to collect unpaid fines.

10. Will you and your Party work with municipalities to develop a clean, fair energy policy that supports sound planning and investment in our electricity, natural gas vehicle fuel systems combining appropriate roles for conservation, renewable energy, innovation, research and incentives?

**Response from Peggy Sattler continued**

The NDP is committed to an open and informed approach to electricity system planning with the goals of reliability, cost-effectiveness and sustainability. We have outlined a number of measures to do further these goals, including: putting cost-effective conservation before new supply, merging hydro agencies and limiting executive salaries, increasing local economic benefits from renewable energy project by expanding municipal and community projects, and increasing transparency.

11. Do you and your Party support the principle and implementation of the recently proposed Waste Reduction Act (WRA) which holds producers and consumers more directly accountable (e.g., financially) for the waste they generate rather than transferring the cost to municipal taxpayers?

Producers should be made responsible for the waste they generate.

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

The NDP fought against the Liberal government's imposition of the HST on everyday families. We know that the HST has impacted municipalities as well. We'll work with municipalities and other stakeholders to implement a fairer tax system for Ontarians.

13. What is your Party's position with respect to an integrated early learning, child care and education system for children, youth and families?

The Ontario NDP fought to secure \$242 M in funding in the 2012 Budget to help child care centres stay open during the transition to full day kindergarten. However, this transition support will run out in three years, and 18 communities will face a cut to child care funding of about \$17 M starting in 2017 (the City of London will see a cut of \$2.2 M a year, or about 220 subsidized spaces). The NDP is committed to building a non-profit child care system that is affordable and accessible to all Ontarians.

Geoffrey Serbee, Ontario Libertarian Party – No response received as of July 24th at 9:00 a.m.