

## All Candidates Meeting for Ajax/Pickering

### Questions from the Community

1. AIRPORT – The GTA is growing – comments were made about urban sprawl and growth. 43% of all new Canadians make their home in this Region. Every intention is made to grow the economy of our area.

Instead of finding ways to increase traffic to the centre of Toronto what plans do you have to bring employment to the east side of Toronto and way would you not begin the process of our own airport? People on the east side of Toronto are forced to drive across the city to get to Pearson, when New York City for instance is served by three airports.

**My family and I are proud to live in Ajax-Pickering and see the growth Durham Region is experiencing. While I have not yet seen a convincing business case for a Pickering airport – and am therefore opposed to it currently – Changebook offers a comprehensive plan for both job creation and smoother public transportation to meet the needs of Ontarians in Durham Region and beyond. Specifically, Changebook is a plan for Ontario that will help foster small business growth.**

2. AIRPORT – What is your position on the proposed Airport in Pickering? What effects do you think it will have on our environment?

**While this is a federal issue, to date there has been no business case presented that makes a case for building the Pickering Airport and therefore I would be opposed to it. As well I firmly believe that this type of decision needs to be made with the full consultation of the local community.**

3. SEATON DEVELOPMENT – People perceive that more people equal less taxes. Nothing could be further from the truth. The cities never collect enough development charges to pay for the services and infrastructure for new development.

Currently developers have agreed to pay for sewage and water supply all the way up to the employment lands around Highway 7, in return, for every house they build, they want the development charges rebated back to them. If this is allowed to happen it will mean Pickering and Durham residents will be left with paying for the building of Seaton. We are already highly taxed.

The developers only want to build the parts of Seaton that are profitable to them. That means no new connecting or widened roads. No new bridges. No state of the art transit system. That means south Pickering will become a parking lot during rush hour.

Is it the Province that owns the lands and is it the Province that is overseeing the development of Seaton? What will you do to ensure that the residents of Pickering do not pay a cent towards the building of Seaton and how will you ensure that traffic flow is not disrupted?

**The Ontario PC Party is the only Party that has a plan to invest the proper dollars into our infrastructure in order to combat gridlock which currently plagues the GTA. Under Dalton McGuinty the problem of gridlock in the Region of Durham has been ignored and allowed to get worse. Case in point is the fact that they still haven't built Hwy 407 straight through to the 35/115.**

**With regards to the Seaton Lands, I am committed to working with local stakeholders like the Region of Durham, the City of Pickering and the City of Ajax to ensure that this development works for the community and is not a burden on the taxpayers.**

4. YOUTH & CRIME – Due to the negative rise in street gangs what community based preventative programs especially for youth, do you plan to implement?

**Fighting for hardworking families against those who try to take advantage of us is a key focus in Changebook, the Ontario PC plan for Ontario. As a father of three children in our community, this issue is of particular importance to me. A Tim Hudak government would be tough on crime by toughening the treatment of criminals by requiring provincial prisoners to work up to 40 hours per week, fighting for victims of crime by removing the bureaucracy that stands in the way of victims and justice, and making the justice system more accountable and accessible through extending the hours of our busiest courts. We will create a provincial registry of houses previously used as grow ops and meth labs, and support one law for everyone by toughening the rules on illegal occupations. By taking a tough on crime stance, an Ontario PC government would respond to the concerns of Ontarians about crime in their communities, and deter criminal activity, especially among youth, by being tough on crime and protecting Ontario families.**

5. POVERTY – What are your plans to address poverty in our seniors community?

**With two elderly parents living at home with my family, I understand the need to address the issues such as poverty in our seniors community first-hand. A big part of addressing this issue is ensuring our healthcare system looks after the needs of seniors in Ontario. As Dalton McGuinty wasted health care dollars on scandals like the \$1 billion eHealth boondoggle and his massive new LHIN bureaucracies, the number of seniors on Ontario's long-term care wait list has**

**doubled and wait times have tripled. A Tim Hudak government will support our seniors and free up hospital beds by:**

- **Expanding long-term care with 5,000 new long-term care beds, targeted in communities where they will do the most good relieving pressure in the system.**
- **Renovating 35,000 beds over the next 10 years to give more seniors additional privacy and dignity.**
- **Doubling the Caregiver Tax Credit for those who care for an elderly family member.**
- **Increasing investments in home care and giving seniors more control over their services. Seniors can choose to stay with their current provider, or pick a government-funded home care provider that might better meet their needs.**

