

# WINDSOR & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## BUSINESS BRIEFS SPECIAL

### ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS 2003

As part of our your Chamber's Ontario Provincial Elections 2003 Strategy, seven key business related issues of relevance to you, our members were identified. These issues were then forwarded to the candidates in our three ridings, and their responses have been collated for comparison. As 'your voice of business', we at the Chamber, hope you find this document useful when you cast your ballot on Thursday, October 2nd, 2003.

#### **BORDER—Infrastructure and the Environment**

**Q1. What would you and/or your party do to address the Border issues, in the short and long term, at the Windsor-Detroit border crossing?**

**Q2. How will you and/or your party address the issues of the environment, infrastructure and border management?**

**Q3. What is your and/or your party's position on the 9 Point Windsor Gateway plan?**

4) Any proposal for a new border crossing must be subject to full environmental assessment and any property owners negatively impacted must be compensated. Compensation could extend to neighbourhoods and communities.

In the spring, the federal and provincial governments released their nine point plan which incorporated much of what we proposed and added a couple of other major recommendations. These included the Lauzon Parkway extension, upgrading the E.C. Row Expressway to the Province (which I have supported since 1997 when the Harris government downloaded it to the City), an additional lane in each direction on the E.C. Row Expressway to accommodate truck traffic (something that needs a full environmental assessment), along with several other less controversial recommendations.

Later, the Bi-National panel released preliminary engineering findings that tend to confirm the notion of a new crossing that would enter Canada in the Ojibway area. This makes a lot of intuitive sense, confirms what I and my colleagues have been saying publicly for close to two years and offers the best alternative for avoiding the densely populated parts of the City. Again, no proposal should be undertaken in the absence of a full environmental assessment.

#### **RIDING OF WINDSOR WEST**



#### **Derick Insley**

The PC government has committed to redeveloping Huron Church road, and at least more than one pre-staging areas outside of the city, using the assets that we have and extending Lauzon Parkway. For the long term there is a need for another border crossing. Environmental studies will determine the mode of that new crossing. I don't believe that the Bi-National study is looking favourable to the DRTP proposal because of its limitations as a long term solution. We support it, tweaking that can be done, and some compromising. Appeal, helpful if the community will comply, but this is not a requirement.



#### **Sandra Pupatello**

As the provincial representative for Windsor-West for the past 8 years, I recognize the importance of the Windsor border issue. Here are several initiatives that my colleague, Dwight Duncan, and I feel would be beneficial to our community.

- 1) The province should up-load Huron Church, and commence the engineering to remove lights etc. to create a freer movement of trucks on that corridor;
- 2) A staging area should be established outside of the City to control the flow of trucks into the City;
- 3) My colleagues and I rejected the proposals of both the Ambassador Bridge and DRTP acknowledging that at best they could only be considered by the Bi-National panel;



#### **Yvette Blackburn**

Same as Madeline Crnec in the Windsor-St.Clair Riding (the two candidates submitted one set of answers)



#### **Cary Lucier**

I would like to start by answering your question by saying that any truck route enhancement is entirely contrary to the needs of Windsorites. Make no mistake about it!! The answer is to spend the \$300 Million on our railway systems and tax subsidies and incentives for small and large businesses that move their goods by this cheaper and less polluting alternative.

Money could also be used to promote rail transport on television commercials. The border will become manageable on it's own after we eliminate the excess from our roads and get it where it

belongs on rail cars. Our plan is to reduce truck traffic across Ontario by educating our society and giving incentives to those businesses making it cheaper for them to ship their goods.

## **RIDING OF WINDSOR-ST.CLAIR**



### **Matt Bufton**

Implement our government's 9-point plan while conducting an environmental assessment to determine which of the crossing solutions will have the least detrimental effect on our city. Solutions to these difficult issues (the environment, infrastructure and border management) need to be addressed in consultation with the citizens and businesses that make up our community. Any solution must improve our quality of life and take into account issues such as environmental and economic effects. I support the 9 Point Windsor Gateway plan, as does my party.



