



Mississauga Streetsville
Bob Delaney Re-Election

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Response

From: Bob Delaney
Member of Provincial Parliament, Mississauga West
Ontario Liberal Party Candidate, Mississauga Streetsville

To: The City of Mississauga

Regarding: *Questions that Mississauga is asking local candidates*

1. Investments in transportation

THE FAST-GROWING NORTHWEST CORNER of Mississauga is also the city's densest residential area. It is home to the communities of Meadowvale, Streetsville, Lisgar and Churchill Meadows. Four years ago, I committed to working with Ward 9 Councillor Pat Saito to deliver the Lisgar GO Train station, the first new GO Train station in 25 years in Mississauga. It opened for passengers *ahead of schedule* on September 4th of this year. Lisgar is also an example of how our municipal and provincial governments can work closely together. Neither level of government could have built Lisgar's new GO Train station alone. Together, we delivered it ahead of schedule and within budget.

To continue our progress to keep cars off the road, reduce congestion on our city's main arteries, and get people to where they work when they need to go, As promised in 2003, I've been successful in getting the third track for the Milton GO Line included as part of the ambitious *MoveOntario 2020 Plan*. We need that third track to run all-day GO *train* service on the Milton line, as the line's owner, CP Rail, uses the existing two tracks at their full capacity.

As a big part of the capacity expansion of the Milton GO Line, Ontario will help fund the building of the third track on the Milton Line, and the bridge and trackbed upgrades it will take. I will keep the project on the front burner as it is built, and keep western Mississauga advised of progress, just as I did with the Lisgar GO Train station.

GO Transit will soon begin work on a comprehensive new bus repair facility right in Streetsville. The Streetsville GO Train station platform will receive a new access tunnel to assist commuters who park near the back of the long parking lot, which has itself been extended during the four years I have had the privilege of serving that community.

GO Trains will soon be **12 cars long**, up from the current ten cars. Each and every station's platform on the Milton Line has been extended. The new locomotives able to haul 12-car GO Trains come into service later this year and through 2008. Lisgar was designed from the very outset to accommodate 12-car GO Trains, and to assume the third track on the Milton Line will be built.

In Streetsville, Meadowvale, Lisgar and Churchill Meadows, bus service is improving because 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

OUR COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN MISSISSAUGA comprise every type of dwelling: rental apartments; condo towers; townhomes; semis and single-family dwellings of all sizes, lot configurations and vintages. Property taxes need to be predictable for both the city and for homeowners. Those in starter homes, or on fixed incomes should not be subsidizing those with the means to live in large, expensive homes, which is what the Tories propose. Current-value assessment, with a four-year phase-in period, delivers that predictability and fairness. Our government's reforms in the past four years shield homeowners from sudden, unmanageable increases.

The Tories want to cap and freeze property tax assessments. Those who live in modest dwellings in western Mississauga would have to carry the extra burden for people of considerable means living in large homes. Not fair, and not in our Ontario.

I was a strong proponent of the reform measures in the 2005 act (Bill 186) that reformed the representation that Mississauga receives on the Peel Regional Council. This election, people should remember that both the NDP and the Conservatives, including their leaders, all bad-mouthed our city, and voted *against* the fundamental fairness in reforming the Peel Regional Council representation that Mississauga receives. With more than half Peel's population, Mississauga now has half the seats on Peel's council because of what our government, and its Mississauga MPPs, did.

3. Municipal services, social services, GTA Pooling

THE DOWNLOADING of the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) for social assistance recipients was one of the cruellest and worst misjudgments of the previous Conservative governments. These programs should *never* have been funded through property taxes. Ontario is taking them back in full. The upload will begin this coming January, and be fully-implemented by 2011. Ontario will also upload some \$540 million of business education taxes during the next seven years.

Public health funding was shared 50:50 between the province and cities in 2004, and in 2007, Ontario now funds 75 percent of public health. Land ambulance will be funded equally between municipalities and the province by 2008. Ontario is doing a comprehensive review of how different services are funded and delivered, even as our government reforms the system. The review is looking at housing, health and social services, as well as public infrastructure.

Some ask if these things can be done quicker. Our government also has a responsibility to manage Ontario's finances prudently and to ensure that our hospitals, schools, power grid and infrastructure remain reliable and state-of-the-art. After the inherited \$5.5 billion deficit that the previous Conservative government hid and denied, Ontario's finances are now back into a sustainable surplus. We need that surplus to meet the growing needs of Ontarians, and to ensure that the baby boom generation retires with dignity and receives the health care that North America's biggest demographic segment will require as they age.

After I was elected, and as I got to understand our city's needs and issues, I lobbied hard to eliminate GTA pooling. We in Mississauga were heard in part because I sat in the Ministers' boardrooms, looked them in the eye, made our case, and worked with our city. It worked. The GTA Pooling phase-out was in the Ontario Budget this past March. I'd like it gone tomorrow, but I'm not willing to stop building the expansion wing of Credit Valley Hospital, go into a budget deficit or neglect school funding to find the money to do it. Combined with the rapid upload of ODB and ODSP and other social services, the seven-year phase-out of GTA Pooling is manageable by Ontario, and by Mississauga.

Working together, as we have done for the past four years, Mississauga and Ontario will ensure that property taxes fund those things they should fund, and provincial taxes fund the programs and services that they should. With Liberals representing Mississauga, Ontario is looking after your money the Mississauga way: responsible management, declining debt, and good value in the programs and services you receive.