

Development and traffic congestion are key issues in Halton. How can the federal government control growth and ensure congested roads are not overburdened further?	In the course of this campaign what, in your opinion, have voters indicated is the most important issue to them and why?	Canada has a record multi-billion surplus. What do you believe should be done with this money?	What would you and your party do to ensure universal health care is preserved?	Ignoring party lines, what is your personal stand on the following three issues: (1) abortion (2) capital punishment (3) marijuana law reform?	Was this election necessary?
Tim Dobson, Canadian Alliance					
<p>"The Constitution defines roles and accountabilities in different areas for the provinces and federal government...It's our view the federal government often tries to play too great a role in the affairs of the province. That's not to say there may not be major infrastructure programs which might need federal assistance. I, personally, as an MP representing Halton...will not be trying to bring money in to give to a business here in Halton...If there's infrastructure to be built and...the federal government should be involved, I'll be there."</p>	<p>"I think on balance it's probably health care....It would be substantially ahead of any other...A lot of people are concerned about high taxes...A lot of people are concerned about what exactly our position is on social issues, abortion is one of them. We don't have a policy on abortion, but a lot of people ask about it."</p>	<p>"Mostly we would like to give it back to the people who've earned it. The government shouldn't have a surplus. It should organize its affairs so that the income tax collected matches the expenditures that have to be made....We want to take approximately 1.4 million people off the income tax roles, people at the bottom end of income (\$10,000) paying any income tax...a typical family of four can earn \$26,000 before you pay any income tax...For the vast majority of income earners... we would reduce the basic rate to 17 per cent over a couple of years."</p>	<p>"The main problem with the health care system is that since 1993 vast sums of money have been taken out through the transfers from the federal government. We will develop a five-year-plan, a deal between the provinces and federal government, which will guarantee stable funding. Every year you'll have a minimum guaranteed level of funding...I believe we have to change the Canada Health Act in order to make that guarantee stick and to make it politician-proof, but we are willing to do that... (We) would meet with the provinces to find out what their specific needs are".</p>	<p>"(1) I believe there is a place and a very real need for the status quo in that you need to have the abortion procedure available for any number of reasons. I wouldn't support any changes to what we have now. (2) I'm no longer in favor of it personally. I've changed my perspective over the last few years...Let's have a life sentence mean a life sentence. (3) It's certainly not a high priority for me...I wouldn't even contemplate spending time on marijuana law reform. There are already mechanisms in place to allow the medicinal use of marijuana."</p>	<p>"Absolutely not. It would be necessary in another year. It's a blatant, cynical act on the part of the Prime Minister who was afraid of two things.... (one being) the rise of the Alliance. Clearly he felt the longer the Alliance had an opportunity to speak to Canadians about our policies, the longer we had Stockwell Day in the House of Commons...the more we would gain in popular support. The other issue for the Prime Minister...is the Paul Martin factor. He's under strong pressure from within his party to allow Paul Martin to step in as the leader."</p>
Tom Kilmer, Progressive Conservative					
<p>"I think the federal government has to get involved working with municipalities. I'd like to see funding for expanded GO train service...My problem with the GO train is it just goes in the morning, it just goes in at night, I think we have to start looking at a sensible strategy for providing regular service...The 401 needs to be substantially expanded...I think Halton is missing the boat, we are at the crossroads of the 407, 401, there is no exit off 407 into our riding. There could be a phenomenal distribution centre, it would be fantastic..."</p>	<p>"Definitely it is health care, there is no doubt about it...There's a huge influx of people that can't get a doctor. There are horrible shortages of doctors. Meanwhile the funding cutbacks have meant there were cutbacks in the maternity ward of Milton District Hospital...I know how important it is to have community facilities for having babies...Mr. Chrétien you eliminated the deficit but you tore it all out of health care."</p>	<p>"First we have to re-invest in health care to the level it was in 1993 before the Liberals (cut)...The problem for a provincial government is they don't know what they are budgeting for. What were saying is commit a funded budgeted item to health care. The second part of it is...we feel infrastructure is important and paying down the debt.....Treat the debt like a mortgage, whether it's good bad or indifferent, who did it, who didn't do it...at the end of the day we're here as Canada and it's different than the U.S."</p>	<p>"To commit funding back into health care so you can budget for it, it's a budgeted item so the provinces know they can plan for it. Then they can commit to investing with confidence in MRI machines and so on, so you don't need two-tier health care."</p>	<p>"(1) Status quo. (2) I don't support capital punishment. Mr. Truscott scares the heck out of me, that we could make a mistake like Steven Truscott so I don't stand for capital punishment. (3) I think there needs to be some reform in the law. I don't use marijuana so I don't see what the issue is. For medical reasons, or possession, I don't think it's a black and white issue."</p>	<p>"(It's) a cynical, unnecessary election because there is a mandate to government.. and 3.5 years is not nearly full time in his (Chrétien's) mandate so one would perceive he did it to nip the Alliance bud. I then discussed it with my father-in-law...a provincial Mike Harris fan but a federal Liberal...and he argued the Alliance is so, to him, offensive what it stands for in its black and white intolerance. Maybe it (the election call) was best for Canada before it gets its tentacles into any other parts of the country."</p>
