

## **RESPONSES: DUFFERIN COUNTY DEBATE QUESTIONS**

### **Economy & Budget Related Questions**

#### **Question One**

*The Conservative incumbents continue to run on a platform of economic stability despite driving a recession by failing to diversify our economy and invest in the new future of energy. How will the Liberals knock down entrenched economic assumptions about the Conservatives and lead Canada onto a economic path that is both promising and progressive?*

The Conservatives have developed a brand around being a sound economic managers, but the reality is quite different. Despite campaigning on a promise of smaller government, Stephen Harper commands the largest government in Canadian history. Despite claiming praise for navigating the 2008 recession, he inherited the strong fiscal position and banking regulations that kept the Canadian economy afloat. The government's stimulus response was demanded by opposition parties - Stephen harper only agreed for fear of losing his minority government. Despite campaigning on Canada having the stronger economy in the G7, Canada in fact has a fragile economy that is under-performing relative to its peers. Our underperformance is threatening our communities and our middle class, as a lack of growth and continued job losses hurt Canadian families and the industries that depend on them. The Liberal platform realizes these challenges and includes plans to strengthen Canada's middle class, invest in growth and job creation, and make efforts to diversify and strengthen our economy.

#### **Question Two**

*Does your party plan to use deficit financing and how will you handle rising interest rates on the \$1.2 trillion cumulative debt we already have?*

Our struggling economy needs investment, not austerity. We will be making the necessary investments to kick start our economy, create opportunities for Canadians, and build the backbone infrastructure for future growth. Our fully-costed plan forecasts Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio to fall every year that we are in office. Our plan ensures that the government remains in a sustainable fiscal position. Our plan is anchored in prudent forecasting, including restoring a contingency reserve as we return to surplus and not budgeting for the positive fiscal impacts of new investments.

#### **Question Three**

*How was your national debt created and what party was the biggest contributor?*

Over the last 50 years, the largest contributors to our national debt have been Conservative governments, and the most prudent managers have been Liberal governments. We are fully committed to restoring good governance to Canada's economy after a decade of Conservative inaction.

#### Question Four

*How can the federal government help grow the economy, protecting the environment (especially Co2) and not put a financial burden on our children & grand-children*

We feel that the Federal government should be taking a leadership role in rebuilding the Canadian economy. We are committed to historic investments in Canadian infrastructure and job training. Much of this investment is targeted to greening Canada's economy and workforce: we know that in the 21st century, the economy and the environment go hand-in-hand. We are committed to maintaining Canada's sustainable fiscal position, and our fully-costed plan forecasts a year-over-year decrease in Canada's debt-to-GDP ratio, every year, reaching 27% by year four. Furthermore, I am committed to being the Greenest MP every elected in Dufferin-Caledon and am proud to be running on a platform that commits the government to real action on climate change. We will work with the provinces to set national emissions-reduction targets, invest in the infrastructure necessary to lower our carbon footprint and encourage sustainable growth, and invest in the clean research and technology we will need to advance past our carbon-dependent economy.

#### Question Five

*All the opposition leaders maintained the government was in deficit last year and that the books were cooked to make it look otherwise and that spending was cut. So, were we in deficit last year?*

The Federal government achieved a \$1.9 billion surplus last year by underspending its own budgets by \$8.7 billion. This money came from ministries such as Veterans Affairs and National Defence - areas where we should be increasing spending, not cutting it. This year, the government achieved a surplus in name only - using money from the EI surplus, removing the contingency fund, selling our shares of GM - these were electioneering tricks, not examples of prudent fiscal management.

### **Coalition Related Questions**

#### Question One

*Even though the majority of Canadians hope for a change away from the Conservative government, as they did in the last Federal election, a vote split between NDPs and Liberals will likely mean another term for Mr. Harper. Are your two parties willing to form a coalition to give the people of Canada the government they want and deserve?*

Even with the election fast approaching, I believe it would be foolish to make predictions on its outcome. It is clear that a majority of Canadians want a different government. I believe the same to be true for residents of Dufferin-Caledon. The value of my opinion on the national campaign depends heavily on the outcome of the local one.

### **Environment Related Questions**

#### Question One

*Water...our MOST precious resource needs strong policies to protect it. With California droughts; western heat waves and many many corporate bottling plants, our Great Lakes and it's whole catch basin i.e. most of southern Ontario, needs to be protected and secure. What would each of you do to guarantee the Great Lakes security?*

We will treat our freshwater as a precious resource that deserves protection and careful stewardship. To protect freshwater ecosystems, we will renew our commitment to protect the Great Lakes. To aid in making the best possible decisions, we will restore \$1.5 million in annual federal funding for freshwater research - a program that was cut by the Conservatives - and make new investments in Canada's world-leading IISD Experimental Lakes Area. We are also committed to undoing the damage done to Canada's Environmental Assessment processes to better protect our local environment. We are also committed to undoing the Conservative changes to the Navigable Waters Act that removed federal protections from millions of lakes and rivers across Canada.