**On October 6th, Ontario families and seniors face a clear choice. They will choose between a Dalton McGuinty government that will continue to raise taxes and spend it on waste and bureaucracy, or a Tim Hudak government that will invest in frontline health care and put patients at the centre of our public health care system.**

1. **EDUCATION – For Joe Dickson and Todd McCarthy – In the last election, Dalton McGuinty declared he was against funding religious education, opening the door to eradicating the catholic system. What would you do to ensure the safety of the catholic school system?**

**The Catholic school system is of particular importance to me, as a former Trustee for the Separate School Board, a father of three here in Ajax, and an active member of my local Catholic church. Education is an important part of Changebook, the PC plan for Ontario. We will increase investments in our kids' classrooms and the tools that help kids learn. We will increase spending in K-12 education by \$2 billion in our first term. We will root out unnecessary waste and bureaucracy in Ontario school boards and invest in kids' education – ensuring the school system puts students first. But we recognize that Ontario's education system is not one-size-fits-all. We will ensure the funding formula meets the needs of single school communities, special education programs, and the Catholic School system. We will continue the implementation of full-day kindergarten for all schools. We will also free teachers to do what is right in their classrooms and take steps to prohibit bullies from disrupting the classroom. Finally, we will expand the use of technology in our teaching, ensuring our kids prepare for a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy by learning in 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms.**

2. ENVIRONMENT – If successful will the elected candidate re-in state water quality testing in Ajax, since we are next to a nuclear facility?

**This question was answered at the debate.**

3. ENVIRONMENT – I would like to know what each of the candidates have done for the environment from a short term perspective, and what they intend to do in the long run in an effort to preserve the environment?

**Protecting and enhancing the environment is an important part of Changebook, the Ontario PC plan for the province. We will guard the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink by completing the closure of coal powered plants by 2014. We will protect our land, lakes and rivers, including the improvement of our provincial parks with a new investment of \$10 million to make them even more enjoyable and accessible. We will support local conservation efforts in protecting Ontario's many signature rivers. We will ensure Ontarians get a fair deal from their government if their land is required for public purposes. Occasionally the government imposes a limitation on what you can do with your land, for example by declaring it an environmentally protected area. We will offer fair and reasonable incentives or compensation to encourage Ontarians to help protect sensitive environmental land. An Ontario PC government will also support the conservation of wildlife and fish populations in Ontario. We will share in the climate change battle by closing coal plants, making government buildings energy efficient, and working with other provincial governments and the federal government to ensure Ontario is doing its part to combat climate change.**

4. TAXES – Do you have a plan for tax relief?

**The Ontario PC Party is the only party with a plan, Changebook, that offers real tax relief for hardworking families. This will begin by taking the HST off of your home heating and hydro bills and removing the debt retirement charge. The tax cuts in Changebook will save the average family \$275 annually on their energy bills. An Ontario PC government would also remove the debt retirement charge, as well as Dalton McGuinty's sneak Eco-Tax. We would give families more tax relief by lowering income taxes on middle-class families, and double the Caregiver Tax Credit for those who care for an elderly or critically ill family member. For the last eight years, despite promising not to, Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government has raised taxes on Ontario families non-stop. An Ontario PC government would ease the tax burden with a package of relief.**

5. TAXES – Question for Todd McCarthy – \$40 Million Lawsuit, Your party is running on a platform of reducing taxes for hardworking Ontario families. As a Lawyer, you

launched a \$40 million lawsuit. If you win this lawsuit, how will this affect the taxpayers of Durham Region?

**This question was answered at the debate.**

6. TAXES – Do you believe it was the correct decision for the Ontario Government to impose the HST on its citizens last year?

**The way in which the Dalton McGuinty Liberal government opposed the HST on Ontarians was a tax grab – plain and simple. Changebook, the Ontario PC plan, offers extensive tax relief for families, that would ease the tax burden left by the Liberals and put more money in your pocket. This will begin by taking the HST off of your home heating and hydro bills and removing the debt retirement charge. The tax cuts in Changebook will save the average family \$275 annually on their energy bills. An Ontario PC government would also remove the debt retirement charge, as well as Dalton McGuinty's sneak Eco-Tax. We would give families more tax relief by lowering income taxes on middle-class families, and double the Caregiver Tax Credit for those who care for an elderly or critically ill family member. For the last eight years, despite promising not to, Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government has raised taxes on Ontario families non-stop. An Ontario PC government would ease the tax burden with a package of relief.**

7. IMMIGRATION – How do you feel about Mr. McGuinty's position of hiring immigrants (newcomers) over laid off or unemployed Ontarians?

