

Orléans of Chamber of Commerce

2015 Federal Elections

Questions to Orléans Candidates'

Submitted to:

- Royal Galipeau - Conservative Party of Canada
- Nancy Tremblay - New Democratic Party of Canada
- Andrew Leslie - Liberal Party of Canada
- Raphaël Morin - Green Party of Canada

1. Transit

Ottawa's stage 2 Light Rail Transit (LRT) is projected to extend to Place d'Orléans.

a) What is your Party's stance on extending this project further to Trim Road?

Notre système de transport en commun devrait renforcer l'autonomie des gens qui ne disposent que de choix limités – y compris les jeunes, les personnes âgées, les personnes handicapées, et les Ottavians et Ottaviennes à faible revenu. IL EST TEMPS que chacun ait accès à un service de transport en commun abordable. Sans un financement récurrent du fédéral, les villes ne peuvent offrir un service de transport en commun efficace et abordable pour tous. Les résidents et résidentes d'Orléans utilisent OC Transpo plus que toute autre communauté à Ottawa. L'investissement dans cette infrastructure aurait un impact positif sur les gens et les entreprises d'Orléans.

My party supports the LRT to Trim Rd. While working in close collaboration with the province and the city, funding this last phase of the LRT will be my local priority in parliament. In fact, if elected, my very first act will be to write a letter to the prime minister and the minister responsible to formally begin the work on the federal side of the equation.

Le programme électoral du NPD a des provisions spécifiques pour aider les municipalités avec leurs financements de projet d'infrastructures. Premièrement, on va augmenter le transfert direct aux municipalités de 1.5 \$ milliard par année et deux, notre stratégie de transport en commun prévoit un investissement de 1.3 \$ milliard par année sur une période de 20 ans.

So to address Canada's pressing infrastructure deficit, we will top up municipal transfers by \$1.5 billion annually which doubles the annual federal transfers to municipalities and we will invest \$1.3b annually for 20 years.

Donc, au cours des quatre premières années on va verser 7.2 \$ Milliard en nouveaux fonds pour le transport en commun et les infrastructures aux municipalités.

b) Comptez-vous mettre en place une stratégie nationale à long terme (10 à 20 ans) en matière de transport en commun et vous engager à offrir un financement annuel aux villes pour leur permettre de rendre le transport en commun plus abordable pour les usagers?

Oui, Nous avons une stratégie de transport en commun qui s'étale sur une période de 20 ans et nous avons un plan pour doubler les transferts directs aux municipalités.

Notre stratégie de transport en commun prévoit un investissement de 1.3 \$ milliard par année sur une période de 20 ans. Le NPD va doubler les transferts aux municipalités pour améliorer leurs infrastructures routières incluant le transport en commun. C'est-à-dire 1.5 \$ milliard versé directement aux municipalités. Elles pourront maintenant compter sur un financement stable ajuster à l'inflation sans avoir à faire face à l'ingérence politique ou des processus de demande sans fin.

Ensemble, cette infusion de nouveaux fonds destinés aux municipalités représente un total de 7,2 milliards \$ en nouveaux fonds pour le transport en commun et les infrastructures directement aux municipalités. Les municipalités connaissent leurs besoins pour améliorer le transport en commun ce n'est pas à nous, le fédéral, de décider pour eux.

Sous notre stratégie, il y aura moins de congestion sur les routes, les jeunes, les personnes âgées, les personnes handicapées, et les personnes à faible revenu, aurons à la fois un meilleur service et un service plus abordable.

Pour répondre directement à la question : Est-ce je m'engage à offrir un financement annuel aux villes pour leur permettre de rendre le transport en commun plus abordable pour les usagers?

Absolument, je m'engage d'aller chercher la juste part de ce nouveau financement pour Orléans et, une fois empoché, j'ai l'intention d'influencer le maire Watson à s'engager d'agir pour réduire la tarification afin d'aider les utilisateurs et encourager l'utilisation du transport en commun

Moi j'appui cette stratégie c'est du concret, fondé sur la collaboration avec les provinces et les municipalités 7.2 \$ milliards, payer et non emprunté.

2. Economic Development

The role that governments can play to improve economic development is tremendous. In an area of Ottawa where almost 10% of the population lives, the residents of Orléans would like to see a larger government role in the local economy.

Ottawa Light Rail will be reaching Place d'Orléans in the near future. What are your top priorities to

ignite economic competitiveness and improve business development in Orléans to complement this project? What strategies does your Party plan on implementing in order to achieve these priorities?

One of the planks of my local platform will be initiating a feasibility study to build a secure, multidepartment satellite office in Orleans where public servants could work. Instead of travelling downtown or across the river to work and spend their money, they could stay in Orleans.

