

**2008 Federal Election Campaign
Questionnaire on Municipal Issues**

Riding:
Kitchener-Waterloo

Candidate's Name:
Andrew Telegdi

Candidate's Political Party:
Liberal Party of Canada

1. How will you and your political party involve municipalities – from rural communities to large urban centres – as partners on federal issues that have a direct impact on local governments and their citizens?

We understand that municipal governments face serious challenges as a result of repeated downloading.

Together with Canadians, Liberals defeated the fiscal deficit. Canada is now facing another challenge, one that could be just as debilitating to our country's potential: the infrastructure deficit. This infrastructure deficit, estimated at over \$100 billion, threatens our economic growth and our quality of life.

Liberals understand that infrastructure is not only the backbone of the Canadian economy; it is the foundation for the cities and communities in which we live. It is our tap water, the roads and bridges that connect us, the buildings that form the faces of our communities. Climate change will add to the challenge, as extreme weather places further stress on our infrastructure.

To tackle the infrastructure deficit, all governments must work together in partnership – and there must be leadership from the federal government. We are committed to providing long-term and predictable resources.

2. Will you and your political party commit to providing municipalities with a source of additional, sustainable and permanent infrastructure funding that grows with the economy? If so, how do you propose to provide that funding and when will such a plan be implemented?

A Liberal government will implement a 10-year \$70-billion plan to invest directly in our country's infrastructure. As part of this commitment, we will honour all existing framework agreements that the Conservative government has signed with the provinces, as well as specific funding commitments. We believe that when the Government of Canada puts its name on an agreement, future governments should respect that commitment.

A Liberal government will be upfront and transparent about the priorities we will pursue in our discussions with the provinces and municipalities under the framework agreements. To that end, over the next 10 years, a Liberal government will allocate:

- \$10 billion for Strategic Infrastructure, particularly green infrastructure such as clean water and sewage treatment, and clean energy grids;
- \$8 billion for a National Transit Strategy that will enable our cities to expand their systems and green their transit fleets;

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- \$3 billion for a dedicated Small Communities Fund, to ensure that all Canadians are able to see strengthened, more resilient infrastructure;
- \$4.5 billion for our country's Gateways, Corridors and Borders to ensure that Canada's infrastructure facilitates, rather than hinders, our trade and tourism industries while keeping Canada safe and secure; and,
- \$3 billion for Sports and Recreational Facilities because an active society is a healthier society and Canada must renew and expand its arenas and other leisure facilities.

Second, a new Liberal government will invest the entire amount of any future unanticipated surplus that exceeds our \$3-billion contingency reserve into Canada's infrastructure. This would have represented \$7 billion in 2007-08, and nearly \$75 billion if this approach had been taken over the last ten years. The top priority will be investment in sustainable infrastructure.

Third, a Liberal government will develop an Infrastructure Bank as an additional tool to finance infrastructure investment. This bank will provide low-cost financing for all levels of government that choose to borrow from it and will help finance long-term green infrastructure projects such as regional energy grids and high speed rail links in Canada's busiest commuter corridors. Canadians across the country would have the opportunity to participate in the Bank's projects through the purchase of tax-free Green Bonds similar to Canada Savings Bonds.

In addition to these measures, our 10-year plan includes the transfer of almost \$25 billion to the municipalities through the gas tax transfer. We will index the transfer to nominal GDP growth so that municipalities have the funding certainty they need to keep up with economic growth.

- 3. Will you and your political party commit to the creation of a National Transit Strategy that will provide municipalities with the necessary resources to build, expand and operate their transit systems? If so, what role will municipalities play in the creation of that strategy and what additional funding will be made available for municipalities looking to improve their transit systems?**

We believe that the best way to encourage Canadians to switch from cars to transit is to make the use of public transit as convenient and affordable as possible. Getting Canadians out of their cars will require a significant culture change. Starting that change will demand high quality transit systems that will attract widespread ridership.

That is why we will invest at least \$8 billion for a National Transit Strategy that will enable our cities to expand their systems and green their transit fleets.

