

## **Responses to City of Mississauga survey.**

1. 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 Liberals are the first government to dedicate 2 cents of the gas tax to public transit. This commitment means more than \$15 million a year for Mississauga, to address the need for sustainable transit and infrastructure funding. Also, we have allocated \$65 million as our 1/3 share for the new Mississauga Transitway rapid bus project. We've invested more than \$1.8 billion for GO Transit improvements, which includes new vehicles and stations. Residents of Malton will be benefiting from better, more frequent transit service.**

**There is more progress to be made. That's why we launched MoveOntario 2020, a \$17.5 billion rapid transit plan for the GTA. Mississauga will benefit from 16 projects totaling over \$6 billion in new investment. We will cover the municipal share of cost for several projects, including the Airport Link to Union Station and the GO 407 BRT Transitway Peel segment (401 to 427), amongst others.**

**As Liberals, we are dedicated to public transit as a way to fight gridlock, reduce greenhouse gases, and keep our economy moving.**

2 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?

**As a party, the Ontario Liberals are committed to a fair property tax system based on current value assessment. Our 2007 Budget introduced several reforms to property taxes that focused on predictability and stability of the system. The foundation of our reforms is based on moving to a four year cycle, phasing-in assessment increases and improving the fairness of the appeals process. As a result, Mississauga property owners will no longer see any sudden, unexpected increases. For seniors, we once again raised the threshold for the property tax credit so that more homeowners now qualify.**

**With regard to airport payments, the Ontario Liberals will continue to work with both the city of Mississauga and the federal government to ensure that we find suitable solutions to enable the city to receive an equitable share of tax revenues from the airport.**

**On the issue of tax incremental financing, our government was the first in Ontario to move forward with a new creative financing tool. As a result, this will help foster new development and strengthen our communities and their infrastructure. The Liberal government will continue to work with our municipal partners to review the results of our efforts to date, and explore what additional measures are needed for the future.**

3. 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?

**We, as Liberals, believe it was wrong for the previous Conservative government to download social service costs onto municipal taxpayers. It has been a challenge for us to reverse this downloading, given the substantial deficit that we inherited, but we have made considerable progress. Our Liberal Government has uploaded the provincial share for public health funding from 50% to 75% and moved to cover 50% of ambulance costs.**

**Our progress is continuing with the initiation of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review, which will deliver and fund services in Ontario for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The report from this Review will be released in spring 2008.**

**The GTA Pooling Program which was implemented by the previous Conservative Government is an unfair burden on property taxpayers in Mississauga. We recognized that changes were needed. In our 2007 Budget, we initiated a phase-out plan to eliminate pooling which, once fully implemented, will save the city of Mississauga and other GTA municipalities, \$200 million a year.**

**Our government has recently announced the uploading of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and the Ontario Drug Benefit Program (ODB), which will substantially benefit Mississauga and other municipalities. The Liberals are very proud to have established constructive relationships with Ontario's municipalities that have resulted in stronger communities. We have made positive progress in the last 4 years, and we will continue to keep working hard and moving forward.**