If there are fewer vehicles on the road, this will go a long way in reducing the volume of traffic going downtown. Even if the likelihood of a department moving to Orleans is slim, a telework centre is an alternative because it aligns with the modernization of the public service.

My party is committed to fostering business development. We will double the transfer to municipalities and provide \$1.3b for twenty years for infrastructure projects. These projects create new jobs and stimulate the local economy.

We will reduce the tax rate on small businesses from 11 to 9%. The NDP is committed to tackling the problem of poverty amongst seniors by increasing GIS payments of which every dollar will be directed right back into the economy.

The \$15 federal minimum wage will put more money in the pockets of low income earners, and the \$15 a day daycare will enable more families to bring in two incomes, which will help grow the Orleans economy.

a)

What is your vision on the type of community Orléans could/should be to reach its economic development potential? What government investments will you be championing to help it reach its economic potential?

I think we also have to be more inclusive of our cultural minorities because if I learned something in this election, it is that we have a serious cultural divide here in Orleans. Muslims who live here in peace feel like second-class citizens and that is not acceptable.

Canada has become tinged with meanness towards others, I know, I saw it at every second door I knocked on. We have to overcome this problem for many reasons, not the least of which is economic. We have to become the Canada

that we think we are, the peacemaker, not the warmonger. The socially progressive country, not the Canadian version of the republican party. The generous country, not the country that obsesses over the Niqab, or that was slammed by the UN for our treatment of aboriginals.

That is what the conservatives want us to be: divided against each other while multinational corporate executives steal our cookies from the cookie jar. We need to be more compassionate to each other, otherwise our standard of living will continue to decline. Each generation has to understand the needs of the other generations and work to support each other.

What government investments will you be championing to help it reach its economic potential?

I will champion the extension of the LRT to trim road, an investment of \$160m. The funding will be secured from our public transit program in which we will invest \$1.3b for twenty years. Direct transfer payments to municipalities will double, through injections of \$1.3b a year, in total, over four years. That is \$7.2b to help overcome our infrastructure deficit.

I will work to help legislate the following: \$15/hr federal minimum wage. Affordable childcare, our youth unemployment solution, lowering student debt, retirement age 65, a return to the 6% escalator transfer payment, as it was under the Canadian Heath Accord. Investment of \$300 million to help build 200 new medical clinics, a new recruitment strategy to hire 7,000 health professionals, implementation of our strategy on Alzheimer's and dementia, comprehensive home care for 41,000 seniors, help provinces build 5,000 nursing home beds and \$30m for a palliative care innovation fund.

3. Arts and Culture

The Orléans community thrives in a large part due to its unique history of culture and art.

- a) What measures will your government put in place to ensure and sustain arts and culture's contribution to our community, and to Canada?

Mon parti investira dans la création de contenu culturel de haute qualité. Tom Mulcair assure la survie de notre diffuseur public. On s'engage à soutenir les artistes, les cinéastes et les créateurs numériques. Contrairement aux autres, on va investir dans la création de contenu

canadien.

4. Affordable Housing

Orléans is often heralded as a vibrant and rich region; rich with history, culture, potential and prosperity. However, sustaining and creating healthy communities is about building and improving physical, social and mental environments for all.

Healthy communities are made of people, all people, where they feel healthy, connected and fulfilled. We cannot build a community without acknowledging the strength, vulnerability, diversity and circumstances of its residents. It is the experience of the people in these environments that tell us if we have been successful.

À chaque mois, la banque alimentaire d'Orléans offre de la nourriture à plus de 650 personnes (et ce nombre est croissant) donc plus de 40% sont des enfants.

Nous avons besoin du leadership du gouvernement fédéral du Canada, avec l'engagement d'investir dans les programmes et l'infrastructure sociale afin de construire des communautés saines et dynamiques pour tout le monde.

We need leadership from the federal government of Canada, along with the commitment to invest in the programs and social infrastructure that will build healthy and vibrant communities for everyone.

On affordable housing

In Ottawa Over 10,000 households are on the social housing waiting list, with a wait time up to 5 years. The average length of stay in an Ottawa shelter is 77 days in 2014. Housing is a basic need that has an impact on quality of life and affects people's ability to secure employment, be involved in their community, and build better lives. IT'S TIME for everyone to have an affordable, safe place to live.

- a) Will you support a National Housing Strategy with federal funding that recognizes the right to adequate housing and will you commit to retain current levels of annual investment of \$1.7 billion - in order to sustain and create new affordable housing? New affordable housing in Orléans would generate new jobs.

The NDP has a concrete plan to ensure that all Canadians have access to a safe, comfortable and affordable home. An NDP government will enact the affordable housing act (Bill C-400), an act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians. The bill will recognize housing as a right and lead to the development of a national housing strategy.

