



## Mississauga Brampton South Amrit Mangat Election

# Response to the City of Mississauga

**From:** Amrit Mangat  
Ontario Liberal Party Candidate, Mississauga Brampton South

**To:** The City of Mississauga

**Regarding:** *Questions that Mississauga is asking local candidates*

## 1. *Transportation Investments*

Southwest Brampton and north-central Mississauga are fast-growing areas, and much of the future growth in Peel Region will take place here. In the past four years, the Ontario government of Premier Dalton McGuinty has improved the 400-series of highways that our residents use.

The capacity expansion on the Milton GO Line, which is part of the *MoveOntario 2020* Plan will enable more people to use public transit by taking the GO Trains on the Milton Line throughout the day. As the new MPP for Mississauga Brampton South, I will work with my colleagues to ensure that the third track on the Milton Line is built as soon as possible.

The new High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on Highway 403 make it easier for commuters to carpool. Other planned improvements on the 400-series of highways will reduce the bottlenecks, and the Brampton Acceleride and the Mississauga Bus Transitway will enable people to move more efficiently within Peel Region.

Ontario kept its pledge to Mississauga to dedicate two cents of the gas tax to improving public transit. That means more than \$15 million additional *each year* to public transit in Mississauga.

## 2. *Current Value Assessment, tax incremental financing*

People build and live in rental apartments; condo towers; townhomes; semis and single-family dwellings of all sizes in Peel Region. Property taxes need to be fair for all homeowners. After imposing the current system of property taxation and eight years of not fixing it, the Tories are now proposing a new plan. Their new plan would shift the burden of paying property taxes to people in starter homes, or on fixed incomes to subsidize owners of large, expensive homes. I do not agree with this. Our government introduced a new system that will assess your home only once every four years,

and gradually phase-in any increases. This provides predictability, shielding homeowners from sudden, unmanageable increases.

### ***3. Social and human services, GTA Pooling***

The Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) downloaded onto our property taxes by the previous Conservative governments was a mistake that even John Tory admits. Our government is taking these expenses back. The upload will begin in 2008, and be complete by 2011. The Ontario government will also upload \$540 million of business education taxes during a seven year period.

Ontario now funds 75 percent of public health, up from half. Land ambulance will be funded equally between municipalities and the province by 2008. The comprehensive review of how different services are funded and delivered, now in progress, will examine housing, health and social services, as well as public infrastructure.

Our government follows nearly five years of NDP incompetence and eight years of Conservative irresponsibility. We have managed Ontario's finances prudently and not gone back into deficits. Our hospitals, schools, power grid and infrastructure must be maintained even while we look after our cities. The inherited \$5.6 billion deficit from the previous Conservative government is now gone. As Ontario's budget surpluses are invested in infrastructure, health care, education and in our cities, we will meet all our needs.

The much-hated GTA Pooling, often called "The Toronto Tax," was phased-out in the Ontario Budget. With the rapid upload of ODSP and ODB, the seven-year phase-out of GTA Pooling can be managed by Mississauga, and by the province.

Ontario and Mississauga need to keep working together. We have had four years of cooperation, and that should continue. The Tories fought with cities, and we will work with our cities. Both our party and the city of Mississauga agree that our property taxes should fund the things they do best, and the provincial tax base should fund the things it does best. I am pleased to see that my party's government has, in the last four years, begun to get a better deal from the federal government. Those resources, which all come from the same taxpayer, should enable Mississauga to grow and prosper in the years ahead.