

Questionnaire to Candidates – Ontario Provincial Election

June 7, 2018

Dear Candidate,

The fact that you are seeking election in the June Provincial Election indicates that you are committed to your riding and the City of Ottawa. I commend your decision to seek public office. Serving the public is a noble calling and I wish you the best of luck on Election Day.

As the Mayor of Ottawa, I also wish to ask you a few very short questions on issues of importance to the future of Ottawa. It will only take you and your campaign team a few minutes to provide the answers and I encourage you to do so. I intend to post the results of this questionnaire, which is being sent to candidates from all political parties in all Ottawa constituencies, on our website on June 4. The responses to the questionnaires from all candidates and parties will be posted at the following link www.JimWatsonOttawa.ca.

I would appreciate it if you would kindly reply by May 31. If we do not receive a reply by that time, we will simply indicate that we did not receive a reply from you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa

1. Stage 2 LRT Provincial Funding Commitment

The City of Ottawa, in partnership with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada, is currently procuring Stage2 of Light Rapid Transit, scheduled to begin construction in 2019. Stage 2 will bring LRT farther East, West and South. It will reduce commuting times for Ottawa residents and families, contribute to a long-term reduction in GHGs and support the City’s economic diversification. Stage 2 procurement also includes the extension of the Trillium Line from South Keys to the Riverside South Town Center.

1.a Does your party support the Province of Ontario honouring its \$1.2 Billion funding commitment to the City of Ottawa for the full build-out of Stage2?

Yes ____ No ____ Other_____

2.b Does your party support the Province of Ontario honouring its \$50 million funding commitment to the City of Ottawa for the extension of the Trillium Line from Bowesville to Riverside South Town Center.

Yes ____ No ____ Other_____

Additional Comments: _____

2. Province of Ontario Commitment to increase City's share of gas tax

In 2017, the Province of Ontario announced an increase in the Provincial share of gas tax to be shared with Ontario Cities. For every litre of gasoline sold, Ontario currently provides two cents to municipalities to help fund local public transit improvements. Beginning in 2019, Ontario will gradually increase the municipal share of gas tax funds up to a total of four cents per litre in 2021-22, as follows:

- 2.5 cents per litre in 2019-20
- 3.0 cents per litre in 2020-21
- 4.0 cents per litre in 2021-22

In 2021, the City of Ottawa's contribution is estimated to increase to \$73 million from \$36.5 million in 2018, an average funding increase of approx. \$12.2 million annually, over three years. The planned increase will allow the City to continue to invest in and fund much needed public transit needs.

Does your party support honouring the Province of Ontario's commitment to increasing the municipal share of Provincial gas tax revenue, as outlined above?

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

Additional Comments: _____

3. Affordable Housing Funding Commitment

On April 30th, 2018, the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario announced they have reached a bilateral agreement under the National Housing Strategy. The 10-year agreement will invest more than \$4.2 billion to protect, renew and expand social and community housing, and support Ontario's priorities related to housing repair, construction, and affordability. The governments of Canada and Ontario will also work together on the design and implementation of a new Canada Housing Benefit in Ontario. This new bilateral agreement will support long-term and predictable funding starting April 1, 2019.

Does your party support honouring the Province of Ontario's commitment to the National Housing Strategy with a commitment to the successor program to the Investing in Affordable Housing Ontario Program?

Yes ____ No ____ Other_____

Does your party also support the continuation of the following two provincial programs recently announced:

(1) The Development Charges Rebate Program, where \$18.5M was committed over a 5 year period to support the development of new purpose-built rental housing in the private and not for profit sectors; and,

Yes ____ No ____ Other_____

(2) The provincial Home for Good Program, where, Ottawa was allocated a total of \$11.3M in operating funding and \$19M in capital funding for new supportive housing for people struggling with physical and mental health challenges.

Yes ____ No ____ Other_____

4. Supporting Long-Term Care

The Province of Ontario committed \$300 million over three years in new funding for long-term care, starting with \$50 million in 2018–19 to hire a registered nurse for every home, and setting a goal of increasing the provincial average to four hours of daily care per resident by 2022.

Does your party support honouring the Province of Ontario’s commitment to fund more direct, one-on-one patient care for long-term care residents?

Yes ____ No ____ Other_____

Additional Comments: _____

5. Maintaining Uploading Agreements

The Province of Ontario began “uploading” approximately \$1.5 billion in social service costs in 2008. This program has been implemented and saved the City of Ottawa approximately \$25 million a year. I am sure you would agree that it makes more sense to fund provincially mandated social services for the larger and more diverse provincial revenue base than from the municipal property taxes.

Do you personally agree that the Province of Ontario should maintain the uploading program? Yes _____ No _____

Does your political party commit to maintaining the uploading program?
Yes _____ No _____

Additional Comments: _____

6. Traditional Infrastructure

Residents understand that the last seven years have seen the Province focus more heavily on transit infrastructure – which required a massive catch-up effort. Today, residents are asking us to shift some of that focus to our other built infrastructure needs. What we are hearing – at public meetings or in informal conversations - is the need to continue to do more about the state of our roads, infrastructure, buildings and parks.

The infrastructure gap is a significant challenge for municipalities nation-wide. For every \$1 billion dollar invested in new infrastructure, 10,000 person years of employment will be generated in Ottawa, including 5,500 new jobs in the construction sector.

Will your party consult with Ontario municipalities on the need to establish a traditional infrastructure program for roads, bridges, highways, pedestrian and cycling facilities?

Yes _____ No _____ Other _____

Additional Comments: _____

Please send your responses, either by mail, email or fax to my office by May 31, 2018:

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Ottawa, ON
K1P 1J1

ATTN: Livia.Belcea@ottawa.ca

Fax: 613-580-2509

Please write on the envelope or in the subject line in the email: Provincial Election Responses.