

# ~ Durham-York candidates respond to the people ~

The Tribune asked a cross-section of the community to ask the candidates the question of most concern to them as voters. Here are the questions and responses.

1. What is your position on benefits for same sex couples and adoption for same sex couples?

~ John Vankeffel

2. What initiatives would you like to see for youth in this riding to help keep them off the streets?

~ Tyler Currington

3. What is your party going to do about rising tuition costs? Is there any realistic way to cut costs without cutting funds to colleges and universities?

~ Megan Houston

4. Is your party going to work to reduce taxes to seniors making less than \$20,000 per year?

~ Bill Nailer

5. How will proposed cuts in government spending affect education especially junior kindergarten and French immersion and extra curricular programs in our local schools?

~ Janis Bombaci

6. How would you propose to balance the budget while maintaining the already diminished availability of health care services?

~ Don Jackson

7. How do you think you are going to pay for public services like health and education when we can't even afford textbooks in all the classrooms?

~ Angela Cumbers

## VINCE ARTYMKO ~ FCP



ARTYMKO

1. The FCP recognizes marriage as the union between a man and a woman and will never condone spousal benefits and adoption rights for homosexual couples.

Spousal benefits, originally implemented to help families where one parent, usually the mother, stayed home to raise the children, are in recognition of the importance of this work and its value to society.

In adoption, the priority must always be the welfare of the child, who has the inalienable right to be raised by two parents, a mother and a father, even though this is not always possible. In a homosexual relationship there is no legal bond between the two people and a separation would mean equal responsibility for and right to custody of the child, with no regards for the natural parents. Homosexual activists are using this ruling as a publicity stunt.

2. This will only be resolved when parents regain parental control over their children, teach them to respect other people and their property and accept respon-

sibility for their actions. There are many recreational and cultural opportunities for children and teens in this area and they and their parents should be encouraged to participate, but I don't think we can afford further expenses for another ice pad or pool. The FCP will not try to resolve a problem by throwing money at it.

3. The FCP has no official policy on funding or costs for higher education, but it is obvious that the student pays only a small percentage of the cost and the rest is paid by the taxpayers. Perhaps college and university students should be required to pay more towards their own education. After all, they will earn a higher than average income after graduation.

4. The FCP policy is based on honesty and integrity and it would be irresponsible of me to say that the FCP could reduce taxes within a definite timeframe. The FCP is not only concerned for senior taxpayers earning less than \$20,000 per year, but we know that many families are

also trying to survive, support children and work towards the future on this much or much less.

5. Can we afford junior kindergarten? Is it an educational expense or is it merely a publicly-funded babysitting service?

In an area that is predominantly English speaking, even though we are in an officially bilingual province, should we be spending so much public money to educate children entirely in French? The FCP offers parents the Parents' Choice voucher system. They will have full control over the education of their children.

6. The FCP will work to reduce the deficit by 20 per cent per year for five years, reducing it to zero. We will then legislate a balanced budget, meaning that governments will not be allowed to spend beyond their income. Health care is one of our major expenses and one most subject to fraud. The FCP will require that everyone be issued an annual statement of OHIP charges, such charges to be verified by the patient and costs in excess of

\$100 and up to \$4,000 will be reported as a taxable benefit.

7. The FCP will cut government spending by eliminating much of the bureaucracy. We are over-governed with four levels of government: federal, provincial, regional and municipal. The most important of these is the municipal, because it relates directly to the people. The FCP will review the need for regional government with a view to eliminating it. We will eliminate the IWA immediately, review the Advocacy Act and the Consent to Treatment Act and reduce the budgets for all government agencies, boards and commissions by 10 per cent for the first year, with a view to eliminating as many as possible. Unnecessary medical procedures will not be funded by OHIP. Among these would be surgical sex changes, fertility treatments, in-vitro fertilizations, fertility sterilizations and abortions.

None of these procedures cure or treat serious medical condition.

## DAVID MARQUIS ~ Liberal



MARQUIS

1. A Liberal government will not introduce any legislation pertaining to benefits for same sex couples. It has been a highly charged, emotional debate and further debate would not be productive.

Our Liberal leader is on record of not supporting adoption right for same sex couples. The priorities of the next government should be jobs and balancing the budget.

2. A Liberal government is committed to providing hope for Ontario's youth. We will introduce a youth opportunities strategy that will help 15- to 24-year-olds get education, training and jobs. We will also expand the cooperative education and apprenticeship programs. The best way to keep youth off the streets is to get them a job. A Liberal government will provide the climate for job creation and economic growth to provide youth with job opportunities.

3. We are the only party to commit to stable predictable funding, at current lev-

els to our schools. Tuition fee increases for college and university students will be held in line with the rate of inflation. Any savings achieved within the system will be retained by the institution. The Conservatives want to deregulate universities and colleges, creating an American style system of education. The Conservatives have also stated that they would take \$400 million away from colleges and universities. As a father of three, I do not welcome the thought of having to pay any more than I have to for my children's education.

