

The Free Press invited the four leading candidates for Markham-Stouffville riding in the October 19 Federal election to submit a bio about themselves telling why they are running, what they consider to be the most important issues both nationally and in their riding, and what their priorities are for the next four years.

### October

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## MYLES O'BRIEN



I grew up in Markham and moved to Stouffville in 2008. I was a founding committee member of the Downtown Stouffville Farmers' Market, and sit on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Community Energy Cooperative board. Since 2006 I have worked for the Town of Richmond Hill in several environmental roles. I have degrees from Queen's and York Universities.

I was the Markham-Unionville Green candidate in the 2011 and 2014 provincial elections. I enjoy playing music and exploring the woods with my three young children. I decided to be a candidate in this election due to frustration with our current government, optimism for a better, more united Canada, and the opportunity to build Green momentum where I live.

From my experience, once people have a clear picture of what Greens are about, they get it, and they like it. Greens do not see the "environment" as one of many competing issues for consideration; rather, we view it as the foundation for our social and economic prosperity. I am therefore committed to fostering conversation around sustainability and climate

change. Our collective priorities for the next four years must incorporate our collective vision for the next 100 years. If our governments are unable to think beyond an election cycle, then we have elected the wrong governments.

The dominant election issues – economy, healthcare, security, infrastructure – relate to a more fundamental question of identity: what is Canada, and what does it mean to be Canadian? The current government has been trying to reshape the country in its own image while neglecting the voices of most Canadians. We need to answer the identity question together; therefore we need a government that brings us together.

Stouffville's key issues – growth and development – are transforming it from a small town into a suburban centre. The Green vision can help guide this growth towards sustainable prosperity. Stouffville risks becoming 'just another GTA suburb' with bad traffic and no affordable housing. The Green Party values collaboration, and will work with Stouffville to build healthy, resilient communities that celebrate its unique identity.

## JANE PHILPOTT



I'm a physician, educator, activist, wife and mother. I've been a family doctor with Markham Stouffville Hospital for 17 years, serving as Chief of Family Medicine for 6 years. In 2010, I led the launch of the Health for All Family Health Team that provides care for 10,000 patients in Markham Stouffville. I also led the opening of the Markham Family Medicine Teaching Unit that has trained 46 family physicians for our community.

Prior to moving to Stouffville, I worked for 9 years in the Niger Republic, West Africa where I practiced general medicine and developed a training program for health workers. I became a doctor to help people live healthy and meaningful lives. But it takes more than good healthcare to keep people well. It takes a strong economy, a good education, employment opportunities, and more. That's why I've entered politics – to represent our community well and advocate for policies that improve people's lives.

What issues are important to me? As you might imagine, healthcare is a top priority. Canadians are

proud of a health system that has historically been strong and fair. However, the system has been taken for granted. I will use the lessons I've learned as a family doctor to advocate for an affordable, accessible health system for our collective future.

A second priority is an economy that works for everyone. The Liberal plan will get our struggling economy back on track. We've proposed the most significant infrastructure investment in Canadian history. We will create jobs and develop the infrastructure we need for public transit, affordable housing, clean technology and more.

A third priority is restoring Canada's role in the world. Canada should be a voice of reason promoting global security and peace. Our generosity should be evident in matters such as the current refugee crisis. We must contribute serious solutions for environmental challenges including climate change. As one citizen reminded me, "This election is about who we want to be as a nation." I couldn't agree more.

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