### **Dwight Duncan**

Since these questions are all related I thought it appropriate to answer them together. The border issue is one of the most crucial issues currently facing our community. Last winter our Party issued its economic platform entitled "Achieving our Potential: the Ontario Liberal Plan for Economic Growth". Our platform clearly addresses the Windsor situation. My Party is dedicated to the border situation and there are several initiatives that I feel would be beneficial to our community.

- 1) The province should up-load Huron Church, and commence the engineering to remove lights etc. to create a freer movement of trucks on that corridor;
- 2) A staging area should be established outside of the City to control the flow of trucks into the City;
- 3) My colleagues and I rejected the proposals of both the Ambassador Bridge and DRTP acknowledging that at best they could only be considered by the Bi-national panel;
- 4) Any proposal for a new border crossing must be subject to full environmental assessment and any property owners negatively impacted must be compensated. Compensation could extend to neighbourhoods and communities.

In the spring the federal and provincial governments released their nine point plan which incorporated much of what we proposed and added a couple of other major recommendations. These included the Lauzon Parkway extension, uploading the E.C. Row Expressway to the Province (which I have supported since 1997 when the Harris government downloaded it to the City), an additional lane in each direction on the E.C. Row Expressway to accommodate truck traffic (something that needs a full environmental assessment), along with several other less controversial recommendations.

Later, the Bi-national panel released preliminary engineering findings that tend to confirm the notion of a new crossing that would enter Canada in the Ojibway area. This makes a lot of intuitive sense, confirms what I and my colleagues have been saying publicly for close to two years and offers the best alternative for avoiding the densely populated parts of the City. Again, no proposal should be undertaken in the absence of a full environmental assessment.



### **Madeline Crnec**

(Madeline Crnec and Yvette Balckburn submitted one set of answers)

The approach of both senior levels of government has to change. The Joint Management Committee process was flawed. There needs to be meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, including municipal governments, affected residents and business. The process should start with a commitment to establish a new crossing that will reduce the level of international truck traffic on city streets and in residential neighbourhoods. There needs to be a clear commitment that the twinning of the Ambassador Bridge and the DRTP proposals are unacceptable.

There are a number of measures which could be implemented immediately at low cost, like establishing preclearance and staging areas outside of the city, increase capacity of the truck ferry and bringing all possible pressure on the Americans to increase staff levels. Prior to the beginning of any construction, the afore mentioned measures should be in place and compensation packages must be negotiated with local businesses and residents affected by the construction.

We would negotiate with the municipalities and federal government to establish a Border Commission, responsible for the co-ordination and development of all border crossing infrastructure.

Point 1: While the Province should reassume it's responsibility for E.C. Row, one additional lane in each direction will not solve the problem and does nothing to help reduce traffic on Huron Church Road. While International traffic from elsewhere in the province can take alternate routes during construction the impact on local business could be devastating. Also this work can be seen as being the preliminary step towards both twinning the bridge and the DRTP, and both of those proposals are unacceptable to the community.

Point 2: Similarly, while this may be appropriate it needs to be accompanied with a commitment that neither the DRTP or Ambassador Bridge proposals will proceed.

Point 3: Anything that will serve to enhance traffic flow will be welcomed, however it must be accompanied with a commitment to long term funding for maintenance of the facilities. The financial burden of dealing with the border traffic problem should not be borne by municipal taxpayers.

Point 4: Is completely unacceptable and must be removed from the package.

Point 5: The bi-national process should be accelerated, but our community has already said no to both the DRTP and Ambassador Bridge proposals, they should be taken off the table.

Point 6: The cost of improvements at the tunnel plaza should not be dumped on municipal taxpayers. If federal and provincial dollars are available for the privately owned bridge and the DRTP, then why not for the only border crossing facility with any degree of public ownership.

Point 7: This should happen immediately and should not be contingent on acceptance of the rest of the plan.

Point 8: The use of technology is a must, but it will not meet its potential if it is not accompanied by increasing the staff levels on the American side.

Point 9: The first step toward co-operation is communication. The Ministers responsible from both levels of government must come to Windsor to meet face to face with municipalities.

