

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 23, 2013
FROM:	GRANT HOPCROFT, DIRECTOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY LIAISON
SUBJECT:	AUGUST 1, 2013 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL BY-ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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

BACKGROUND

As the City of London has done with the 2011 Ontario Provincial General Election, Civic Administration has contacted all candidates running in the August 1st, 2013 London West By-Election to determine candidates' responses on a number of questions relating to the provincial relationship with municipalities, as set out below. To provide all candidates with adequate time to respond to the questions, and due to the timing of the by-election writ and the revised Council meeting calendar, it was necessary to send out the questions prior to reporting to Council. Many of the questions below are similar to the questions asked by the City in the 2011 General Election. New questions have also been added to reflect recent Council priorities. The candidate responses will be collected and provided to City Council at its meeting on July 30th, 2013. Due to ongoing migration of the City of London website to a new platform, it will not be possible to post the responses directly on the City website as we have done in the past. Responses will also be distributed electronically to members of Council and on request to the media and public.

**City of London Candidate Questionnaire
August 1, 2013 Provincial By-Election in London West**

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

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

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?

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?

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?

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

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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

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?

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

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

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
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