### Question Two

*Ontario Power Generation is proposing to build an underground dump for low and intermediate nuclear waste less than a kilometer from the shore of Lake Huron near Kincardine. Some of this waste is 100,000 times more toxic than uranium in its natural state. Ontario Power Generation experts have testified that at some point radioactive waste could leak from the dump. Lake Huron represents 21% of the world's fresh water. The site iThere are 175 towns, cities and municipalities in Canada and the US including Toronto and Chicago that have passed a resolution opposing this dump or any repository anywhere near the Great Lakes Basin. This group represents 22.6 million citizens. 40 million people get their drinking water from Lake Huron. The next Federal Minister of the Environment is scheduled to make a decision regarding the project on Dec. 2nd 2015. What is your position on this issue? Would you work to stop this projects on First Nations land and they oppose this plan as well. There are 175 towns, cities and municipalities in Canada and the US including Toronto and Chicago that have passed a resolution opposing this dump or any repository anywhere near the Great Lakes Basin. This group represents 22.6 million citizens. 40 million people get their drinking water from Lake Huron. The next Federal Minister of the Environment is scheduled to make a decision regarding the project on Dec. 2nd 2015. What is your position on this issue? Would you work to stop this project?*

This is an issue that is within provincial jurisdiction and outside of this riding. I would be happy to listen to the concerns of the MP for that area, and do what I can to support good decision making on an issue of national concern. I'd like to add that the Liberal party is committed to evidence-based decision making in a number of areas, and would insist that a project of this scope be held to strict, scientific scrutiny. I would be interested in learning more about this project.

### Question Three

*So what about climate change? What is your party advocating? Why haven't the conservatives done anything over the last 4 years? It is scandalous.*

We have a comprehensive environmental plan, including real action to address climate change. Stephen Harper has had nearly a decade to take action on climate change but has failed to do

so. His lack of leadership has tarnished Canada's reputation abroad, making it harder for Canadian businesses to compete.

The provinces and territories recognize the need to act now, and have already begun to price carbon and take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will end the cycle of federal parties – of all stripes – setting arbitrary targets without a real federal/provincial/territorial plan in place. We will instead partner with provincial and territorial leaders to develop real climate change solutions, consistent with our international obligations to protect the planet, all while growing our economy.

Together, we will attend the Paris climate conference, and within 90 days formally meet to establish a pan-Canadian framework for combatting climate change. We will work together to establish national emissions-reduction targets, and ensure that the provinces and territories have targeted federal funding and the flexibility to design their own policies to meet these commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies. These targets must recognize the economic cost and catastrophic impact that a greater-than-two-degree increase in average global temperatures would represent, as well as the need for Canada to do its part to prevent that from happening.

Partnering with the provinces and territories, we will create a new Low Carbon Economy Trust. The Trust will provide funding to projects that materially reduce carbon emissions under the new pan-Canadian framework. We will endow the Low Carbon Economy Trust with \$2 billion in our mandate. We will protect our communities from the challenges of climate change and grow our economy by making significant new investments in green infrastructure.

We will fulfill our G20 commitment and phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry over the medium-term. We will also work in partnership with the United States and Mexico to develop an ambitious North American clean energy and environmental agreement.

#### Question Four

*What are the candidates opinion of our environmental standing in the world?*

Simply, Canada has acted to obstruct global action on environmental issues, an area where we should be a global leader. Not only has this inaction led to irreparable environmental damage, but has had serious consequences for our ability to compete economically and lobby on the world stage. We need leadership that the recognizes the strategic implications of our lowered global reputation.

#### Question Five

*The Conservatives took Canada out of Kyoto, cut environmental safe-guards at every opportunity, gutted and muzzled the national research council, and made Canada the mockery at all international meetings on climate change and pollution. If your party is elected, what are your specific plans to change Canada's image and what will you propose at the up-coming environmental climate change meeting in Paris?*

We have specific plans to combat climate change and take a leadership role on international environmental concerns. Please see my answers to questions 3 & 4.

## **Gun Control**

### **Question One**

*The United States just had another tragic mass murder of college students by a gun crazed individual. President Obama is trying to implement some form of gun control. Unfortunately due to the close proximity of our borders, this gun culture is slowly creeping into Canada. If your party is elected, what specific plans does your party have to strengthen our gun controls and insure that the US sickness does not migrate into Canada?*

There are 6,000 victims of gun related violence in Canada each year. We have a responsibility to strengthen laws to prevent these crimes. We will take pragmatic action to make it harder for criminals to get, and use, handguns and assault weapons. To this end, we will provide \$100 million each year to the provinces and territories to support guns and gangs police task forces to take illegal guns off of the streets and reduce gang violence. We will require enhanced background checks for those looking to purchase handguns or restricted firearms, and will require more diligence on the part of vendors with regard to inventory.