## **RIDING OF ESSEX**



### **Pat O'Neil**

In Support of the Nine Point Gateway Plan. The \$300 Million is a good start in improving our infrastructure. Up-load the E.C.Row Expressway will increase the much needed capacity and the extension of Lauzon Parkway is a huge infrastructure improvement the City requires linking with the 401. It would be a boost to the City of Windsor.



### **Bruce Crozier**

We all know that the current truck traffic situation in Windsor and Essex is unsustainable and we need to act decisively to address the problem. I do not pretend to have the one and only answer to this problem, but I do know that every affected community needs to be at the table when these decisions are made. I personally intervened to make sure LaSalle, which has a lot at stake here, was represented at the deliberations. I and an Ontario Liberal Government will work to ensure that LaSalle, Tecumseh, and our other communities have their say in both the short and long term solutions to the border problem.

Our party platform, "Achieving our Potential: The Ontario Liberal Plan for Economic Growth" contains a number of proposals that relate directly to border issues in Windsor and Essex County. My party supports initiatives that would be of tremendous benefit and include the uploading of Huron Church road to the provincial government and assurance that a new border crossing would be subject to a full environmental assessment with proper compensation for any property owners negatively impacted.

For the short term, I support the 9 point plan because I know it is the best solution. It is also the solution favored by the communities I represent. I know that there are still many details to be worked out, but in principle, this plan is a good one. I believe that a new Highway 401 connection with Lauzon and expansion of the EC Row Expressway will immediately relieve the congestion and give planners time to work out the best long-term strategy.



### **Pat Hayes**

The Border Truck Traffic Issue involves a large number of residents, their lives and the economy of both the Windsor and Essex ridings. It is not an issue that can be solved by a "yes or no" questionnaire.

The federal Liberal and provincial Conservative governments spent millions of your taxpayers' money to "fix" the border/international truck traffic problem. They held

"information" meetings, but didn't actually listen to what the people have to say. It has been a year since they launched the 60-day process to find solutions. But, it is a flawed process because there was no real consultation, only closed door meetings and backroom deals.

Essex wants a solution that will take trucks and the environmental health problems they cause, out of our neighbourhoods. Essex deserves what other communities, like Ottawa and Orangeville, have received, a commitment to build a truck by-pass. Our community demands and deserves a new crossing away from established residential neighbourhoods.



### **Darren Brown**

The Green Party of Ontario advocates real, long-term solutions to our border infrastructure problems. It is inevitable that any additionally constructed capacity will fill up with more and more additional transport trucks, strangling our local economy and preventing regional business' from participating in the international economy. Our problem is with the mode of transporting our goods, and not the route which they take.

A move to a sustainable provincial transportation plan must take place to plan for and prepare our local communities for what many feel is a necessary role in the global economy. This sustainable transportation plan will be a hybrid of existing technologies suitable for each different level of mobility. For example, our rail network will be increased to handle the long distance movement of goods, where transit hubs located in each urban centre along the rail line will distribute the goods locally. This is a proven example of a hybrid system that increases the productivity of the local economies. This type of system has been in place for decades in many European communities and has proven to handle many times the amount of goods transfers than we are expected to handle. Not in favor of the Nine Point Gateway Plan.

## **Doctor Shortages - Health Care**

**Q. 4 How will you and/or your party address the critical shortage of medical doctors in our community?**

**Q. 5 Will you and/or your party respond to the need for Angioplasty services in Windsor and Essex County?**

## **RIDING OF WINDSOR WEST**



### **Derick Insley**

We have doctors at the new Windsor medical school. Once they have their roots in the community many will stay in the community. We will encourage 650 doctors from other countries both here and from abroad to practice in Ontario. We provide incentives for under serviced areas.



### **Sandra Pupatello**

The Ontario Liberal Party has always fought to improve access to quality health care in the Province of Ontario. Provincially, The Ontario Liberal Party will remove barriers preventing well-qualified foreign-trained physicians from practicing in Ontario. Many in our community do not have a doctor. We will help our

newly-arrived doctors meet Ontario standards and give them the opportunity to practice medicine here.

