

# Provincial election 2003 profiles

<p>The Independent &amp; Free Press posed five questions to the five candidates running for election in the Halton riding. The following are their edited responses to the questions and a brief profile of each candidate.</p>	<p><b>Ted Chudleigh</b> (Progressive Conservative)</p>  <p><b>Political experience:</b> Halton MPP since 1995</p>	<p><b>Barbara Sullivan</b> (Liberal)</p>  <p><b>Political experience:</b> Served as MPP for Halton Centre from 1987-1995</p>	<p><b>Jay Jackson</b> (New Democrat Party)</p>  <p><b>Political experience:</b> Ran unsuccessfully as 1996 Halton federal candidate, 1999 provincial candidate and 1994 local council.</p>	<p><b>Giuseppe Gori</b> (Family Coalition Party)</p>  <p><b>Political experience:</b> Leader of the FCP of Ontario</p>	<p><b>Matt Smith</b> (Green Party)</p>  <p><b>Political experience:</b> None</p>
<p>1. What, in your estimation, should be the top three priorities for the next provincial government and how would your party deal with these issues?</p>	<p>I think the top priority... should be jobs. Nothing can progress without jobs... Creating jobs through tax cuts is probably the number one priority, (and) for the future as well...The second priority has to be education and healthcare— the services that people expect. In 1995, when I was elected we were spending \$17.3 billion on healthcare, today this year we will be spending over \$28 billion on healthcare, and that increase...has been consistent every six months... People tell us we had cuts to healthcare, we restructured it...Third priority is probably leadership. We saw leadership as being pretty effective during the blackout and during the SARS, and I think we handled West Nile Virus exceptionally well in Halton.</p>	<p>I'm going to tell you that there is four, rather than three. First is education, second is health care, third is the environment and fourth is the economy...They really all have to be tackled almost simultaneously...(Regarding education)...we've seen close to \$2 billion taken out of the education system, our party is committed to putting \$1.6 billion back in ....On health care...We have a solid plan to increase the number of physicians and nurses... Environment...We will replace all of our coal generating hydro plants with clean fuel...Economy... there will be no new taxes but we will not proceed with the tax cuts that the Conservatives have promised...we will rescind tax credits given to parents of children in private schools...and we will rescind the seniors property tax credit.</p>	<p>I think the top three... are putting back services that have been devastated in this province for the past eight years. It speaks to water, the environment...bad meat...hydro...and with a strong public service it's the NDP's belief that those issues need to be part of a cornerstone of a good society... In privatizing those services for profit...we can see what happens when that happens: the lights go out, or we wind up with catastrophes like Walkerton, we're not to sure if we want to have a steak tonight...We need to have more investment back into public health-care, we need more nurses, we need to have it public not privatized like the activities in Brampton which will touch this hospital in Georgetown...I think leadership is also a key.</p>	<p>1. 1. Pro-life policies (including more help for pregnant women and deductions for adoptions. See pro-life policy directions under our Health Care policy). 2. Pro-family policies (including doubling spousal tax exemption, more child deductions and defending traditional marriage). 3. Government reform (to be able to concentrate our tax money in the areas where the need is highest for families).</p>	<p>Political ethics, smog, (it is getting worse), education, and as I firmly believe that everything is connected, once these are all achieved, the economy and healthcare will not be a problem.</p>
<p>2. Halton is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario yet many argue the infrastructure is not there to support such growth. What would your party do to ensure Halton can handle additional growth.</p>	<p>I think Halton has done fairly well with a few exceptions. I think basically we would do more of the same. Since I've been elected in 1995 we've had 13 new schools built in Halton, 10 of them have been expanded or upgraded, there are still portables, but when you talk about infrastructure that's one of the keys...The Georgetown Hospital is slated for a new emergency wing...Parks and recreation is another interesting part of expansion infrastructure. We're on a lottery system in Halton Hills for sports and that clearly is unacceptable to many of the parents. I have helped as an MPP— I got \$1.2 million for the Mold-Masters rink expansion, I got \$1.5 million for the Gellert recreational facility in Georgetown South.</p>	<p>We have developed with the association of municipalities...to try to get a concrete assessment of the current status of municipal infrastructure and to project a capital plan. In this area the more significant problem is the new population and Halton has just rethought its development charges...but we still have problems of schools, parks, green space, other infrastructure that's very important to the quality of life...Halton (public school) board told me over the next period of time we'll need an additional 41 schools in Halton...so that means a significant capital expansion is required...the funding formula has to change, its very problematic that under this formula the (PCs) brought in that we have to close a school in order to get a new school.