- 4. Will you and your political party commit to formally involving municipalities in the creation of a national housing strategy that will provide sustainable and predictable funding to municipalities for affordable and supportive housing – including the renewal of funding for all federal housing programs before March 2009? If so, what specific role will municipalities play in the creation of such a strategy?**

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A Liberal government will tackle the housing crisis by helping to provide for 30,000 new social housing units, and refurbishing another 30,000 existing units to make them more liveable.

As part of this commitment, we will look to expand subsidies for dedicated units for low-income Canadians in federally funded co-operative housing. We will renew the Residential Rehabilitation Program and the Homelessness Partnering Initiative. And a Liberal government will help low-income families pay less on their energy bills: we will support the building and upgrading of affordable housing for low-income Canadians, to help them reduce their energy costs through high environmental standards – because every Canadian deserves to share the benefits of a greener economy.

The Liberal Party has also announced the 30/50 plan to fight poverty in Canada by decreasing the number of Canadians living in poverty by 30% and cut the number of children living in poverty by half. The 30/50 plan will work by increasing income support and by working with provinces and municipalities to improve social services. We will create a real Making Work Pay Benefit so hard-working Canadians can climb over the welfare wall. We will honour the spirit of the Kelowna Accord and improve the Canada Child Tax Benefit, and make it refundable, so the children who represent our future can get the best possible first start.

The Liberal Party will work in partnership with provinces, cities, and NGOs to achieve real improvements in affordable housing, universal child care, public transit, and labour market training.

Our country will be made stronger if all Canadians are able to fully participate in our society.

5. How will you and your political party engage municipal governments in meeting our national climate change and clean air objectives?

The Liberal climate change plan will not only help address climate change, it will also help clean the air we breathe because being more energy efficient and using more renewable energy sources mean we will spew less smog and pollution into our air.

Clean air has long been a priority for the Liberal Party, but more needs to be done. The Liberal party will work closely with the provinces and our local communities to ensure that we have clean air to breathe.

A Liberal government will pass a tough National Ambient Air Quality Standard to reduce the pollutants that cause smog, haze, acid rain and other problems. These new standards will help protect Kitchener-Waterloo from the sources of air pollution in our region using health-based levels of safety for the air we breathe.

A Liberal Government will also help industry to upgrade their technology by making air pollution control equipment eligible for rapid tax write-offs, and implement a comprehensive Mercury Reduction Strategy, which will help to reduce the presence of this potent neurotoxin in our environment.

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6. What will you and your political party commit to doing to enhance early learning and child care, so that they are more affordable and accessible, in communities across Canada?

A new Liberal government will work with the provinces and territories to create new quality early education and child care spaces that families need. Only when child care spaces are available are parents truly able to have a choice in what is best for their families; and to balance work and life responsibilities.

We commit to allocating, at full investment, \$1.25 billion annually to negotiate new agreements with stakeholders to create 165,000 new child care spaces nationwide. We further commit to making maternity and parental leave programs more flexible for parents, by giving them the option of extending or shortening their benefits.

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Riding:
Kitchener-Waterloo

Candidate's Name:
Cathy MacLellan

Candidate's Political Party:
Green Party of Canada

1. How will you and your political party involve municipalities – from rural communities to large urban centres – as partners on federal issues that have a direct impact on local governments and their citizens?

According to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 50 percent of Canadian tax revenue is spent on federal programs, 42 percent goes to the provinces and only 8 percent goes to municipal governments.

Our constitution set up a tax system that greatly favours federal and provincial governments. Canada's biggest fiscal imbalance is the imbalance between municipal governments and everyone else.

Many Canadians experience their government at the level where it collects their recycling and waste, runs their buses, provides domestic water, supports community and cultural events and deals with infrastructure.

Green Party MPs will:

Allocate one percent of the GST on an approximate per capita basis to municipal governments for "Green Cities" initiatives to reduce sprawl and GHG emissions, increase densification and expand public transportation.

Increase the Gas Tax Transfer to municipalities to 5 cents/litre to be used to fund public transit, cycling and pedestrian path infrastructure and rural roads.

