Kniaziew, Grima to run in upcoming provincial election

BY DANIEL SCHWAB

Health care, education, protecting manufacturing jobs and support for farmers are at the top of the list for two of the major political party candidates running in October's provincial election.

Local optometrist Richard Kniaziew was officially acclaimed as the provincial Progressive Conservative candidate for Essex during the association's meeting May 30.

John Grima, council president of the Windsor District of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, was acclaimed

as his party's provincial candidate for Essex during the New Democratic Party's meeting late last month.

"A big problem in our area is having access to a family doctor," Kniaziew said, adding that by pumping more funding into college nursing programs and expanding the medical school at the University of Windsor, enrollment will be increased in both programs, stimulating other types of employment.

Kniaziew, a past president of the local PC association and former school board trustee, addressed the troubled manufacturing



Progressive Conservative candidate Richard Kniaziew

industry by saying the area's well-educated work force needs to look to different sectors to produce new jobs.

"What we have to do is, slowly divert ourselves from the manufacturing



NDP candidate John Grima

industry and not be so dependent on the global economy," said Kniaziew, who lives outside Kingsville.

He also questioned why one of the most fertile, productive agricultural lands in the country still had farmers struggling to make ends meet.

"People have to have second jobs just to survive," he said of some Essex County farmers. "There's something wrong with that."

He said the provincial Liberals are reluctant to introduce a risk management program that has had farmers petitioning for more than a year.

"Farmers have been totally ignored," said Kniaziew, whose son operates a local 15-acre pepper farm. "We have to do something to educate our labour force that farming is not a

dreaded disease."

Fighting for better health care

Grima, an Amherstburg resident, told NDP members in his acceptance speech that, while Canada's health care system has for years been the envy of many countries worldwide, those views would disappear with privatization.

"The province is supposed to lead the fight for better health care, not forprofit health care," he said. "I will not stand idly by and watch the Liberals strip Essex County and the entirety of Ontario of the right to great health care."

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