We will also hire 8,000 new nurses. We will increase the amount of nurses working full time and entice nurses to work here in Windsor where we need them. Too many nurses cross the border daily to work in the U.S. We will hire more nurses and give more full time work so that it is more attractive to work here.

Locally, I have called the government to task for renegeing on its promise to the people of Windsor to open an angioplasty program at Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital. Windsor residents unfortunately are still forced to endure waiting lists or expensive treatments in the U.S. as a result of this broken promise.



### Yvette Blackburn

See the answers for Madeline Crnec in the Windsor-St.Clair Riding (the two candidates provided one set of answers)



### Cary Lucier

We have 1,200 foreign trained physicians in this Province and we need to do what is necessary to get them their credentials here. These Doctors will eliminate the need we find ourselves in. Our government has to find a way to streamline the process so that qualified Doctors can fill the voids we are experiencing here in Windsor and other communities.

## RIDING OF WINDSOR-ST.CLAIR



### Matt Bufton

By continuing to invest in our health system (a record \$28 billion this year), while working to make sure every dollar is spent for maximum benefit and fighting to make the federal government pay its fair share of health costs (today the pay 17%, compared to 50% in 1997).



### Dwight Duncan

The Ontario Liberal Party will remove barriers preventing well-qualified foreign-trained physicians from practicing in Ontario. Many in our community do not have a doctor. We will help our newly-arrived doctors meet Ontario standards and give them the opportunity to practice medicine here. I led in the fight to obtain the satellite medical school at the University of Windsor. Our province will also see 200 new medical school places under an Ontario Liberal government.

We will also hire 8,000 new nurses. We will increase the amount of nurses working full time and entice nurses to work here in Windsor where we need them. Too many nurses cross the border daily to work in the U.S. We will hire more nurses and give more full time work so that it is more attractive to work here.

The Harris-Eves government promised these services to Windsor but awarded them elsewhere. Rest assured that I am committed to fighting for an Angioplasty site here in Windsor. These are services that we desperately need.



### Madeline Crnec

(Madeline Crnec and Yvette Balckburn submitted one set of answers)

As a Health Care provider myself, I believe there are many things we can do to address the doctor shortages we are facing. First and foremost, the New Democrats will fight to make sure the Liberals in Ottawa pay their fair share and guarantee every health care dollar goes to patients, not profits or tax cuts. We would regulate and reduce medical school tuition to attract students who reflect the full income, geographic and ethno cultural diversity of Ontario.

New Democrat's also believe that we should fast track internationally trained doctors who are living in our communities and find themselves driving taxi cabs.

And finally, we would provide medical students with more under serviced area training and education on the many advantages of working on salary and with multidisciplinary team of health professionals in Community Health Centres.

Windsor-Essex County residents deserve to have the same amount of accessible Health Care as the residents of London, Hamilton and Toronto. Therefore, it is vitally important for the health of our citizens that we have Community Health Centres to provide for early detection as well as wellness and prevention programs. An investment in cardiac care programs, such as Angioplasty, will lead to a healthier and safer community for all of us.

## RIDING OF ESSEX



### Pat O'Neil

We made a big step forward by approving the medical school for Windsor. Once we have medical students, educated Windsor, that are familiar with the community they will tend to stay in Windsor. We need spaces for more local students to be able to attend medical school.

The Angioplasty programs are in a pilot project and Windsor is one of the communities that will benefit from this development. We have invested \$140 Million in the three local hospitals and \$40 Million in together in caring centres of excellence.



### Bruce Crozier

I and the Ontario Liberals have pledged to fix our health care system to ensure that quality care is accessible to everyone who needs it. We have a plan that will remove barriers to qualified internationally-trained physicians and allow them to practice in Ontario. I am dedicated to the effort of allowing internationally trained physicians to treat those who cannot get access to a doctor. We will increase medical school spaces and provide loan forgiveness for students who choose family medicine. We will help under-serviced communities (like those in Essex and the two Windsor ridings) attract and retain health care professionals.



## Pat Hayes

Fight to make sure that the Liberals in Ottawa pay their fair share and guarantee every healthcare dollar goes to patients, not profits or tax cuts. Attract and keep health care professionals by reducing medical tuition, creating more full-time nursing and nurse practitioner positions and creating more nurse-friendly environments. Act quickly for fairness and to relieve the doctor shortage by streamlining the training and accreditation of qualified internationally trained physicians.