Create six Municipal Superfunds of \$500. million /fund/year (an average of \$100. per citizen per year) to replace the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund for: community brownfield remediation, water treatment, mass transit, community housing.

2. Will you and your political party commit to providing municipalities with a source of additional, sustainable and permanent infrastructure funding that grows with the economy? If so, how do you propose to provide that funding and when will such a plan be implemented?

See above plus:

Change tax policy to create a new pool of long term municipal infrastructure funding by allowing municipalities to issue new Municipal Registered Retirement Savings Plans Bonds which can be held in RRSPs and self directed RRSPs.

3. Will you and your political party commit to the creation of a National Transit Strategy that will provide municipalities with the necessary resources to build, expand and

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operate their transit systems? If so, what role will municipalities play in the creation of that strategy and what additional funding will be made available for municipalities looking to improve their transit systems?

We are the only country in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with no national transportation strategy.

Green MPs will: (in addition to the above)

Improve rail infrastructure and intermodal connections, increasing joint federal-municipal light rail investments, as well as improving VIA rail service nationwide.

4. Will you and your political party commit to formally involving municipalities in the creation of a national housing strategy that will provide sustainable and predictable funding to municipalities for affordable and supportive housing – including the renewal of funding for all federal housing programs before March 2009? If so, what specific role will municipalities play in the creation of such a strategy?

The Green Party believes it is the right of every Canadian to have affordable, safe and secure housing. It enhances people's health, dignity and life opportunities. It is an essential prerequisite to an equitable society.

Green Party MPs will:

* Create a National Affordable Housing Program that provides sufficient funds annually through the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to community-based agencies across Canada to:

1. Build new subsidized affordable homes: 20,000 new and 10,000 rehabilitated affordable units per year for the next ten years using capital grants and changes in tax and mortgage insurance regulations;
2. Provide rent supplements or shelter assistance for an additional 40,000 low-income households per year, for ten years;
3. Provide credit and loan guarantees to non-profit housing organizations and cooperatives for the building and restoration of quality, energy-efficient housing for seniors, people with special needs, and low-income families;
4. Subsidize private developers to include a percentage of affordable housing in their housing projects;
5. Extend provisions in the Income Tax Act to offer tax incentives to build affordable, healthy, energy-efficient, multi-unit rental housing and to include tax credits for gifts of lands, or of land and buildings, to community land trusts to provide affordable housing.

5. How will you and your political party engage municipal governments in meeting our national climate change and clean air objectives?

The Green Party carbon tax shift is the best way to send a signal to all Canadians to meet our climate change objectives. For heavy industrial emitters a Cap and Trade system will work in concert with a carbon tax shift to reduce those emissions. See www.greenparty.ca for a more comprehensive look at how this will work.

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6. What will you and your political party commit to doing to enhance early learning and child care, so that they are more affordable and accessible, in communities across Canada?

The Green Party believes we need a high-quality federally-funded universal child care program in Canada. Workplace child care has been shown to improve productivity, decrease employee absenteeism, ensure quality care for children (because parents can “drop in” at any time to see their young children), and permits longer breast-feeding of infants. Work-place child care spaces create other benefits, recognizing the emerging literature that children benefit enormously from time with their mothers, especially when very young.

Green MPs will:

- Restore and revamp the 2005 agreement reached between the federal government, provinces and territories to achieve a universal child care programme in Canada.
- Specifically ensure that Canada’s universal child care programme provides workplace child care spaces wherever possible.
- Tax shift to make advertising directed at children ineligible for corporate tax write-offs.
- Accelerate the creation of workplace child care spaces through a direct tax credit to employers (or groups of employers in small businesses) of \$1500 tax credit/child per year.
- Value the decisions of parents who choose to stay home with children.
- Promote and facilitate access to Roots of Empathy Programme to every Canadian child at some point in their elementary school years.

7. As our local economy continues to transform, what concrete measures will you and your political party commit to taking to help to strengthen our regional economy?