We understand that there is a necessary and beneficial role for guns in rural communities such as Dufferin-Caledon, and these regulations are not aimed at lawful, responsible gun owners. As such, we will not create a new national long-gun registry.

## **Alcohol / Drug Related Questions**

### **Question One**

*With all the traffic accidents on highways – most related to alcohol, and now a certain party wants it in grocery stores, also to legalize drugs. Are we going ahead or back? What's next? Think of the three children & grandfather just recently killed.*

The regulation and sale of alcohol is governed by the provinces.

### **Question Two**

*What about legalizing marijuana?*

The Liberal party of Canada supports the legalization of marijuana. Despite filing 500,000 charges and spending \$500 million since 2006 in a failed effort to combat marijuana use, the drug is as ubiquitous as ever. Our current system of marijuana prohibition does not work. It does not prevent young people from using marijuana and too many Canadians end up with criminal records for possessing small amounts of the drug. At the same time, the proceeds from the illegal drug support organized crime and greater threats to public safety, like human trafficking and hard drugs.

To ensure that we keep marijuana out of the hands of children, and the profits out of the hands of criminals, we will legalize, regulate, and restrict access to marijuana.

We will remove marijuana consumption and incidental possession from the Criminal Code, and create new, stronger laws to punish more severely those who provide it to minors, those who operate a motor vehicle while under its influence, and those who sell it outside of the new regulatory framework.

We will create a federal/provincial/territorial task force, and with input from experts in public health, substance abuse, and law enforcement, will design a new system of strict marijuana sales and distribution, with appropriate federal and provincial excise taxes applied.

### **Land Use**

#### **Question One**

*How would you revise Aerodome land use legislation so that provincial (and lower) can have more say in the impact of the “non-Aerodome” use of the property? i.e. Landfill.*

I am aware of the planning concerns created by current federal aerodrome legislation, particularly with regard to fill dumping. I believe that while there is a national interest in maintaining areas for aeronautical use, regulations must be reviewed so as to not allow abuses. I fully support local efforts to prevent fill-dumping that is not in the public interest or in line with local planning wishes.

### **Recreation Question**

#### **Question One**

*What are your plans to improve recreational opportunities?*

A Liberal government will make the largest infrastructure investment in Canadian history. We will nearly double federal infrastructure investment to \$125 billion over the next decade, including an additional \$20 billion for social infrastructure. This will include dedicated funding that prioritizes recreational infrastructure. Investing in recreational infrastructure projects increases Canadians' access to healthy-living facilities nation-wide so that the average Canadian can participate in amateur sports locally. Stronger support for amateur sport and physical activity leads to higher quality of life and healthier Canadians.

We will continue the Child Fitness Tax Credit, as it makes recreational activities more affordable to many families in our community.

We will also reverse cuts made to Parks Canada so that more Canadians can experience our National Parks and learn about our environment and our heritage.

### **Abortion / Suicide Questions**

#### **Question One**

*Mr. Trudeau has said that your party will not accept new candidates who are not pro-choice on abortion. Notwithstanding, would you support legislation that would assist in preventing gender selective abortions performed among some ethnic groups in Canada?*

Abortion has been decriminalized in Canada since 1988 and reproductive rights are considered to be protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. No political party would succeed in changing these laws without reopening the Constitution, which no party is suggesting we do. The Liberal Party of Canada believes in, and will safeguard, a woman's right to choose.

### Question Two

*With the supreme court asking Parliament to pass a new law on assisted suicide/euthanasia by early 2016, what is your party's position on what the new law should be? Do you feel that assisted suicide should be made illegal or if not, under what circumstances would it be permitted?*

I realize that physician-assisted death is a complex issue and any legislation on the matter must reflect the values of Canadians and the rule of law. A Liberal government will appoint a special committee to consider the ruling of the Supreme Court, consult with experts and Canadians, and make recommendations for a legislative framework that respects the Constitution, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the priorities of Canadians. We also recognize the need for a respectful conversation about strengthening end-of-life care and support, including palliative care.

### Question Three

*Why is the Liberal Party supporting Planned Parenthood? That is murder no one can say it is not.*

As I have said in my answer to Question One (above), abortion has been decriminalized in Canada since 1988 and reproductive rights are considered to be protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Liberal Party of Canada believes in, and will safeguard, a woman's right to choose.

## **Terrorism & Immigration-Related Questions**

### Question One

*Canada is a country of immigrants... with the exception of course of native Canadians!... Please comment on how you balance the competing needs of the current crisis in Syria and the need for a good and fair process? How can Canada demonstrate our "liberal" and "conservative" values? Please no rhetoric... I have already heard that!*

I believe that the Syrian refugee crisis is a global challenge and that Canada has both the capacity to help and a moral obligation to do so. A Liberal government will provide the resources necessary to expeditiously settle 25,000 Syrian refugees by year end. Canada's safeguards will not be bypassed or shortchanged, as Rick Hillier has said, responding quickly does not mean we have to take short cuts.