## Darren Brown

In the shorter term the Green Party would extend funding to promote utilization of complementary health care like naturopathy and chiropractic. The Green Party will also increase the number of nurses, public health nurses, and nurse practitioners. Together these strategies will combine to reduce the burden on existing doctors.

### Energy—Electricity Supply

**Q. 6 What is your and/or your party's, plan to ensure stable, predictable and efficient electricity supply at favorable rates for businesses?**

### RIDING OF WINDSOR WEST



## Derick Insley

We will hold the rate freeze until 2006. We are encouraging the use of green energy. Although we are moving in that direction we have to ask the question if it is financially feasible. If you need 9000 windmills (Liberal solution) that would cost a lot of money. They don't have an alternative to the Coal burning plants. To replace the coal plants it would take 4528 windmills at a cost of 2 m each for an excess of \$9 Million.



## Sandra Pupatello

We will keep Hydro in public hands, create the supply we need, get serious about conservation, create cleaner power, for cleaner air, and regulate in the public interest.



## Yvette Blackburn

See the answers for Madeline Crnec in the Windsor-St.Clair Riding (The two candidates submitted one set of answers)



## Cary Lucier

We need to look at what has happened in other Provinces and see what the best solution is. Privatization was a mistake that needs to change. This newly elected government need to get involved in placing caps on electricity in Ontario. We need to stop our power from being sold to the highest bidder outside of Ontario and take care of ourselves first.

Then we must find cleaner more efficient ways to manufacture our energy. Coal fired Power Plants are ridiculously bad for the environment and must be phased out immediately. We need to act and make sure that the problems in the US grid system never effect our power supply again. We need to implement safeguards against such things ever happening again.

### RIDING OF WINDSOR-ST.CLAIR



## Matt Bufton

Our party is committed to providing electricity at fixed rates until 2006. At that time we will allow market competition to provide better prices for all consumers.



## Dwight Duncan

Our five-point plan for positive change will modernize a system that has fallen into disrepair, protect people from skyrocketing bills, protect the economy from blackouts and protect the environment from pollution.

We will keep hydro in public hands, create the supply we need, get serious about conservation, create cleaner power, for cleaner air, and regulate in the public interest



## Madeline Crnec

(Madeline Crnec and Yvette Blackburn submitted one set of answers)

The New Democrats believe the solution relies in keeping our hydro in public hands. We must immediately end hydro privatization and deregulation. We must create Efficiency Ontario to take the lead on money-saving, environmentally friendly, energy efficiency measures so that people can save money through using less hydro, less gas and less heating oil.

·Guarantee by law that by the year 2010 at least 10 per cent and by the year 2020 at least 20 per cent of our electricity would be produced from renewable, environmentally friendly sources.

·Ensure public accountability in our public power system through a new Public Utilities Commission.

·Place a moratorium on new nuclear power stations, clean our air by closing or converting Ontario's coal-fired generating stations by 2007 and invest in clean and renewable energy generation to ensure reliable electricity at cost for Ontario consumers.

### RIDING OF ESSEX



## Pat O'Neil

Ernie Eves government has frozen the electricity rates at fixed rates until 2006. Until we have enough supply the rates will be kept low.



## Bruce Crozier

I and an Ontario Liberal government will work to put our electricity sector back on track by: building clean, reliable and affordable energy supplies, increasing real supply rather than using dirty and expensive diesel generators to keep the lights on in the summer, protecting consumers from retail energy scams

and building a stronger, more accountable Hydro that acts in the public interest, not for the profit of Bay Street business.



### Pat Hayes

Keep our hydro in public hands. Immediately end hydro privatization and deregulation. Ensure public accountability in our public power system through a new Public Utilities Commission.



### Darren Brown

Establishing equitable price caps for commercial and industrial users; and allowing profit sharing for corporations that introduce “peak-shaving” technologies. Allowing electricity rates to be determined by market pricing; Introducing “time of use” metering to allow residential, commercial and industrial customers to financially benefit by using off-peak electricity; Taking advantage of federal Kyoto programs to retrofit businesses; and supporting research and applications of new energy-saving technologies.