The local regional economy will be strengthened by the creation of green collar jobs which will receive incentives and subsidies as part of the Green tax shift. A sustainable environmental plan is a sustainable economic plan. When people are content with their work and family situation (which solid progressive policies can promote) they develop strong roots to their community and this connection helps strengthen the region.

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Riding:
Kitchener-Waterloo

Candidate's Name:
Ramon Portillo

Candidate's Political Party:
Communist Party of Canada

8. How will you and your political party involve municipalities – from rural communities to large urban centres – as partners on federal issues that have a direct impact on local governments and their citizens?

We think that municipalities must have status in the Canadian Constitution, and taxing powers to match, that will end their current status as creatures of provincial governments. With more than 50% of Canadians now living in cities, it is impossible for cities to continue to function at the whim of senior governments, and without stable funding, status and appropriate wealth- taxing powers. The campaign for a new financial deal for municipalities has my full support. It must include adequate and stable funding for large and small cities across Canada, either through vastly increased unconditional statutory grants that cover all the costs of a 21st century city, or else wealth taxing powers so that municipalities can raise the funds they need through taxing the wealth of industry and big business. Property taxes should be levied solely for the purpose of providing services to property; other services should be uploaded onto the broad shoulders of provincial and federal governments which have wealth taxing powers now.

It's time homeowners and tenants received some needed tax relief

9. Will you and your political party commit to providing municipalities with a source of additional, sustainable and permanent infrastructure funding that grows with the economy? If so, how do you propose to provide that funding and when will such a plan be implemented?

Yes, cities must have immediate, permanent, and adequate funding for infrastructure. This is urgent as municipal infrastructure is aging, and any further delay could result in catastrophes like collapsing bridges, as has already happened in Quebec and in the US. Senior levels of government should pay for infrastructure, and one way to do it would be to return 50% of road user taxes to municipalities, including gas and licence taxes. We are absolutely opposed to any plan to sell off or privatize public assets in order to pay for infrastructure renewal. This is akin to cannibalizing assets that have built up by homeowners and tenants over generations. We are also opposed to toll roads, and any kind of P3 schemes, whether provincially, federally or municipally generated.

10. Will you and your political party commit to the creation of a National Transit Strategy that will provide municipalities with the necessary resources to build, expand and operate their transit systems? If so, what role will municipalities play in the creation of that strategy and what additional funding will be made available for municipalities looking to improve their transit systems?

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Yes, we support the creation of a National Transit Strategy, and are fighting for mass rapid transit to be a feature of every medium and large city in Canada, to be fully funded by federal and provincial governments, through unconditional statutory grants. In addition, we believe that transit should not be funded through the fare-box, since lower fares, or free fares, lead to increased ridership and thus to fewer cars on the roads and to reduced automobile use and pollution. Capital and operating costs, including subway construction in the big cities, should be fully funded by federal and provincial governments.

11. Will you and your political party commit to formally involving municipalities in the creation of a national housing strategy that will provide sustainable and predictable funding to municipalities for affordable and supportive housing – including the renewal of funding for all federal housing programs before March 2009? If so, what specific role will municipalities play in the creation of such a strategy?

There is a crisis of affordable housing stock across Canada, most of it centred in Canada's cities. The federal government must take the lead with a national housing strategy that includes immediate and massive public investment in an emergency social housing construction program that would see hundreds of thousands of new units of affordable housing built in the next 4 years; these low-cost units to be for rent and for sale. This will bring down rents and prices, by easing the supply. Social housing should include transitional housing and emergency housing, to address homelessness, but must also address the fundamental issue of providing affordable housing to all. No-one should pay more than 24% of income for shelter. The federal government should be land-banking with municipalities to reduce the cost of land, and municipalities should be involved in every phase of planning and administering the projects.

5. How will you and your political party engage municipal governments in meeting our national climate change and clean air objectives?

We need to nationalize the oil and gas industries, and maintain public ownership and control over municipal utilities and provincial utilities. We need to build an east-west power grid that focuses on generating new clean power such as solar and wind. We should phase out nuclear power and work with provinces to phase out coal generated power. Public ownership and democratic control over gas and oil would allow for a 2 price system, higher for export and lower for domestic use. To do this, we'll need to get out of NAFTA, and adopt multi-lateral trade policies based on mutual benefit. We need to block the sale of Great Lakes water, and ensure that industries that pollute are forced to clean up, and to pay for the clean up.