We will partner with municipalities, provinces and first nation communities to restore long term, stable investments in affordable housing. We will also make housing more affordable in our communities by sustaining investment in Canada's affordable housing agreement, and by providing incentives for the construction of 10,000 affordable rental-housing units. We will renew cooperative housing operating agreements that are set to expire and invest over **2 billion** in Co-ops by 2020.

5. Infrastructure

With Ottawa 2017 fast approaching, it is important that citizens of Ottawa, as well as visitors from outside the city are able to reach everywhere in the city, including Orléans, with ease.

- a) What are you prepared to do to get the right engineering and funding to reopen access to highway 174 East at St Laurent Blvd and from the 417 west bout to exit to 174 east? Orléans is cut off.

The 417 exit to exit to the 174 east is the path that I would normally take to get to the Orleans core. I personally want to see this exit reopened and I will work with the municipality and the province to see this happen. The NDP has a bold urban agenda.

The NDP will tackle Canada's transit infrastructure deficit with 20 years of stable, predictable funding. Canada's municipal infrastructure deficit is a staggering \$172 billion and rising. Municipalities own 60% of our public infrastructure, yet collect only eight cents of every tax dollar. Our plan is to ensure that roads, bridges and vital infrastructure are there when we need them. We'll start with the equivalent of one additional cent of the existing gas tax – ramping up to an additional \$1.5 billion at the end of a first mandate to reach \$3.7 billion annually in predictable, stable and transparent public transit investment over the next 20 years.

In addition we will respect provincial jurisdiction and local decision-making, simplify application processes and removed funding barriers through direct, stable and transparent transfers to municipalities and provinces for their priorities.

- b) With a population of over 100,000, the citizens of Orléans need proper access to and from the city core. Do you plan to commit to funding for better accessibility for residents, such as a bridge over the river to be built east of downtown, or a new ring road to connect Brian Coburn to Hunt Club Rd?

- b) I recognize the important need for efficient traffic flow to and from Orleans. As a fellow resident, I don't want to sit in traffic when there are options to address congestion and inefficiency. I'm eager to explore those options.

While we need access to the downtown core, I don't want to focus on short-term solutions. I would rather work hard to bring jobs back to Orleans than build more efficient routes for workers to leave their community. My primary focus is bringing jobs here. It will reduce traffic congestion, emissions, and institute a stronger work-life balance. That's something we can all get behind.

Every dollar spent building a bridge to Gatineau would be better served by bringing jobs back to Orleans. A bridge is a temporary traffic strategy. Bringing jobs to Orleans is a long-term solution whose benefits the community will reap for years to come.

6. Carbon tax

- a) What type of carbon tax do you and your party plan to introduce?

I am an environmental scientist that has been specializing in pollution for the last ten years. This topic is near and dear to me. Tom Mulcair was the minister of the environment in Quebec and has the experience and the track record to get this plan implemented. Our commitment is to ensure that polluters pay the real costs of the pollution they create. We will work with provinces and territories to put a price on carbon and reduce emissions. We have prepared a pan-Canadian cap-and-trade system, which will establish hard emission limits for Canada's biggest polluters to ensure companies pay their environmental bills and to create an incentive for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We will ensure that provincial and territorial governments can opt out of the federal plan if they have carbon pricing plans that meet or exceed federal goals.

In addition we will help provinces and territories co-ordinate efforts and integrate within a harmonized pan-Canadian system advancing an integrated continental cap-and-trade system that ensures a level economic playing field for North American businesses.

We will take international leadership by re-introducing Jack Layton's Climate Change Accountability Act to ensure that Canada meets its long-term target of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to a level 80% below that of 1990 by the year 2050, and 34% below 1990 for the 2025/30 period.

7. Education

Based on the structural changes to our economy in the oil and gas section and manufacturing:

- a) What are your party plans to assist displaced workers and recent grads?

In the last decade, Canada has lost over 400,000 manufacturing jobs. We will create an innovation tax credit for businesses that invest in machinery, equipment and property used in innovation-boosting research and development which will create jobs. We will cut the small business tax rate from 11-9% to better support a sector of our economy that creates 78% of all new private sector jobs in Canada.

We will support the manufacturing industry by extending the accelerated capital cost allowance for manufacturing and processing machinery and equipment. The NDP will work with provinces to make it easier for automakers to setup operations in Canada. In addition we will invest in innovative green technology to make Canada a world leader in this field which will also create jobs.

For helping recent grads, we will create apprenticeship spaces through federal infrastructure projects, in federally regulated airports or Port Authorities, and with crown corporations, while establishing first apprenticeship rations. The NDP is committed to removing interest rates on student loans which is a first step to alleviating the financial burden of education.

- b) What plans, if any, exist at the opposite end of the spectrum - i.e., for early childhood education? Funding? Programs?