4. A Liberal government will cut taxes by a modest five per cent, not an unachievable 30 per cent, as the Conservatives promise. The Liberal party is against user fees for health care, which is a tax on the sick and seniors. A Liberal government will restore coverage for out-of-country emergency health care services to previous levels, in adherence to the Canada Health Act. Ontario Liberals

also reject user fees for the Ontario Drug Benefit plan. In a speech to the Ontario Hospital Association in October 1993, Mike Harris stated that he supports user fees for the Ontario Drug Benefit plan.

5. Ontario Liberals are committed to high quality education with standards that can be measured and reported. We will spend less on educational administration and more on classroom learning. Reduce the number of trustees and cap their salaries.

We are the only party to commit to stable predictable funding, at current levels to our schools. All school boards will be able to maintain all the services they currently provide. Our cuts are targeted for waste in the system.

6. Ontario Liberals will balance the budget by making program reductions, creating leaner government, welfare reform and cuts to political spending. These cuts are all detailed on page 76 of the Liberal Action Plan. We are the only

party to commit to stable and predictable funding at current levels, for four years, in order to preserve health care. The Conservatives who pledged not to raise taxes and yet they will introduce a Mike Harris Health Tax that will gouge already over-taxed middle class Ontarians (see page 7 of the Conservative Platform).

7. Ontario Liberals are the only party to commit to stable and predictable funding for health care, education and municipalities. Any savings achieved will remain with our funding partners and not clawed back as the Conservatives propose. Our system rewards initiative for creating efficiencies and productivity. Mike Harris penalizes those who create efficiencies. I do not believe the Conservatives when they promise to cut taxes 30 per cent, balance the budget and not harm education or health care.

No jurisdiction in North America has been able to balance the budget with a 30 per cent tax cut.

## JULIA MUNRO ~ PC



MUNRO

1. The PC party voted against the same sex legislation last year. We are opposed to changing the definition of family, but we are prepared to address the benefits issue in a broader context. The adoption court case was a narrow decision which included a biological parent. The paramount factor is to consider the best interests of the child.

2. The initiatives begun by Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Judy Scala and Sue Sherban demonstrate the willingness of people within the community to make a difference for our youth. The work of the various volunteer organizations has to be appreciated and, if elected, I will maintain

my support for these endeavors.

3. Tuition costs reflect a number of factors over which the provincial government has little or no control, such as the federal budget cuts. For that reason, our platform is to provide income contingent loans to ensure that students have the power to choose their post-secondary school education. We believe young people in Ontario should never be denied the opportunity for higher education just because they can't afford the tuition.

4. The federal government sets the income tax rates. The provincial income tax rate reduction of 15 per cent in the first year and 7.5 per cent in the second and

third years will benefit everyone, giving them the equivalent of a 13 per cent pay increase. With this extra money to save, spend or invest in our communities, we can have real jobs and real economic growth.

5. Classroom education is a priority for our party.

We will not reduce the level of spending for classroom education. A Mike Harris government will make junior kindergarten a local option and will end the practice of mandating new provincial programs without providing adequate funding to cover implementation costs.

6. Health care is a priority for a Mike

Harris government. We will make cuts to government spending in non-priority areas to allow us to balance the budget within five years. To do this means cutting only 11 cents of each dollar the government spends.

7. The Common Sense Revolution was designed to allow a Mike Harris government to protect health care, classroom education and law enforcement. The deficit elimination plan takes into account the protection of these three areas.

Funding for these priority areas will remain at current levels, however, every effort will be made to spend it more efficiently.

## LARRY O'CONNOR ~ NDP



O'CONNOR

1. I supported Bill 167. This is a matter for the legislators, not the courts.

2. I want to continue working with local groups to improve recreational programs for youth. The very successful Brock Youth Group programs in Beaverton, Cannington and Sunderland are a fine example of this. I want to continue creating more jobs and training opportunities through programs like jobs Ontario and Jump Start. Through a number of programs we have worked hard to help keep farm families farming and to help create

jobs for young people in rural communities.

3. I am committed to affordable higher education and this is a high priority. Colleges and university have to live within their means but cuts are not required. Mike Harris' promises mean a 20 per cent cut in funding in this sector.

4. Our government has already removed 270,000 low income earners, many of whom are seniors, from the tax rolls. Action speaks louder than words and our direction is clear.

5. Under an NDP government, junior kindergarten and French immersion are not threatened. Under a Mike Harris government, the former would be obliterated and the latter would not be safe from cuts. Extra curricular programs will continue to rely heavily on local fundraising efforts.

6. Our government is on track to balance the provincial operating budget in '97 to '98. This does not require cutting health care. In fact, as parliamentary assistant to the minister of health, I've been able to help improve treatment for people

with cancer, bring in new health and home care for seniors and a new program to help families with unmanageable drug costs.

7. Our government is handling much of the problem through the expenditure control program which is set at \$2 billion per year. Bob Rae and I have one clear commitment in this election - we oppose the Mike Harris plan for US-style health care - there will be no two-tier medicare. Ontario will not have one kind of health care for the rich and something less for everyone else.