1. What will you and your political party commit to doing to enhance early learning and child care, so that they are more affordable and accessible, in communities across Canada?

Canada urgently needs a universally accessible, affordable system of quality, regulated, public care. Currently in Quebec, such a system exists at a cost of \$7 per day per child. Child care workers should be adequately paid, and should all be ECE qualifications. Child care should be integrated with the public school system for seamless early learning for children from age 3.

Big box, private child care corporations should not receive any public funding or support, nor should any private, for-profit child care provider.

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2. As our local economy continues to transform, what concrete measures will you and your political party commit to taking to help to strengthen our regional economy?

We need emergency action to protect Canada from the credit and economic crisis in the US. This means immediate action to protect workers' pensions and savings, jobs, and homes. Canada should immediately end negotiations with the US on deep integration through the Security and Prosperity Partnership, get out of NAFTA, and adopt plant closure legislation with teeth to prevent further plant closures and layoffs. We need an industrial strategy to rebuild our industrial and automotive base: a Crown corporation to produce a Canadian car that is small, fuel-efficient, and environmentally sustainable; an appliance industry; machine tool industry; agricultural implements industry; ship-building and a Merchant Marine. This means a new trade policy based on fair trade, not free trade. We also need to expand social programs and build affordable housing to create thousands of new jobs in construction, and in the public sector. Public investment in a much needed infrastructure program will also create thousands of new jobs, as will needed new public investment in the arts, in democratic Canadian culture, and in amateur sports.

**2008 Federal Election Campaign
Questionnaire on Municipal Issues**

Riding:
Kitchener-Waterloo

Candidate's Name:
Cindy Jacobsen

Candidate's Political Party:
New Democratic Party

1. How will you and your political party involve municipalities – from rural communities to large urban centres – as partners on federal issues that have a direct impact on local governments and their citizens?

Jack Layton spent many years as a City Councillor in Toronto and this experience means that he is keenly aware of the importance of cities and municipal governments for Canada's economy. The New Democratic Party Platform 2008 document lists several areas where consultation with cities and municipalities is explicitly highlighted in key policy areas. More detail on each of your more specific questions below.

2. Will you and your political party commit to providing municipalities with a source of additional, sustainable and permanent infrastructure funding that grows with the economy? If so, how do you propose to provide that funding and when will such a plan be implemented?

The NDP platform commits to investing "the equivalent of one cent of the GST in increased funding of the important priorities of our cities and communities by 2011. This will address the growing infrastructure deficit, and help cities and citizens avoid massive property tax increases. This increased infrastructure commitment, phased in over 5 years, will include increased investment and jobs in:

- Expanded public transit.
- Affordable housing.
- Expanded child care.
- Building retrofits and environmentally friendly renovations.
- Immigrant settlement.
- Roads, highways and border crossings.
- Public libraries.
- Community centres.
- Sewer and water treatment facilities.

3. Will you and your political party commit to the creation of a National Transit Strategy that will provide municipalities with the necessary resources to build, expand and operate their transit systems? If so, what role will municipalities play in the creation of that strategy and what additional funding will be made available for municipalities looking to improve their transit systems?

The funding commitment to transit is included above. The NDP plan commits to investing "stable, annual transit funding, combining an extra cent from the existing gas tax with

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revenue from making big polluters pay, investing \$4 billion in transit over the first four years of our program."

- 4. Will you and your political party commit to formally involving municipalities in the creation of a national housing strategy that will provide sustainable and predictable funding to municipalities for affordable and supportive housing – including the renewal of funding for all federal housing programs before March 2009? If so, what specific role will municipalities play in the creation of such a strategy?**

The funding commitment to affordable housing is listed above. The NDP has a target to retrofit 7% of Canada's building and housing stock each year. The platform also commits to a "Bring Canada Home" program that will implement a durable, comprehensive and fully-funded affordable housing strategy that meets Canada's international obligations, as set out by the United Nations. We will build towards the 10-year goal of the One Percent Solution – with one percent of federal spending allocated for truly affordable housing.