### Question Two

*What are your views on the terrorism threat to Canada and do you support Bill C-51?*

I doubt that my views on terrorism are much different than most Canadians - it's abhorrent, and it is one of many security threats that face us as Canadians. Liberal MPs did support bill C-51, however have always committed to amend it if elected. I support the proposed amendments. We will repeal the problematic elements of Bill C-51, and introduce new legislation that better balances our collective security with our rights and freedoms. We will introduce legislation that will: establish an all-party national security oversight committee; ensure that Canadians are not limited from lawful protests and advocacy; limit Communications Security Establishment's powers by requiring a warrant to engage in the surveillance of Canadians; guarantee that all Canadian Security Intelligence Service warrants respect the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; require a statutory review of the full Anti-Terrorism Act after three years; and prioritize community outreach and counter-radicalization, by creating the Office of the Community Outreach and Counter-radicalization Co-ordinator.

### Question Three

*To: Mr. Tilson: Please define what your party means by "old stock Canadians" and is your party developing different classes of citizenship?*

As this question was directed at Mr. Tilson, I have no comment.

## **Ethics Questions**

### Question One

*If you were to become aware that the government was not telling the Canadians the truth about anything or if the government is covering up something. What would you do? Would you tell Canadians or also cover it up?*

Over my three decades of public service I have prided myself on my honesty and transparency. I don't think that there is any question that Canadians deserve open and honest representation from their public officials. Not only will I commit to conducting myself in an open and honest way, but the Liberal platform includes reforms that will allow parliamentarians to better serve their communities and hold the government to account, including: senate reform; the introduction of a Prime Minister's Question Period; more free votes; ending the use of prorogation and omnibus bills; more transparent Supreme Court appointments; true independence for the Parliamentary Budget Officer; better financial oversight; national security oversight; and strengthening the role of parliamentary committee chairs.

### Question Two

*Do you believe that criticising opponents, through negative comments and attack ads makes you better equipped to govern?*

I believe that my campaign has focussed on the issues that face the electorate, not on personalities.

## **Elections Questions**

### Question One

*There seems to be less respect for the voter these days. There is less & less opportunity for people to ask questions of the candidates. Please comment.*

I have made myself fully available to answer questions and do so enthusiastically. I believe that as your representative I am your servant and have a duty to listen to your concerns and answer your questions.

### Question Two

*What does it cost Elections Canada per day to handle the election?*

I am not sure of the cost of this election, except to say that extending the campaign period was an unnecessary political ploy which will result in a more expensive election than has ever happened in Canadian history.

### Question Three

*For David Tilson: how did dropping the writ so early save tax payers money as quoted in the local papers?*

As this question is directed at Mr. Tilson I will refrain from commenting.

### Question Four

*How does one vote if you don't have a driver's licence and have been a Canadian citizen for 75 years?*

Election Canada will assist you in exercising your right to vote. They can be reached online, by phone, or in person at either of the two offices they have in our riding.

### Question Five

*Why do you believe there is such a low youth turnout in general and tonight and what can be done about it?*

The youth that I have spoken with tell me that they feel disenfranchised by our current system. The issues that often get discussed in election campaigns are not the issues that they feel should be discussed. My son is studying microbiology at the University of Guelph and feels strongly that the environment should be a more prominent issue in this election. I agree with him. Other people tell me that they do not believe voting can result in the change politicians commit to. I intend to change that by advocating strongly for the interests of all people in this constituency, and delivering results that will better their lives. We have a platform that commits to job creation for youth, better representation through parliamentary reform, better supports for young families, and action on social issues that youth are particularly concerned about - the environment, the Syrian refugee crisis, human rights - I intend to prove that through your vote, you can make a difference.

## **CBC Related Question**

### Question One

*What is your position(not necessarily your Party's) on the CBC re. funding, programming, national import...*

I am a fan of the CBC, particularly CBC radio. It tells the story of life in this country from coast to coast to coast in a way that no other media outlet does. I support the Liberal commitment to increase funding to the CBC by \$150 million per year, and to review the process by which board members are appointed so that the process is based on merit rather than patronage.

## **Seniors & People with Disabilities**

### Question One

*What do you plan to do about financial supports for seniors to maintain a decent quality of life?*

I strongly believe that the Liberal platform provides the best supports for seniors in our community. These include: the largest commitment to social infrastructure spending for projects such as affordable seniors housing and long-term care facilities, the lowering of OAS and GIS eligibility back to 65 (from 67), an immediate increase to the GIS of 10%, the protection of pension splitting for seniors, more flexible compassionate care leave, a \$3 billion investment in better home care, long-term care, and palliative care; a reduction of the cost of prescription medication, improved access to mental health services, and a commitment to negotiate a new Health Accord with the provinces which will include a long-term agreement on funding. I have worked hard to bring services for seniors to our community, and I will continue to make better seniors care a priority if I am elected.