**It's a slap in the face to unemployed Ontarians for the Dalton McGuinty Liberal government to offer help to people who don't yet live in Ontario over those who live and pay taxes here. We will make it easier for all Ontarians to get a job in Ontario, The Ontario PC Party has a five-point jobs plan, which includes creating 200,000 skilled worker jobs by updating and expanding the apprenticeship program, reducing taxes on job creators, eliminating job-killing red tape, and lowering taxes on families so they have the confidence to spend again. At the same time, we will create more opportunities for newcomers to Ontario, ensuring our province is a magnet for the world's best and brightest by reducing barriers for potential new Canadians, particularly for people who will settle in small towns. To ease newcomers' transition we will improve transparency of foreign credential recognition, and create a tax credit for employers who sponsor language training. An Ontario PC government supports a truly equal opportunity process for all Ontarians of every race, creed, religion and background to find a job and contribute to our economy.**

8. HEALTH CARE – What is your parties position on children's mental health issues in Ontario and are you committed to funding this important piece going forward?

**An Ontario PC government recognizes the importance of frontline healthcare services and student-focused education. As Todd has a son with special needs, he knows first-hand how important funding this area is. An Ontario PC government would recognize that our public healthcare system is extremely important to Ontarians and needs to be a focus. Over the last eight years, Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government has wasted precious healthcare dollars on secret contracts and unnecessary bureaucracy, often awarded to Liberal buddies. An Ontario PC government would make frontline healthcare workers and services the focus of our province's healthcare plan. Changebook offers \$6.1 billion per year as an increase in frontline healthcare spending, putting the needs and lives of Ontario families first. In addition, we recognize mental health issues in children are both a healthcare and education priority. An Ontario PC government would ensure the education funding formula, which will increase spending in K-12 education by \$2 billion in our first term, effectively supports special education for families that rely on it.**

9. **HEALTH CARE – Can your party promise that there will not be cuts to health care?**

**An Ontario PC government would recognize that our public healthcare system is extremely important to Ontarians and needs to be a focus. Over the last eight years, Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government has wasted precious healthcare dollars on secret contracts and unnecessary bureaucracy, often awarded to Liberal buddies. An Ontario PC government would make frontline healthcare workers and services the focus of our province's healthcare plan. Changebook offers \$6.1 billion per year as an increase in frontline healthcare spending, putting the needs and lives of Ontario families first.**

10. **BALANCING THE BUDGET – How do you propose to not increase taxes and, in fact, cut revenue, and not cut services? How do you intend to balance the budget between fair taxes and services?**

**For the last eight years, more new and unexpected taxes and costs have been sprung on us, taking more and more out of the family budget. Revenues have increased by 10%, and government spending has increased by 80%. As Ontarians we need to ask ourselves: have the quality of our services increased by 80%? Is our healthcare 80% better, or are our wait times actually longer? Is our childrens' education 80% better, or are more of our kids actually sharing textbooks? The Dalton McGuinty Liberals have wasted more than a billion of our taxdollars on excess in bureaucracy and secret deals. An Ontario PC government would end excessive secret deals like the Samsung deal. Simply put, we will balance the budget responsibly. Families must live within their means and make choices to**

**balance their budgets. Government should be no different. We will commit to only as much government as we can afford. Investments in patient care and classroom education will grow under an Ontario PC government. We will set priorities – and stick to them – to balance the budget no later than 2017-18. We will attack waste and rein in runaway spending by working with our partners to stop spending on programs that no longer function, and spend smarter on programs that do. Government assets and property will be evaluated. If there are advantages to taxpayers in getting out of some areas, we will do so, and use the proceeds to improve patient care and student achievement, or to balance the province's books. We will reduce the size of Cabinet and the Ontario Public Service. A Tim Hudak Cabinet will be at least 20% smaller and more focused on families' priorities. We will reduce the number of agencies, boards, and commissions, and the hidden billions they consume. We will change the way services are delivered to get a better deal for taxpayers. Public sector unions will have to compete for government contracts, where appropriate. We will bring public sector paycheques in line with private sector standards, and we will stop subsidizing corporations with families' money. It's time to put the focus back onto the hardworking Ontario families that pay their taxes and play by the rules. It's time we get the quality of our services in line with the tax dollars we pay.**

11. HERITAGE – What would your party do to protect the vital heritage conservation district of Whitevale in the face of broken promises for a naturalized buffer and the real threat of urban sprawl to this historic community?