- 5. How will you and your political party engage municipal governments in meeting our national climate change and clean air objectives?**

The NDP sees the major need at this moment to be a strong national policy. However, many of those areas of environmental policy where municipalities play an important role, such as clean water, will involve funding of municipal infrastructure.

- 6. What will you and your political party commit to doing to enhance early learning and child care, so that they are more affordable and accessible, in communities across Canada?**

The New Democrats are committed to a National Child Care program. During the last parliament the NDP introduced an Early Learning and Child Care act with the goal of extending affordable and accessible child care. A New Democrat government would continue their longstanding work towards the goals of affordability and accessibility.

- 7. As our local economy continues to transform, what concrete measures will you and your political party commit to taking to help to strengthen our regional economy?**

The New Democrat platform commits to "Establish a regional development agency for Southern Ontario, with the specific emphasis on areas hard hit by manufacturing job losses." In addition, the Green-Collar Jobs Fund of \$750 million a year and investments in universities will contribute to Kitchener-Waterloo's innovative economy.

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Questionnaire on Municipal Issues**

Riding:
Kitchener-Waterloo

Candidate's Name:
Cousineau, Jason

Candidate's Political Party:
Libertarian Party of Canada

- 1. How will you and your political party involve municipalities – from rural communities to large urban centres – as partners on federal issues that have a direct impact on local governments and their citizens?**

The Libertarian party seeks to reduce the size, power, and cost of the federal government. This will mean more money in the wallets of Canadians, and less interference in their lives. Communities will have more control over their own affairs, and can fund the projects that their people are willing to support. Funding programs at a local level provides more accountability and allows for more involvement by the people who will be affected.

- 2. Will you and your political party commit to providing municipalities with a source of additional, sustainable and permanent infrastructure funding that grows with the economy? If so, how do you propose to provide that funding and when will such a plan be implemented?**

We would commit to leaving tax revenue in the community, in the hands of Canadians, rather than continuing to allow an oversized federal government to suck away cash and dictate on which conditions that a bit of it may be returned.

- 3. Will you and your political party commit to the creation of a National Transit Strategy that will provide municipalities with the necessary resources to build, expand and operate their transit systems? If so, what role will municipalities play in the creation of that strategy and what additional funding will be made available for municipalities looking to improve their transit systems?**

We would not commit to a National Transit Strategy. We do not believe that money should be taken from Canadians to support programs that they may not agree with or benefit from.

- 4. Will you and your political party commit to formally involving municipalities in the creation of a national housing strategy that will provide sustainable and predictable funding to municipalities for affordable and supportive housing – including the renewal of funding for all federal housing programs before March 2009? If so, what specific role will municipalities play in the creation of such a strategy?**

If people wish to support affordable housing in their community, they are free to do so. A Libertarian government would provide no funding for an affordable housing program, and collect no taxes to pay for it.

- 12. How will you and your political party engage municipal governments in meeting our national climate change and clean air objectives?**

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Canadians should have the freedom to vote with their wallets, through their purchases of products, fuels, and investments, for the green programs and industries that they support. This will be more effective than having Canadians surrender their money to a government that will quietly subsidize the oil and gas industries.

13. What will you and your political party commit to doing to enhance early learning and child care, so that they are more affordable and accessible, in communities across Canada?

We would not fund early learning or child care programs, or collect any taxes to pay for them. Canadians would be left with their cash and could decide which child care option was suitable for them.

14. As our local economy continues to transform, what concrete measures will you and your political party commit to taking to help to strengthen our regional economy?

A strong economy is built on strong businesses and financially-stable customers. A Libertarian government would reduce corporate taxes, lower personal taxes dramatically, and generally not interfere in business. "Corporate welfare" would be entirely eliminated, and a Libertarian government would not pass, or even propose, oppressive laws designed to help corporations maintain profit at the expense of individual freedoms (for example: the recent bills C-51 and C-61.)