

Debate gave local candidates opportunity to outline views

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The candidates were asked if they would vote against their party's platform on issues that negatively affect Halton Region.

Arnott said he would vote against his party if after listening to residents of the riding he believed the vital interests of the community were at stake.

Rodgers said he would also.

Carlucci said it would be his responsibility to "represent you (constituents) first to my leader and not just representing my leader back to you."

Zister said in the past in his career he hasn't been afraid to stand up to management for things he believes in.

"I'm not likely to be voting along the line of party when it goes against something I believe in," said Zister.

But he said that was in contrast to the current representative Arnott.

He pointed to things Arnott had voted against that would have benefited the community such as the "Southwestern Development Fund or various other things."

"It seems your current representative has done very well in what's best for his career and that's why he hasn't had to have another job in the last 24 years."

During his next opportunity to respond, Arnott said, "For the past 24 years I have had a real job, it's called being a Member of Provincial Parliament," to a round of applause from the crowd.

"The only reason that I have had that responsibility is because I've been privileged to have the trust and confidence from people through six consecutive provincial elections," Arnott said.

Candidates were also asked how they would support post secondary education for

students.

Carlucci said the NDP propose to freeze tuition rates, eliminate the interest on the provincial portion on student loans and improve university and college facilities.

"In order to invest in a strong economy we need to invest in the youth," said Carlucci.

Zister said he was proud the Liberals had done a lot in promoting post secondary education, and in the riding they have invested \$1.8 billion in that area.

He said the Liberals implemented a 30 per cent off tuition rate and would continue with that.

"I would contrast that with what the PCs have done, they have committed to killing the 30 per cent off tuition grants and taking more than a \$1 million out of the pockets of middle and low income students," said Zister.

Arnott said he believes in a "strong system to support students who need OSAP support."

"But I also believe that students can work, and I think it's good for them to work in the summer," said Arnott. He said the skills students can get through part-time work are very positive.

"We do need to monitor the fees so no student is unable to access post secondary education because of costs alone," said Arnott.

Rodgers said he agreed with many statements made by Carlucci and Zister, particularly not eliminating the 30 per cent tuition reduction.

He said the education system requires some reinvention and pointed to distance education and electronics.

Other questions posed focused on raising the minimum wage and affordable housing.

Inglis enters municipal council race

Ward 4 Councillor Bob Inglis has filed his name to run in the Oct. 27 municipal election. Inglis filed on May 30.

Inglis has represented Ward 4 since first being elected in

1997.

Pierre Girouard has also filed to run as trustee for the Conseil scolaire Viamonde (public French language school board).

Municipal Election
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