Re-structuring Hydro One’s Southern Ontario distribution system to make room for more local generation and transmission initiatives; Maintaining public ownership of Ontario Power Generation’s existing generation facilities; and supporting local, green generation through private and public initiatives

### Auto Insurance

- Q. 7 How will you and/or your party address the issue of escalating auto insurance premiums?
- Q. 8 What specific actions will be initiated and how quickly will they be implemented to have a meaningful impact?

### RIDING OF WINDSOR WEST



### Derick Insley

Through administration and legislation if required our plan is to reduce the premium rates by 10-20 % on average 15%. The alternative is to have public insurance under the Liberals and the NDP and why would anyone pay for insurance through taxes. The initiative is ongoing. Finance department is working on that.



### Sandra Pupatello

As soon as it is sworn into office, a new Ontario Liberal government will freeze rates. Within 90 days of taking office, it will require insurance companies to cut premiums by an average of 10 per cent, by passing on the savings created by a package of measures that will change the way auto insurance works in Ontario. Consumers will be able to save even more – an additional 10 per cent on their premiums.



### Yvette Blackburn

See the answers for Madeline Crnec in the Windsor-St.Clair Riding (the two candidates submitted one set of answers)

### Cary Lucier



If elected I will act in the best interest of all Windsorites to ensure the cheapest Auto Insurance rates can be attained. This means that I am prepared to vote with any Party in power that gets their act together and deals with the situation in a positive manner immediately.

### RIDING OF WINDSOR-ST.CLAIR



### Matt Bufton

We have introduced a plan to cut premiums by 15%. A reduction in the tax paid on auto insurance, caps on damage claims for minor injuries and a commitment to reducing insurance fraud.



### Dwight Duncan

The Ontario Liberals have a concrete plan that will lower auto insurance premiums for Ontario’s driver. Within 90 days of taking office, it will require insurance companies to cut premiums by an average of 10 per cent, by passing on the savings created by a package of measures that will change the way auto insurance works in Ontario. Consumers will be able to save even more – an additional 10 per cent on their premiums.



### Madeline Crnec

Only public auto insurance has a track record of success. In recent years, the public insurance systems in British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have kept rate hikes low, while rates have sky-rocketed in provinces like Ontario with for-profit insurance.

Publicpower means all good drivers will save at least 20% and most good drivers will save more.

### RIDING OF ESSEX



### Pat O’Neil

We have a realistic, responsible plan for reducing auto insurance premiums. We will reduce the premiums on average by 15%, phasing out the 5% sales tax on premiums and completely eliminate the tax by April 2004.



### Bruce Crozier

A Liberal government is committed to immediately freezing auto insurance rates and lowering them by 10% within 90 days by requiring insurance companies to pass on savings created through a number of measures that will change the way auto insurance works. These cost saving measures include red tape reduction, decreased medical costs by changing the way injured people are assessed and treated, decreasing excessive court costs and the elimination of fraud and conflicts of interest. We will also improve customer protection and further reduce rates by up to 10% more through increased choice in the type and extent of coverage they buy.



### Pat Hayes

As Ontario drivers get hit by auto insurance premium increases of 20% and 30% a year, drivers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, provinces with public auto insurance enjoy reasonable rates. It works in other provinces and it can work here.



### Darren Brown

Only the Green Party studied the issue deeply, consulted broadly and developed a long-term strategy to protect drivers and promote A Better Way to Live. We have a 10 point plan to increase the equity in automotive insurance.

### Skills training—Education

**Q. 9 How do you and/or your party plan on providing the funding for apprenticeship programs benefiting our businesses?**

**Q. 10 What is your and/or your party’s plan to attract more candidates in these programs?**

### RIDING OF WINDSOR WEST



### Derick Insley

In the 2003 budget we invested \$90 Million in high schools over 4 years to renew technological equipment, train teachers, develop partnerships with industry. More specifically, we will create new refundable apprenticeship tax credit for businesses to increase the supply of skilled trade workers.



