



**Green Party of Ontario**  
PO Box 1132 Station F Toronto, ON M4Y 2T8

Darla Campbell  
Executive Director  
Ontario Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure

9 July 2014

Dear Darla,

Thank you so much for the questionnaire that you sent on behalf of OCSI. The Green Party of Ontario (GPO) is grateful for the opportunity to discuss our policies on the issues that are important to OCSI and I am pleased to respond on the GPO's behalf. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

**1. FUNDING TOOLS: How will your Party work with municipalities to ensure sustainable and predictable funding for infrastructure? What new or enhanced revenue tools does your Party feel should be available to municipalities to permit them to make adequate investments in our infrastructure systems?**

The Green Party of Ontario (GPO) will demand that Ontario establish a dedicated transit fund--one that politicians can't waste on things like moving gas plants--to build new transit and support the operation of existing transit. And we will insist on an honest plan to pay for it.

The GPO will work with other parties to implement dedicated revenue tools that are fair and progressive, such as congestion charges, gas taxes and parking fees, to raise \$3 billion a year to build and operate transit in communities across Ontario.

**2. DEVELOPMENT CHARGES REVIEW: The current development charges legislation has had the effect of underfunding infrastructure. There is broad consensus among our members that the Development Charges Act, 1997 should ensure that growth pays for 100% of growth related capital costs for all municipalities. How will your Party strengthen the financial sustainability of communities experiencing significant growth pressures? What changes and improvements would your Party make to the present Development Charges framework to ensure that municipalities have the tools to plan and fund future growth.**

The Green Party of Ontario supports a review of the Development Charges Act so that growth pays for itself without unsustainable burdens on taxpayers.

Our dedicated revenue tools will be an important factor in ensuring the financial sustainability of infrastructure growth in communities. By implementing these revenue tools which are dedicated solely to improving transit and transit infrastructure, local communities will have

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what they need to grow their transit year after year. Best of all, these revenue tools follow the “growth pays for growth” principle; most of the revenue from these dedicated revenue tools is derived from the growth of our transit system.

The GPO supports revenue tools and taxes to fund transit that meet three principles:

1. The revenue is placed in a dedicated transit fund so it goes where it is supposed to go.
2. A range of revenue tools are used that are fair, balanced and progressive.
3. The revenue tools should include demand management tools so that we begin to reduce gridlock now and not wait to ease gridlock until new transit is built.

**3. PLANNING: How will your Party ensure that infrastructure, both municipal and provincial, is planned in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable manner which promotes the well-being and economic vitality of Ontario’s communities?**

The Green Party of Ontario (GPO) knows that all development should be undertaken in a fiscally and environmentally sustainable manner. That is why we will engage Ontario’s communities in creating a plan for sustainable development that maximizes economic benefits for all communities. We must ensure that all development affecting local communities will also benefit them.

Prior to undertaking any development, we will carefully study the possible health and environmental impacts the development and be transparent about them. The government’s job is to ensure that the development and planning of infrastructure benefits all Ontarians. We believe that we must address some key issues before establishing and implementing our infrastructure plans: 1) we will implement a sustainable development plan that maximizes economic benefits while protecting health and the environment and 2) we will engage communities in the decision making process in order to promote partnership in development.

We will also fight to ensure community input in development by overhauling or abolishing the outdated OMB and restoring democracy to land use planning in this province.

Ultimately, the GPO will dedicate itself to ensuring that all infrastructure development is done in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner that considers the communities in which it is undertaken.

**4. SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE: How will your Party encourage municipalities to continue to adopt sound asset management principles to ensure the sustainability of their infrastructure systems?**

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The Green Party of Ontario will help municipalities invest in sensible transportation solutions that will improve the economy and the health and well-being of all Ontarians. We will ensure that all planning is done in consultation with local communities. And again, the establishment of dedicated revenue tools devoted solely to transit will ensure that municipalities are managing their financial assets in a sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

Jessica Higgins  
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Green Party of Ontario

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