Brenda Dolling, New Democratic Party					
<p>"We have announced a national environmental infrastructure investment program that would not only upgrade our road system but more important to us is that we would invest more in the rail system which we feel we're not using enough...we would be investing in urban transit systems—systems that would get people into the cities and out again without using the roads...The other issue is suburbs. We're interested in building up cities and towns in a more intensive fashion, not necessarily totally crowded, but there are some excellent examples in Europe."</p>	<p>"It's health care. They're all asking, every meeting and people on the phone...that's the big one. The elderly are most worried about it. There are long lists of people looking for long term care...If we can't meet the needs now what's going to happen when people my age get to be that age. The system is not going to be prepared for us."</p>	<p>"Health care would take a huge chunk. We would reinvest into social programs. In fact, \$18.6 billion will go to federal program spending even in the first year. Environmental spending—the Liberals cut \$1 billion, we'd put \$4 billion into it...We're also interested in child care...so we have \$3.5 billion into that...We have suggested we freeze tuition and gradually roll it back to 1995 levels, so that would cost us \$1.2 billion...We're also looking at different types of loans...We've got \$1 billion for job training and \$4.6 billion over four years to pay down the debt."</p>	<p>"We would put a lot into health care, not just to take it back to 1993 levels, in fact we'd go up to 25 per cent of the shared spending of the provinces...We would open up the Health Care Act...and we would add to it homecare, which includes palliative care, and also a gradual pharmaceutical program, starting with prescription drugs for people released from hospitals...and also people who have chronic illnesses who have huge drug costs...We would spend more than \$7 billion more than the present Liberal government has promised."</p>	<p>"(1) Abortion is simple. I've been a pro-choicer for years. I'd fight any party that tries to recriminalize abortion. (2) There's two reasons why I'm against capital punishment. One is I'm a pacifist, I'm a non-violence practitioner, and have been involved in non-violent civil disobedience... (Secondly) In every case the literature tells us it is not a deterrent, so if that's what we're doing it for it's useless. (3) I'm absolutely pro-medical use. Personally I do think it should be decriminalized. I think it's a tiny issue...let's look at corporate crime, environmental pollution."</p>	<p>"I don't think so in terms of the timing...Three elections in seven years is absolutely an abuse of the power the Liberals have...It wastes a lot of our dollars...But if you ask me if it was necessary in terms of the state our country is in, I would say yes. In terms of getting them out and getting a party in that would do something about our major, major problems...I hope it's us but if it isn't, then second best is to have a minority government and we get some power."</p>
Tom Adams, Green Party					
<p>"There should be a national infrastructure program for public transit...that's the #1 thing the federal government can do to alleviate these problems. GO Transit is the only major public transit system in the world in a developed country that's paying 90 per cent or more of its own costs through the fare box...At the local level we should have high occupancy vehicle lanes on all major roads...The other thing we need to do is not reduce gas taxes...This giant spread of low-density housing is crazy...where you are building I think you should be putting in higher density."</p>	<p>"This week we had a debate in Milton. The number of questions that were with regard to the environment were enormous. The second one was health care...many times people were saying we need to do preventive health care. We need to step back from the hospital system and say what are the root causes of our illness? I recently received a document from the Registered Nurses of Ontario...nurses themselves are saying we need to look at the environment as one of the root causes of illness...issues like water quality, that in itself is an environment question."</p>	<p>"I'd like to see the debt paid down drastically. That's very damaging to our future generations...I would also like to see income taxes reduced...partly that reduction should be offset by a revenue neutral shift towards pollution taxes...We should be taxing things that are damaging our society...I also believe corporate income taxes should be reduced and we should be raising taxes on things like air pollution from the Stelco companies, the refineries, those companies that are pumping sulfur dioxide noxious fumes into our air."</p>	<p>"When the health care system was first put forward it was supposed to be a two-phase program. The first phase is paying for doctors to serve us and to have hospitals...The second phase was supposed to be a preventative health care system. We have never gotten past phase one. I think we should go towards the preventative side...and fully fund that first phase which we're still not doing...other things that were supposed to be under universal health care were things like dental coverage...I would like to see things like alternative medicine covered."</p>	<p>"(1) I believe that's a personal choice that women should be able to make. I'm a supporter of pro-choice...(2) I don't believe in capital punishment.(3) I believe marijuana has its place. I certainly think we should control it from abuse. It can be a very damaging thing when it's not properly controlled. I think we should be going after, not the users, but those who are trying to suck our youth into using it. I believe in its use for medicinal purposes...but again that needs to be controlled."</p>	<p>"I think it was opportunistic by the Liberals. I think we should have elections held at fixed intervals...I'm not sure what the time frame should be...I think we need some other changes in our electoral system, we should be trying to eliminate corporate donations to political parties. My campaign isn't taking any donations from corporations...two-thirds of Liberal party funding comes from corporations, we're talking about the oil and gas industry, the auto industry, the power industry...if you think the Liberals don't listen to these guys you're wrong."</p>