### Sandra Pupatello

We have a plan that will double apprenticeships over five years. We need to create more learning opportunities for high-demand skills.



### Yvette Blackburn

See the answers for Madeline Crnec in the Windsor-St.Clair Riding



### Cary Lucier

The Green Party stands on its Ten Key Values. Sustainability is where we see this issue in our platform. We need to create funding that will sustain our workforce and make sure the opportunities are there for small and large businesses so that the unemployed worker has a better chance of finding a job. We need to let people know that these programs exist by promotion.

### RIDING OF WINDSOR-ST.CLAIR



### Matt Bufton

By introducing a new refundable Apprenticeship Tax Credit for employers who create jobs in Ontario. New high school co-op programs, by helping young people speak with skilled

trades workers. We will also work with unions and employers to inform students about the opportunities available in this area.



### Dwight Duncan

We have a plan that will double apprenticeships over five years.

We need to create more learning opportunities for high-demand skills.



### Madeline Crnec

(Madeline Crnec and Yvette Blackburn submitted one set of answers) The NDP would eliminate the \$400 tuition for this in-class component. We would also re-integrate the construction trades with the rest of the apprentice able trades. In terms of attracting more candidates, we would increase the number of trades/occupations in the apprenticeship system. We would also promote apprenticeship in the schools.

### RIDING OF ESSEX



### Pat O’Neil

By introducing a new refundable Apprenticeship Tax Credit for employers who create jobs in Ontario.

New high school co-op programs will help young people speak with skilled trades workers. We will also work with unions and employers to inform students about the opportunities available in this area.



### Bruce Crozier

The Ontario Liberals have a plan that will double the number of apprenticeships over five years. We know that there is a need for more learning opportunities for the people who want to work in these high demand areas.



### Pat Hayes

Implement a new Schoolwork guarantee to ensure all young between the ages of 16-19 and not in school, have access to a job placement, training apprenticeship, or academic opportunity. Double the number of regulated apprenticeship opportunities available to young people under a reformed apprenticeship program.



### Darren Brown

The Green Party supports Mentorship and Apprenticeship. We will support businesses in providing unique opportunities and guidance for career development. We will implement programs that encourage and reward individuals and businesses that take on disadvantaged persons, provide training or support, and help them meet their goals.

Continue supporting community college apprenticeship programs with affordable tuition levels. Promoting educational options other than University as valid career opportunities.

## Budget—Taxes

**Q. 11 Do you have a balanced budget policy and what is your, your party's, position on corporate and other taxes?**

### RIDING OF WINDSOR WEST



#### **Derick Insley**

We have balanced our budget for 5 consecutive years and will continue to balance the budget. The statutory requirement under the Ontario Tax Protection Act. When the Ontario gove. Wants to increase taxes they must appeal by referendum to the voters for approval. This is the same law we want to offer to the municipalities regarding their budgets. And Dalton McGuinty has notified the chief electoral officer of his intent to raise taxes if he forms the next government. Since 1995 we have cut 225 taxes. It is in the platform to reduce the corporate tax rate.



#### **Sandra Pupatello**

We will balance the budget and hold the line on taxes. We will not raise them. Our Party's Leader Dalton McGuinty has signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. The Ontario Liberal Party is the only one with a fully-costed four-year plan. My party's four-year fiscal plan has been costed, subjected to a forensic audit, and examined by leading economists, who say it will ensure balanced budgets.



#### **Yvette Blackburn**

See the answers for Madeline Crnec in the Windsor-St.Clair Riding (the two candidates submitted one set of answers)



#### **Cary Lucier**

The Green Party does have a Balanced Budget Plan but would need to much time to explain it fully. I suggest that you go to [www.windsorgreens.ca](http://www.windsorgreens.ca) and look at our Party Platform.

### RIDING OF WINDSOR-ST.CLAIR



#### **Matt Bufton**

We are committed to reducing taxes to create jobs and keep our economy strong. Ontarians work hard for their money and deserve to keep more of it. We introduced the taxpayer protection act and have promised to extend it to municipalities. We have balanced the budget 5 years in a row and will continue to do so.