### Question Two

*Will your parties raise the welfare and ODSP payments in the basic needs and shelter areas? (as the cost of living has increased)*

Both Ontario Works (welfare) and the Ontario Disability Support Program are provincial programs. That said, I served as Chairman of Community Services Dufferin Oaks and know that these services are currently inadequate. A Liberal government is committed to negotiating a new Health Accord with the provinces, and as part of that we will seek to eliminate systemic barriers and deliver equality of opportunity to all Canadians living with disabilities by introducing a National Disabilities Act. There are several other aspects of the Liberal platform that will benefit people living with disabilities, particularly social infrastructure spending that will enhance services and make them more accessible.

## Tax Related Questions

### Question One

*What is your definition(not necessarily your Party's) of a Payroll Tax - how do you address pension schemes and employment insurance in this context.*

Firstly, we will be reducing the employment insurance premiums paid by Canadians. Starting in 2017, instead of paying \$1.88 per \$100 earned, Canadians will pay \$1.65. We will also be providing \$500 million from the EI surplus to enhance job training and skills development. I believe that those who have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, or are out of work to raise children, provide care for a loved one, or get needed skills training, should not struggle to get the support they need. We will reduce the waiting period for benefits. When a worker loses their job and applies for Employment Insurance, they will only be without income for one week, not two. We will also reverse Stephen Harper's 2012 EI reforms that force unemployed workers to move away from their communities and take lower-paying jobs. We will ensure that the Employment Insurance system is providing real income security to workers, including those with precarious work. Furthermore, we will make parental and compassionate care leaves more flexible for those that need them. EI provides a valuable social safety net to Canadians, and I support reforms that make it work for our economy and our community.

### Question Two

*After 25 years on Shelburne Council taxes are still the second highest in the county. You have had growth both residential & industrial and still high taxes. Why?*

The Town of Shelburne is very scrupulous with how money is spent. The budget process is conducted in a very public way, citizens are engaged in a long and meticulous process of suggestions and amendments. The taxes covers the expenses that the citizens support. We had an election in Shelburne last fall, and as I recall no citizen stood up and complained about the tax rate. They recognize the value that they receive for the money that they pay. I've worked hard to be a good steward of their money, and I am sure the current council members will as well.

### Question Three

*Taxation has emerged as an issue in this election. Please explain your party's position on income tax, the GST and corporate taxes.*

We are proposing tax reforms that benefit middle class income earners. For individuals that make between \$44,701 and \$89,401, we will lower your federal taxation rate from 22% to 20.5%. For every \$100 you now pay in federal income tax, under our plan you will pay \$93. We are proposing to increase taxes on individuals who make more that \$200,000 each year. We are committed to maintaining the current corporate tax rate, and lowering the small-business tax rate from 11% to 9%. The GST will reman unchanged.

## **The Middle Class**

### **Question One**

*Explain the financial impact of your platform on: (a) families with income under \$80K (b) families with income \$80 - \$250K (c) families with income above \$250K.*

We have a comprehensive plan to support Canada's middle class. For individuals that make between \$44,701 and \$89,401, we will lower your federal taxation rate from 22% to 20.5%. For every \$100 you now pay in federal income tax, under our plan you will pay \$93. We will also be lowering EI premiums from \$1.88/\$100 to \$1.65/\$100. We will also be increasing the child benefits that are paid to every family in Canada that earns a combined \$150,000 or less, while we will also be removing them from families that earn over \$200,000. The new Canada Child Benefit is progressive, so those with lower incomes receive more support. Across Canada, 315,000 children will be raised out of poverty, including many in Dufferin-Caledon.

### **Question Two**

*The wage gap in Canada and the United States continues to widen every year. The middle class has all but disappeared south of the border and is in a rapid state of decline in Canada. What are your parties plans to reverse this trend?*

We know that over the past decade, Canada's middle class has been squeezed by stagnant wages and a rising cost of living, while the wealthiest among us have only grown more wealthy. To combat this growing inequality, we are proposing an array of tax and benefit reforms to better serve those earning lower and middle incomes. Moreover, we are proposing to stimulate the economy and provide needed services through investing in infrastructure, creating the growth that our middle class needs. Canada's social safety has long formed the foundation of social mobility in this country, and we are looking to strengthen it by reforming Employment Insurance, negotiating a new Health Accord, and making higher-education more affordable.

