

City of London Candidate Questionnaire

1. When the previous Liberal government signed the New Deal with Cities and Communities, we made our intention clear that Liberals want to work with municipalities to ensure that the two levels of government, federal and municipal, were working together on common goals. This deal refunded the gas tax back to municipalities as part of a Liberal commitment to reduce the infrastructure deficit of our municipalities. As well, a Liberal government will create an Infrastructure Bank as an additional tool that all levels of government can use to finance infrastructure investment projects.
2. A Liberal government would create a \$70-billion infrastructure plan and commit any surplus over the contingency fund to municipal infrastructure. We would also develop an infrastructure bank to help fund municipal projects and earmark \$10 billion for Strategic Infrastructure, such as green projects for clean water and sewage treatment and energy grids. To help tackle the infrastructure deficit, all unanticipated surpluses over and above a \$3-billion contingency fund will be spent on infrastructure.
3. The Liberals would provide a minimum of \$8 billion for a National Transit Strategy that will allow cities to expand their public transit systems and make them more efficient. This is one of the ways we are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As well, the Infrastructure Bank will allow for extra investment for projects such as high speed rail.
4. Social housing is a necessary support for people in need. A Liberal government will work with provincial and territorial governments to tackle the housing crisis and invest in 30,000 new social housing units and refurbishing another 30,000 existing units. On September 20, 2008, the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada applauded these promises.
5. The Liberal Party is committed to addressing climate change and to a greener Canada. We encourage everyone to do their part to help reduce the carbon footprint on our planet. By putting a price on fossil fuels, and taxing greenhouse gases, and providing tax incentives to tax payers, consumption habits and patterns will shift. Through green mortgages and incentives for home retrofits and manufacturing upgrades, individuals and companies will be better equipped to reduce their carbon footprints. The carbon tax will not be applied to gasoline, or diesel or aviation fuel in the first year. The money collected through a carbon tax is passed along to individuals and corporations, making it a revenue neutral program. The full details of our environmental plan can be found at www.thegreenshift.ca

6. A Liberal government will establish an \$80-million RCMP-administered fund to work with the provinces and territories to ensure that money is accessible to police agencies that have a plan to address gangs and organized crime, invest \$45 million in a Gun Violence and Gang Prevention Fund, which will support community-based programs and skills development for youth at risk, and create a specific nation-wide Violence Prevention Strategy for Aboriginal peoples.

7. Ontario needs a fair deal on equalization payments from the federal government. When Ontario gets its fair share, Liberals believe that these funds should go to encouraging newcomers to come to Canada, assisting them to get working in their professions as soon as possible and to integrating them into Canadian society. When our newcomers succeed, all of society benefits. A Liberal government will invest \$800 million in new federal funding to deal with the immigration backlog and ensure new Canadians receive the support they need. This will also include revamping the immigration points system to give greater weight to skilled trades to better align Canada's immigration policy to the needs of the labour market. The In-Canada Fast Track program will be created to allow temporary workers to apply for permanent residence in Canada.

8. Early learning and childcare is important from both a social and an economic perspective. Liberals want to revive the childcare agreements that we forged with the provinces and territories and that the Conservative government refused to honour. We will retain the current child care cheques of \$1,200 per year but we will also invest up to \$1.25 billion annually for childcare and early childhood spaces and programs. An additional 165,000 early education and child care spaces centred on quality, universally inclusive, accessible and developmental principles, giving families a real choice.

9. A Liberal government will enact the 30-50 Plan to Fight Poverty. Our strategy will reward Canadians who want to go to work every day to provide for their families and contribute to Canadian society. We will reduce the lowest income tax level by 10 per cent, create a new \$350 per child universal child tax benefit, create a new \$1,850 refundable employment credit and make the Disability Tax Credit refundable. In addition, we will create the Guaranteed Family Supplement that will help 500,000 of Canada's poorest families with children. We will also increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors by \$600 year for low income seniors.

10. The Liberals have a strong track record of commitment to Canadian arts and culture. A Liberal government will support our cultural industries to increase Canada's competitiveness and quality of life. We will increase the Canadian film or video production tax credit to 30 per cent and double the budget of the Canada Council for the Arts. We will develop a Canadian Digital Media Strategy, invest \$26 million on international arts promotion to bring Canada to the world, provide \$16 million to the Museum Assistance

program, reverse the recent funding cuts and reinstate funding to the Public Diplomacy Program. We support Canadian content, and we will provide stability to the Canadian Television Fund by providing long term funding

11. The health of our environment is integral to every other aspect of our lives. A Liberal government will make Canada an international role model for ecological conservation by establishing a Network of National Parks and protected areas. Ensuring that all communities have adequate park and recreation places is essential for a healthy, safer nation.

12. Promoting healthy, active lives is key to a healthier nation. I believe that investments in this area will make our communities stronger and will help alleviate the pressures on our health care system. A Liberal government will set aside at least \$3 billion for sports and recreational facilities.

13. A Liberal government will work with the provincial and territorial governments to ensure that the best care in these areas is provided.

14. The current Conservative government, instead of addressing the issues of the Ontario Fairness Campaign, has insulted Ontario, our leaders and our people by suggesting this province is the last place to invest. I will stand up for my community and I'll fight to ensure that Ontarians receive their fair share from the federal government.

15. Southwestern Ontario currently does not have a federal economic development plan. This region has been hit hard by manufacturing sector job losses. The current Conservative government does not believe in assisting by developing any kind of thoughtful plan to deal with economic development for this region. I am personally dedicated to work towards the development of a plan for our region and to ensuring that the economic drivers of Southwest Ontario are properly invested in. A Liberal government will introduce a \$1-billion Advance Manufacturing Prosperity Fund to help Canada's manufacturing sector retain and create jobs as it transitions to a greener future.

16. I support an enhanced rail infrastructure including high speed passenger line through the Quebec City-Windsor Corridor. As part of a Liberal government's infrastructure plan, at least \$4.5 billion will be set aside for gateways, corridors and borders.

17. The Liberal Party is committed to ensuring that Canada's municipalities are adequately funded so they can correct the infrastructure deficit and address their local needs. A new Liberal government will implement tough new measures to ensure municipalities and Canadians have cleaner air, fresh water, innovative, greener technologies, all within a prudent fiscal framework.