#### **Dwight Duncan**

We will balance the budget and hold the line on taxes. We will not raise them. Our Party's Leader Dalton McGuinty has signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. The Ontario Liberal Party is the only one with a fully-costed four-year plan. My party's four-year fiscal plan has been costed, subjected to a forensic audit, and

examined by leading economists, who say it will ensure balanced budgets.



#### **Madeline Crnec**

(Madeline Crnec and Yvette Blackburn submitted one set of answers)

Hampton's balanced budget platform focuses first on 10 priority areas, including inflation protection for pensions, lowering college and university tuition by 10 per cent, affordable, reliable public hydro and keeping water in public hands and protecting it from source to tap.

### RIDING OF ESSEX



#### **Pat O'Neil**

Yes, balanced the budget five years in a row. Will balance the budget in the next mandated. McGuinty, will raise corporate taxes all corporations.



#### **Bruce Crozier**

The Ontario Liberal plan for the province holds the line on taxes and ensures balanced budgets. Our party will, at all times, act responsibly in our management of Ontarians' tax dollars. We will, however, cancel all further corporate tax cuts planned by the Conservative government. Our province simply cannot afford tax cuts at a time when our essential public services - education, health care and the environment - are starving.



#### **Pat Hayes**

We do have a balance budget policy. An NDP publicpower government would govern within a balanced budget. The Conservative government has wasted millions of dollars on pricey private sector consultants. We would bring back accountability and transparency to the performance of government work.



#### **Darren Brown**

The Green Party will not make future generations pay for today's consumption. To achieve lasting solutions to current challenges, we're committed to fiscal responsibility — spending smarter, not always spending more.

We will reduce taxes on income and shift taxes towards resources and waste. This tax shift would be revenue neutral across industries and taxpayer groups.

## Labour Relations

**Q. 11 What are your, your party's, intentions on the issue of raising the minimum wage?**

### RIDING OF WINDSOR WEST



#### **Derick Insley**

Unfortunately if you raise the minimum wage you will eliminate jobs in the small business area. Small businesses have generated 48,600 jobs since 1995.



#### **Sandra Pupatello**

While inflation has risen almost 20 percent since 1995, the minimum wage has remained frozen at \$6.85 this is unfair. We cannot expect Ontarians to contribute without reasonable returns. We will increase the minimum wage to \$8 over four years.



#### **Yvette Blackburn**

See the answers for Madeline Crnec in the Windsor-St.Clair Riding (The two candidates submitted one set of answers)



#### **Cary Lucier**

The Green Party is the only Party that is committed to raising the minimum wage from \$6.85/hr where it currently stands up to \$8.80/hr.

### RIDING OF WINDSOR-ST.CLAIR



#### **Matt Bufton**

We have no plans to introduce the minimum wage at present. Raises of this sort would result in inflation and job loss.



#### **Dwight Duncan**

While inflation has risen almost 20 percent since 1995, the minimum wage has remained frozen at \$6.85 this is unfair. We cannot expect Ontarians to contribute without reasonable returns. We will increase the minimum wage to \$8 over four years.



#### **Madeline Crnec**

(Madeline Crnec and Yvette Blackburn submitted one set of answers)

I believe that raising the minimum wage to \$8 an hour effective immediately is essential for the well being of our economy.

### RIDING OF ESSEX



#### **Pat O'Neil**

Not proposing to raise the minimum wage, we have lowered the taxes on low income earners. We see these jobs as entry level jobs to gain employment experience in order to get a better paying job. Many of the businesses paying minimum

wage would be disadvantaged. If you have a strong economy the wages will reflect the shortage of employees.



#### **Bruce Crozier**

My party has pledged to raise the minimum wage to \$8 over four years.



#### **Pat Hayes**

We would immediately raise the minimum wage to \$8 an hour. Raising the minimum wage will benefit local economies. People with low and moderate incomes spend their money in the community, at neighbourhood stores and on local services. Raising the minimum wage is good for all of us, including small businesses.



#### **Darren Brown**

Raise minimum wage to \$8.80 an hour. Full-time minimum wage earnings must be above the poverty line.