Our affordable childcare plan is a game changer in Canada. We will make sure there is quality space for every child and that no parent pays more that \$15 a day per child. We will work with the provinces, territories and Indigenous communities to deliver a Canada-wide early childhood education and childcare program. We will create and maintain a million quality

childcare spaces in Canada. As a former Quebec Cabinet Minister, Tom saw firsthand how that province's universal affordable childcare program helped families and boosted the economy. We can build on the success of that program to help families across the country.

8. Tax Fairness

It is completely unfair that golf courses, who are operating in one of the most competitive industries in Canada, are not eligible for the same expense deductions that the rest of the hospitality industry is afforded. The 44-year old tax reform, which explicitly prohibits golf expenses while entertaining clients, creates an inequitable burden on the golf industry and does not promote fair competition. However golf courses are forced to compete in a market where all of our competitors can promote themselves to businesses that need to entertain clients, including all spectator sport events, participation sports, restaurants, concerts, theatres, and much more. All of Canada's golf courses are small businesses and large employers in their local area.

Business is increasingly being conducted outside of traditional areas and more frequently in places such as on golf courses. The National Allied Golf Association is advocating for an amendment to the Income Tax.

Act to allow business people entertaining clients the same 50% deduction for greens fees and golf cart rentals. This amendment would assure tax fairness for the golf industry and bring the tax code in line with all other industries across Canada that are appropriately allowed deductions for the business expenses incurred to entertain clients.

IT'S TIME FOR TAX FAIRNESS FOR THE GOLF INDUSTRY

For years the NDP has had MPs advocating an amendment to the income tax act to allow a 50% deduction for golf games. As a matter of fact in 2012 NDP MP Randall Garrison drafted a private member's bill asking for this amendment.

NDP MP Mr. Stoffer said "It's simply not fair to the golf industry that businesses can't claim deductions on the links. If businesses can write off 50% of NHL tickets, concerts and cultural events as tax deductions, they should be able to write off 18 holes as well. We're just asking that they change the rule that says golf is excluded from this opportunity."

9. Food for thought

As you know, communities are healthy when its citizens eat good food. All children deserve to eat fresh, nutritious food so that they can grow up healthy. IT'S TIME for a federal food policy that guarantees universal access to adequate amounts of healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food.

- a) What steps will you take to establish a National Right to Food Policy to eliminate hunger in Canada? Will you increase federal investment to ensure access to healthy nutritious food among First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples?

The NDP is the only party to already have a National Food Strategy. An NDP government will implement and build on that strategy to ensure all Canadians have access to healthy sustainable, quality food.

Our food strategy has four pillars:

- Sustainable agricultural communities

- Supporting local agriculture
- Growing agricultural businesses to drive our national economy
- Safe, transparent, and healthy food choices, ensuring that every Canadian can afford a healthy meal.

On Tom Mulcair's trip to the North (in September) he promised to fix Nutrition North as part of a new era of relations with indigenous communities. As Tom said, "Stephen Harper has used northern communities as convenient photo-ops for years while failing to address the most basic concerns of families — access to affordable food," The NDP will take a different approach so that remote Inuit communities in Nunavut and across the North don't have to rely on cheap, unhealthy foods that also put their health at risk."

- An NDP government will invest \$32 million to fix and expand *Nutrition North* to include 50 isolated communities currently excluded from program subsidies by the Conservatives; and
- Will Conduct a review of Nutrition North in partnership with northerners to ensure fair access;

10. Healthcare

Canada is the only developed country that has a universal health-care system but doesn't cover prescription drugs.

In the absence of a national pharmacare program, every province, territory and federal health-care system (RCMP, military, veterans, inmates, First Nation and Inuit) has its own pharmaceutical program. This has led to a patchwork of pharmaceutical insurance plans across the country where different medicines are available in different provinces, eligibility for public coverage differs dramatically, co-pays and provincial/territorial deductibles go from a few dollars to thousands and Canadians in some parts of the country find greater financial barriers to filling their prescriptions than others. This is a huge unnecessary expense should a National program take over there would be proven cost savings and a huge benefit to the Canadian people.

- a) What is your position on this issue and what are you willing to do to make sure your party sees this as a priority?

The NDP does see pharmacare as a priority. A National pharmacare program would provide cost savings and benefit Canadians

- Tom Mulcair and the NDP will work in consultation with provinces to work toward a plan to support universal, comprehensive public drug coverage for all Canadians regardless of where they live or where they work.
- Our goal is that Canadians will have access to the prescription medicines they need at little or no cost
- We will work to achieve this by delivering 2.6 Billion in new federal funding focused on universal public drug coverage, to be phased in over the next four years, and reaching \$1.5 Billion annually in 2019/2020, an investment that has the potential to generate up to \$3 billion in savings at the provincial level.