



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Progressive Conservative Farid Wassef and Liberal incumbent Helena Jaczek had the only all-candidates meeting in Oak Ridges-Markham to themselves in Richmond Hill last Thursday night.

ONLY 2 OF 5 CANDIDATES SHOW AT MEETING

Plenty of agreement between Liberal, PC

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Five candidates are vying for your vote but only two showed up for the only Oak Ridges-Markham all-candidates meeting last Thursday.

Conservative Farid Wassef and Liberal incumbent Helena Jaczek agreed on so many points, including there is abuse in the health care system's billing procedures and how to curb congestion, they even both have sons named Nicholas, it prompted a member of the approximately 60-person gallery at Richmond Hill's Holy Trinity School to ask them to define exactly what a Conservative and Liberal are.

However, there are issues on which the two candidates could not be further apart.

The Conservatives plan on eliminating 100,000 public sector workers, but will then add one million jobs over eight years.

"It is so fantastic it requires the services of the tooth fairy," one gallery member said while questioning Wassef.

Jaczek claimed cutting 100,000 public sector jobs would directly impact Oak Ridges-Markham with the loss of 2,000 workers.

Wassef does not like the Liberal's proposed Ontario

Retirement Pension Plan.

"I don't want the government telling me I must put money away," the Stouffville resident said.

Jaczek defended the plan, noting most Ontarians don't save their money, making it necessary.

The PCs want to abolish the college of trades, while the Liberals want to utilize it even more in order to establish better apprentice ratios.

Both candidates agree on the need for a green economy, but the Conservatives want to do away with the Feed In Tariff.

Jaczek admitted emergency wait times have hit a plateau after declining between 2003 and 2011. She laid the blame on specialist referrals.

Wassef, a pharmacist, wants primary care strengthened and the LIN network abolished.

Only a few verbal jabs were thrown.

Wassef accused the Liberals of "corruption, lying, covering up".

Jaczek noted the Liberals are cleaning up after the Conservatives when it comes to hydro line restoration and pointed out it was the Mike Harris government which sold Hwy. 407 off to a private entity, which caused the province to lose out on 99 years worth of tax dollars.

Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason moderated the event.

The event was sponsored by the Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce, the Markham Board of Trade, OnRichmondHill.com, the Richmond Hill Markham Chinese Business Association, Rotary Club of Richmond Hill and Metroland Media (the York Region Media Group).

The provincial election is today.

TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT

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\$280,000	\$1,063.17	\$490.70
\$300,000	\$1,139.11	\$525.74
\$320,000	\$1,215.05	\$560.79
\$340,000	\$1,290.99	\$595.84
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