**I am committed to working with all local stakeholders to ensure that decisions made on issues such as this are made by residents at the local level.**

12. ECONOMY – 60% of Ontario's economy emanates from the retail sector and a strong retail sector emanates from a fiscally healthy middle class with adequate disposal income. What is your party going to do to ensure a fiscally healthy middle class to make sure our economy thrives in the future?

**In addition to cutting the waste and secret deals we've seen from the Dalton McGuinty Liberal government over the past 8 years, an Ontario PC government will put forth their plan for job creation in Ontario, to ensure a thriving middle class that helps grow our economy. The Ontario PC Party has a five-point jobs plan, which includes creating 200,000 skilled worker jobs by updating and expanding the apprenticeship program, reducing taxes on job creators, eliminating job-killing red tape, and lowering taxes on families so they have the confidence to spend again.**

13. TUITION – Freezing tuition eventually costs someone. What will you suggest to ensure you can afford furthering students education?

**An Ontario PC government would recognize that policies such as tuition freezes are irresponsible as they harm the economy long-term, making social services such as education funding nearly impossible for future generations. Strong universities and colleges are fundamental to creating a dynamic economy. We will put the needs of students and the economy at the centre of Ontario's post-secondary education system. A Tim Hudak government will create up to 60,000 post-secondary spaces in Ontario. Universities and colleges will be asked to compete for these new spaces, and find new ways to ensure access, affordability and excellence in our post-secondary institutions. We will raise the threshold on financial support to make it more accessible for middle-class families to send their children to college or university.**

14. BUDGETING – There is a shell game happening here. Have you priced the items under your shell, and do you plan to pay for them?

**Changebook, the Ontario PC plan for the province, is fully costed out and can be found online at [www.changebook.ca](http://www.changebook.ca). We encourage you to check it out and call our campaign office if you have any follow-up questions, at 905-231-3363.**

15. CUTS – The best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour. When Tim Hudak and Mike Harris were the Government they cut welfare by 22%. How do we know that you won't do the same thing?

**I am a man that is true to his word, but in addition to that, the Ontario PC party has a record of keeping their campaign promises. Our priorities are your priorities: lowering taxes to allow us to focus on the things we care about, and putting a focus onto classroom, student-centred education and frontline, patient-centred healthcare. Dalton McGuinty's Liberal government has lied to Ontarians countless times, including the last two elections during which he promised not to raise taxes. It only took him 6 days into office to break that one. As it's my first time running, I'm asking for your support on October 6<sup>th</sup>. I'm running because I want our government to reflect the things that are important to Ajax-Pickering – instead of constantly being ignored by Queen's Park as our community has been over the past 8 years. I'm running because I want the quality of our services to reflect the taxes we pay. The Ontario PC party is offering Ontarians Changebook, our plan for Ontario families, that will get the government books in order by balancing the budget and allowing our taxdollars to go to the social services we depend on, which contribute to poverty reduction in Ontario – not only for today, but for future generations as well.**

16. Will you sell the 407 in a sweetheart deal like you did and Hudak supported?

**Tim Hudak, the Ontario PC Party, and I are committed to building the 407 through to the 35/115 as soon as possible.**

17. When Tim Hudak was in the Harris Government he supported the policy of creating 'Chaos' in the province, especially in Education. How do we know that this behaviour will not be repeated?

**Our public education system is of particular importance to me, as a former Trustee for the Separate School Board, and a father of three children here in Ajax. Education is an important part of Changebook, the PC plan for Ontario. We will increase investments in our kids' classrooms and the tools that help kids learn. We will increase spending in K-12 education by \$2 billion in our first term. We will root out unnecessary waste and bureaucracy in Ontario school boards and invest in kids' education – ensuring the school system puts students first. But we recognize that Ontario's education system is not one-size-fits-all. We will ensure the funding formula meets the needs of single school communities, special education programs, and the Catholic School system. We will continue the implementation of full-day kindergarten for all schools. We will also free teachers to do what is right in their classrooms and take steps to prohibit bullies from disrupting the classroom. Finally, we will expand the use of technology in our teaching, ensuring our kids prepare for a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy by learning in 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms.**