

Mississauga Matters Questions for Candidates: Responses from NDP Leader Howard Hampton

Do you commit to the measures outlined by the City of Mississauga regarding the need for investments in transportation and specifically, what additional measures and investments will you make in transportation in the next four years?

The NDP will take the following steps to improve transit funding for Ontario municipalities:

- 1) Maintain 2 cents/litre Gas Tax funding for transit.
- 2) Provide funding for the proposed Transit City and related transit projects
- 3) As of January 1, 2008, pick up 50% of the municipal contribution to operational funding for transit.

Will you make the commitments outlined by the City of Mississauga regarding current value assessment, airport payments in lieu of taxes and tax incremental financing?

The NDP would replace the current version of CVA with a “freeze-til-sale” assessment model that would work as follows:

- Rather than assess properties on their market value and then increase the property tax according to the difference between the assessment increase and the city-wide average increase, under the NDP approach there would be no re-assessment until the property is sold. In other words, the present assessment would stay the same until the property is sold (or has more than \$40,000 in renovations at one time).

Will you make the commitments outlined by the City of Mississauga regarding the under funding of municipal services, including the uploading the costs of health and social services to the Province from the municipal property tax over the next three years and the phasing out of the GTA Pooling Program completely over the next three years?

The NDP believes that the key to reducing pressures on property tax and to free up resources for municipal services is to upload downloaded provincially mandated programs that have no business being funded off the property tax base. Towards that end, the NDP has outlined an ambitious 4-year plan to begin to upload these services as follows:

- As of January 1, 2008, the NDP would ensure that the provincial government has assumed full responsibility for 50% of the operating costs of public transit in return for a two-year fare freeze.
- As of January 1, 2008, an NDP government would honour the provincial government’s agreement with Ontario municipalities and assume its rightful share of administrative costs related to the original downloading agreement.

- As of January 1, 2008, an NDP government would pick up the full costs of security at courts; and
- In its first term, the NDP would upload the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Beyond the first term, the NDP would begin to upload other provincially mandated programs.