## **Veteran's Affairs**

### **Question One**

*The media is telling us that services to veterans, and the veterans affairs budget have been cut. What has been cut and how much was spending reduced?*

In the past decade, the Conservatives have closed offices, cut 900 jobs, clawed back benefits, killed life-time pensions for Afghanistan veterans, and failed to spend \$1.13 billion of the veterans affairs budget.

## **Canada's Position in the World**

### **Question One**

*Stephen Harper likes to boast "This is the best country in the world" yet during his government's time in office by many metrics Canada's standing has significantly dropped. Can each Candidate explain why Canada is, indeed, the 'Best Country in the World'?*

There are many reasons why I feel that Canada is the best country in the world. The strength of our social safety net, including our health care. Our public education system. Our safe communities and the lack of violence faced by most people. The upward social mobility that has created one of the highest standards of living in the world, though now under threat by a shrinking middle-class and growing income inequality. Our tradition of rights and freedoms, and the strong legal system that upholds them.

#### Question Two

*What can you and your party do to repair our international reputation?*

I believe we should start by addressing climate change. I believe that we should restore our military, so that it can actually participate effectively to help make the world a more peaceful place. We should return to the role of 'friendly fixer' and be an enthusiastic participant in global solutions to global problems.

### **Dufferin-Caledon**

#### Question One

*The following question is to gauge the candidates' desire and effort to represent the people of Dufferin-Caledon: (a) How many doors have you knocked on; (b) How many phone calls have you made; (c) How many meetings have you attended; (d) and how many speeches did you make?*

I believe that I have run an active campaign that reflects my eagerness to serve this constituency. Over the past six months, we have knocked on over 15,000 doors and placed as many phone calls. I have attended events in all corners of the riding. I have also attended the council meetings of almost every county, town, and township in an effort to better understand their issues. I am committed to being this areas voice in Ottawa, and to do that I need to know what people would like me to say.

#### Question Two

*Please explain what, if elected, you will do directly to help Dufferin Caledon?*

I will work hard to work hard to make sure that Dufferin-Caledon receives its fair share of these programs, which has not been the case in the recent past. The first thing that comes to mind is finally delivery federal funding for rural high-speed internet. That's a program that is long overdue.

### **Job-Related Questions**

#### Questions One & Two

*How do the candidates propose to bring jobs into the Dufferin/Caledon/Orangeville area? How will this dovetail with job creation overall in Canada? AND What will your party do to help create jobs?*

Ontario has lost 30,000 jobs in September, and Canada's youth unemployment rate is over 13%. Our economy needs growth, and our communities need job creation. We have a plan to lower taxes for middle income earners, to increase supports for low and middle income families, and to make historic investments in our country's crumbling infrastructure. I know from my time as Chairman of Community Services - Dufferin Oaks that skills training for middle-aged Canadians who find themselves unemployed is essential, as reentering the workplace with outdated skills is next to impossible. We will invest \$750 million into job and skills training through employment insurance. We have a plan to create 40,000 jobs for youth annually. We will be investing in the development of clean technology and green jobs. We will be investing in industrial research, in business incubators and in the infrastructure required to support their growth. Ontario is expected to add 120,000 jobs in the agri foods sector in the next decade, a principle industry in Dufferin-Caledon. We will be investing in research and development in agriculture that will translate into jobs here at home. Our communities need jobs, and we will invest to create them.

### **Scientists**

#### **Question One**

*There are reports that federal scientists are prohibited from talking to the media. What is your position?*

We will value science and treat scientists with respect. We will appoint a Chief Science Officer who will ensure that government science is fully available to the public, that scientists are able to speak freely about their work, and that scientific analyses are considered when the government makes decisions. Furthermore, we will accelerate and expand open data initiatives, and will make government data available digitally, so that Canadians can easily access and use it. Government data and information should be open by default, in formats that are modern and easy to use. We will update the Access to Information Act to meet this standard. Data collected by Statistics Canada helps the private sector, government, not-for profit groups, and researchers make better decisions. We will make Statistics Canada fully independent. We will work with Statistics Canada and other stakeholders to provide a broader range of information, including detailed labour market information, child development data, and statistics about our population.

#### **Question Two**

*What are your priorities for the environment and science?*

Responsible governments rely on sound data to make their decisions. I will demand that our country's scientists, researchers, and inspectors have the freedom to do their jobs to the best of their ability, and that these findings inform public policy. Science has a role to play in many aspects of public policy, from environmental strategies to better health policy to creating economic growth and opportunity.

## **Healthcare Questions**

### **Question One**

*Since 80% of chronic diseases can be prevented through lifestyle changes, please comment on the need to put money into prevention in order to reduce the sky rocketing health-care costs*

The Liberal party strongly advocates for a holistic approach to health and healthcare policy. Our platform includes specific policies to help Canadian families raise healthier kids, such as introducing new restrictions on the commercial marketing of unhealthy food and beverages to children, similar to those now in place in Quebec; bringing in tougher regulations to eliminate trans fats, similar to those in the U.S., and to reduce salt in processed foods; and to improve food labels to give more information on added sugars and artificial dyes in processed foods.