</p>	<p>Growth is driven largely by municipalities, and municipalities seem to be driven by the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board). They (OMB) get their power from the legislature. Growth is good for communities...but it just can't grow as more bedroom communities to Toronto. I think the 401 Corridor commercial development and also infilling of commercial development of any municipalities in the riding should be encouraged... We would be looking at giving the municipalities a lot more authority for making the determinations of growth within a community... We've seen here in Halton Hills, the large sum of taxpayers' money town council spent to try to protect a plan and it was basically set aside by some developers and their busload of lawyers.</p>	<p>First of all we need less red tape, when development does not affect environmentally-sensitive areas. Too many people have horror stories about the amount of permits, money and legal fees necessary to have a normal building permit. Certain areas of growth, like the 401 Corridor, have already been planned for development. The type and speed of development going on in Halton is determined mainly by the long-term planning of the GTA. Ideas the provincial government could undertake include high-speed train transit between major satellite cities and Toronto, to release the pressure from Toronto and attract business and population to work in these satellite centres, instead of driving one hour back and forth.</p>	<p>Does the infrastructure work? We live in an age of advancing technology. We are building more and more roads, yet what is the future of transportation? Is there a system that would be safer, which in turn would bring down insurance rates? If we are elected we will see the strongest system ever and growth that we can actually call "smart". During my research, one of the measures I think we should consider is a thing like sky cities. Utilizing space efficiently, this would be proactive to our land situation. We have fruitful land that grows economic growth. Why destroy it?</p>
<p>3. Give a brief summary of your party's platform.</p>	<p>One of the major things is tax cuts. People want more money in their pocket. Our platform will include mortgage interest tax deductibility... Property tax reduction for seniors— helping seniors stay in their homes longer... Giving tax breaks to people who are involved with intensive homecare will be part of our program...I think health care is an important part of our platform...A couple of years ago we implemented a program to fast track foreign trained doctors...that is the quickest way we can reduce the shortage of doctors... Longer term to that we have the nurse practitioner program... Of course education is key...I think the unions that run the teaching profession have overused their ability to strike...making teachers an essential service is an important plank in our platform..</p>	<p>I think that we're the only party that has come to terms with an overview of an approach to the development and implementation of public policy...there is an emphasis on public services, not reverting to, say in healthcare, to a two-tier system...in education it's ensuring we have the spaces and the programs in place where teachers can teach and children can learn... On the environment, ensuring the public interest is protected with clean air, clean water, a responsible approach to...electricity...And on the economic side, using taxpayer dollars wisely, we've signed the Taxpayer Protection Act...and have agreed there will be no new taxes except for one...the tobacco tax would be raised to bring it to the national standard, we believe that's a fundamental part of the health-care program.</p>	<p>Our key message is public power, which is a bit of a play on words...it's not exclusive to the hydro issue...Hydro is one of the issues...An NDP government would be decommissioning nuclear...we'd be investing in more hydro generation, in smaller hydro plants... Education has been devastated, so we need to put back into education those dollars and those authorities, school boards need to make decisions locally...Post secondary education— we need to have a 10 per cent reduction in tuition for both colleges and universities...On public health we need to extend public homecare...we need to have more homecare opportunities...What we would be doing is talking about the creation of 100 community health centres...(they are) smaller than a hospital but bigger than a clinic.</p>	<p>Our "Common Sense Reform" platform includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare reform: Medical savings accounts to contain costs</li> <li>• Education reform: Parental choice system for a better education</li> <li>• Economic reform: Balanced budgets and mandated debt reduction</li> <li>• Electoral Reform: A more proportional and more democratic electoral system</li> <li>• Government reform: Governments re-sized as required.</li> <li>• Taxation reform: Higher deductions for families and lower taxes.</li> <li>• Family law reform: Rights with responsibilities.</li> </ul> <p>FCP will also work with the federal government and the opposition to pursue reforms in federal law, including, electoral, judicial and senate reform.</p>	<p>Stronger democracy by empowering the people through decentralized decision making that will secure a better way to live. Our best strategy is a green tax shift. Green tax shift would tax the bad— for example companies using more plastic would get taxed more— therefore they would reduce their waste and in turn disposal costs would go down. My favourite example is the chocolate bar. Chocolate bars are not the best snack food, so, put a 1% tax on them. What would it be, a penny? How many chocolate bars are consumed in Ontario in a day...in a year?</p>