To help Canadian children avoid and manage known health risks, we will increase funding to the Public Health Agency of Canada by \$15 million in each of the next two years, to support a national strategy to increase vaccination rates and raise awareness for parents, coaches, and athletes on concussion treatment. This will be based on the best science and will support existing provincial and territorial efforts.

We will introduce plain packaging requirements for tobacco products, similar to those in Australia and the United Kingdom.

The health effects of air pollution are well known. In Ontario, the decision to end coal-fired electrical generation is credited with saving over \$1 billion annually in avoided healthcare expenditures. We will work with the provinces to set stronger air quality standards, monitor emissions, and provide incentives for investments that lead to cleaner air and healthier communities.

Our social infrastructure investments will provide dedicated funding to recreational infrastructure, increasing Canadians' access to healthy-living facilities. Stronger support for amateur sport and physical activity leads to higher quality of life and healthier Canadians.

### **Question Two**

*Why has the PM refused to re-negotiate the Health agreement with the provinces?*

Harper's refusal to negotiate a new Health Accord is just one of many examples where his personality has gotten in the way of what's good for Canada and Canadians. We will negotiate a new Health Accord that includes a long-term funding commitment.

## **Infrastructure**

### **Question One**

*What is your parties plan for developing infrastructure in Canada?*

The Liberals have an aggressive plan to tackle Canada's infrastructure deficit and invest in projects to spur job creation and economic growth. We have a plan to invest \$125 billion over the next decade in transit and transportation infrastructure, environmental infrastructure (such as water treatment plants), and social infrastructure (such as medical centres and long-term care facilities). An infrastructure issue that I feel passionately about is rural high-speed internet. I am committed to bringing the funds necessary to make this long-overdue service a reality in Dufferin-Caledon. This is a vital service that's necessary for the growth of our community's businesses and to support the changing nature of education and service delivery. Infrastructure investments are necessary to bring our economy back to growth, to create jobs, and to provide the social and environmental services that Canada needs in 2015. From my role in municipal politics I have seen the federal government retreat from it's role as a funding partner in many vital local projects. I am committed to working hard and bringing our fair share of these necessary investments to Dufferin-Caledon.

### **Access to Services**

#### **Question One**

*Does the Constitution protect the citizen's right to reasonable and appropriate access to services and responses to questions? Eg business access phone numbers; representatives; access to debate representation at election time be compulsory for all candidates.*

We will make government information more accessible. Government data and information should be open by default, in formats that are modern and easy to use. We will update the Access to Information Act to meet this standard. We will make it easier for Canadians to access information by eliminating all fees, except for the initial \$5 filing fee. We will expand the role of the Information Commissioner, giving them the power to issue binding orders for disclosure. We will ensure that Access to Information applies to the Prime Minister's and Ministers' Offices, as well as administrative institutions that support Parliament and the courts. To ensure that the system continues to serve Canadians, we will undertake a full legislative review of the Access to Information Act every five years. It is time to shine more light on government and ensure that it remains focused on the people it is meant to serve.

With regard to debate representation, we will establish an independent commission to organize leaders' debates. Elections are a time for Canadians to learn more about political parties, their leaders, and their policies. When it comes to leaders' debates, the focus should be on educating and engaging Canadians, not on twisting the rules for political advantage.

### **Collective Bargaining & Airline Travel**

#### **Question One & Two**

*Mr Harper's government has been recently interfering with the right of the collective bargaining of employees of private company by introducing legislations that forces them to return to work and to deny them the right to strike. I would like to know where do you stand on this subject? AND: I would like to know how seriously do you take passenger's safety when they are travelling on Canadian airlines? The current ratio is 1 flight attendant per 40 passengers but the government is siding with big corporations and big profits by changing the rules to 1 crew member per 50 passengers, doing this without regard to human lives or consultation with public.*

Labour unions play an important role in protecting the rights of workers and growing the middle class. Under Stephen Harper, many of the fundamental labour rights that unions have worked so hard to secure have been rolled back, making it more difficult for workers to organize freely, bargain collectively in good faith, and work in safe environments. Mr. Valade has communicated his specific concerns to me directly, and I have taken them to the party for their feedback. I recognize the concerns raised by flight attendants regarding the change in flight attendant-to-passenger ratios. The Liberal party is committed to reviewing these ratios. With regard to foreign airline competition, another, related topic I hear about often, the Liberal party recognizes the challenges facing Canada's Airlines, including competitive disadvantages imposed on the sector as a result of federal regulation and legislation. We will work with our airlines and airport authorities to reduce the competitiveness gap between our aviation sector and those in other jurisdictions

## **Oil Industry**

### **Question One**

*Our country's economy is tightly linked to the oil industry's ups & downs. Do you and your party envision a way to wean us off oil & look at long term future "greener" alternatives to seriously invest in?*

Canada's energy sector makes up roughly 10% of our GDP - more than retail, construction, agriculture and the public sector. Moreover, growth in our energy sector has been a main driver in Canada's overall growth and has been the main driver of new employment in our country. As we've seen during this recent fallout in oil prices, as well as the 30,000 jobs lost in Ontario in September alone, the federal government needs to do more to help create viable, well paying jobs away from the oil patch. In addition to the economic need to diversify, there are also environmental, social, and political justifications for doing so. A Liberal government will end subsidies to the oil and gas sector. Clean technology can deliver real benefits for our environment and our economy, including more good, middle class jobs.

We will invest \$100 million more each year in clean technology producers, so that they can tackle Canada's most pressing environmental challenges, and create more opportunities for Canadian workers. We will deliver more support to emerging clean tech manufacturing companies, making it easier for them to conduct research and bring new products to market. We will also invest \$200 million more each year to support innovation and the use of clean technologies in our natural resource sectors, including the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors.

To support both large and community-scale renewable energy projects, the new Canada Infrastructure Bank will issue Green Bonds to fund projects like electric vehicle charging stations and networks, transmission lines for renewable energy, building retrofits, and clean power storage. We will enhance existing tax measures to generate more clean technology investments, and work with the provinces and territories to make Canada the world's most competitive tax jurisdiction for investments in the research, development, and manufacturing of clean technology.

We will improve energy efficiency standards for consumer and commercial products, and use new financing instruments to encourage investments in energy- saving retrofits to Canada's industrial, commercial, and residential buildings. We will provide more support for our clean technology companies to successfully export their products by training trade officials and leading trade missions focused on clean technology. These companies will also be provided with useful training, data, and technical assistance on export opportunities in a more coordinated way.

I am committed to being the Greenest MP ever elected in Dufferin-Caledon, and I am excited by the possibilities that a greener economy holds for Dufferin-Caledon.

### **Same-Sex Marriage**

#### **Question One**

*Where do each of you stand now on the subject of same-sex marriage and where would each of you stand on that subject after the election, should you win a seat in your county.*

Where mutual love is shared, if marriage is the desired outcome, than I am supportive of that. Life is such a short trip, everybody should be happy, why would I stand in the way of that happiness? Of course I support same-sex marriage. All of us are equal before the law.

### **Other**

#### **Question One**

*If elected would you undertake to take prompt action to bring true representative democracy to Canada by replacing "First Past the Post" by proportional representation which most people will see as making their vote count*

We will make every vote count. We are committed to ensuring that 2015 will be the last federal election conducted under the first-past-the-post voting system. We will convene an all-party Parliamentary committee to review a wide variety of reforms, such as ranked ballots, proportional representation, mandatory voting, and online voting. This committee will deliver its recommendations to Parliament. Within 18 months of forming government, we will introduce legislation to enact electoral reform.

#### **Question Two**

*Pan-Am Games extra money – what do you think of where it went?*

I am happy that the federal government contributed a share of funding these games - I think that they have left an important legacy of infrastructure and sport. From my own experience in small business, I know that successful performance needs to be rewarded, and if the terms arranged in advance specified bonuses for delivering the games on or under budget I believe that they need to be honoured.

### Question Three

*Mr. Tilson – There is the appearance of politically directed audits of charities and environmental groups that don't agree with your government. In an open society, this is worrisome. It appears that your government has bridged that gap between the executive branch of government, in this case Revenue Canada, and the legislative branch which now seems no longer to be Parliament but rather unelected and unaccountable party functionaries in the Prime Minister's Office. I fear that you will go to the next step and bridge the separation between you party and the executive. In this bill C-51 era of secret and unaccountable police spying and secret, private PMO deliberations should we be concerned that an email or an online book order could be used to grade citizens for purposes of a harassment audit or denial of government employment or police oversight? What measures, if any, have you put in place to prevent this from happening? How would we ever find out if we were affected because we bought a book or attended a rally that didn't match well with your government's ideology? How do you propose to end the chill this legislation puts on open debate?*

While this question was posed to Mr. Tilson, I would like to point out that we will allow charities to do their work on behalf of Canadians free from political harassment, and will modernize the rules governing the charitable and not-for-profit sectors. This will include clarifying the rules governing "political activity," with an understanding that charities make an important contribution to public debate and public policy. A new legislative framework to strengthen the sector will emerge from this process. I would also like to add that we will reform bill C-51 to, among other things, ensure that Canadians are not limited from lawful protests and advocacy.

### Youth

#### Question One

*Do you think it is possible to change the atmosphere in the House of Commons to exemplify honor and respect as role models for the younger generation?*

I do, and that's why I am running.