



RESULTS OF OUR MAY 27 QUESTIONNAIRE

A proposed airport and the future of the Federal Lands have been an election issue locally – at all levels of government – for over 40 years. And the latest airport announcement was just a year ago! All the more surprising, then, that fewer than a third of the candidates chose to respond to our questionnaire. Too busy? Campaign team dropped the ball? Or is the airport still a hot potato in some quarters, leaving candidates loath to voice an opinion? Who knows? But we can report that all but one of the four main candidates in the Ajax-Pickering riding met at length with us, agreed with our position on the airport, and were supportive of an agricultural future for the Lands. All candidates' responses can be read below.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Number of ridings canvassed: 7

Number of ridings in which one or more candidates responded: 5

Number of candidates who responded, by party:

Freedom: 1

Green: 4

Liberal: 1

Libertarian: 2

NDP: 3

None Of The Above: 0

Progressive Conservative: 1

Trillium: 0

Breakdown of responses:

Question 1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

Pave the Lands: 0

Plant the Lands: 7

No opinion / Other response: 5

Question 2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

Airport: 0

Food Production/Processing: 6

No opinion / Other response: 6

Question 3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

Airport: 0

Transit: 9

No opinion / Other response: 3

Note: Question #4, directed only to Liberal and PC candidates, went unanswered.

The questionnaire can be found on our website's **Be Informed!** Page.

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CANDIDATES' DETAILED ANSWERS

(by riding and party)

AJAX--PICKERING

Green Party of Ontario: Adam Narraway

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: It is clear to myself, and the Party for which I am a candidate, that Class 1 farmland should be protected. This land is vital to Ontario's agri-business sector, and is constantly under threat of development. By formally protecting this land, we can end this era of fear and start an era of true understanding of the importance of agriculture.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: Agri-business needs to be made a priority. The Green Party knows the truth of short term job gimmicks like the Pickering Airport. We also know the truth about building a truly sustainable industry based on existing agri-business, through growth and movement into processing and packaging.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: Infrastructure upgrading is a key part of the Green Party platform. The current lack of proper transit planning is evident every day in the kilometres upon kilometres of idle gridlock.

Liberal Party of Ontario: Joe Dickson

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: *[edited for length]* The issue of the Pickering airport is entirely a Federal issue. Transport Canada is responsible for the long-range planning. The [Ontario] Ministry of Transportation's involvement has been limited to determining the ground transportation infrastructure needs of the neighbouring planned Seaton community. At the airport open house days after the announcement of June 2013, senior Federal planning staff advised me "they would be reviewing the airport project, once again, in detail." It is my opinion that a more recent Needs Assessment Survey should be carried out. Additionally, the federal government has not released a new business model for the airport so I am not really in a position to comment on the federal airport lands until an active plan is put in

place by the Federal government that studies the needs as well as the pulse of the people in North Pickering.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: Did not respond

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: Did not respond

Ontario Libertarian Party: Kyle Stewart

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: A core Libertarian value is property rights. We are staunchly against expropriation of land. We also value the right for others to enjoy their properties without interference from noise and air pollution. If someone rightfully owns the land [and] it was acquired through legitimate means, and they're able to avoid disturbing their neighbours, they can develop their property however they would like.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: B – not to mention the supporting industries through distribution, packaging, equipment and supply sales, maintenance, marketing, etc., etc., etc.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: I believe our “tax dollars” should no longer exist and [would] allow that buying power to sit in the hands of individuals who can decide what is needed/what is best through a truly free and unsubsidised market.

Ontario NDP: Jermaine King

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: The Pickering Lands should be used for small scale agriculture, using techniques that are sustainable, and ideally organic. This is a better business plan for this area than proposing an airport that is most likely going to turn out to be a white elephant like the one in Montreal, where tax dollars and good public land are wasted on something that only benefits the developer and leaves everyone else with a hangover.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: I do not believe that an Airport in Pickering will create good paying, long lasting jobs. Any jobs created in this project would be short term, and there are major concerns about whether the airport could compete in a saturated market.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: Traffic gridlock and inadequate public transit service is an extremely urgent issue for the GTHA. It makes much more sense to put our resources into strengthening transit infrastructure so that travellers can access the existing airports more efficiently and with less congestion. Not only would that support Pearson, it would hopefully reduce the environmental impact of traffic pollution.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: Todd McCarthy

[Mr McCarthy's campaign did not respond to our questionnaire but, on May 22, he'd taken the time to meet with Land Over Landings' political committee and to make abundantly clear his

position on the Pickering airport and GTHA public transportation infrastructure needs. We've incorporated the pertinent details below.]

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: He said “we don’t need or want an airport” in Pickering. He said he’s fully prepared to support agriculture as an alternative future use of the Lands, provided a business case can be made for it; likes the idea of a “food hub,” which he’d heard mentioned before.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: *[Topic not discussed during meeting.]*

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: He said we do need to move people and goods, but it should be done through an expanded and improved GO service, extending the 407 to Hwy 35/115, widening the 401, and with Pearson and Hamilton airports working together to serve the GTA’s needs.

DURHAM

Green Party of Ontario: Halyna Zalucky

Did not respond

Liberal Party of Ontario: Granville Anderson

Did not respond

Ontario Libertarian Party: Conner Toyé

Did not respond

Ontario NDP: Derek Spence

Did not respond

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: Mike Patrick

Did not respond

MARKHAM-UNIONVILLE

Green Party of Ontario: Myles O'Brien

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: The Green Party of Ontario platform specifically identifies protecting Class 1 farmland, through dedicated legislation, as one of its nine key proposals.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: The Green Party believes strengthening local communities through resilient local economies is a top priority for the provincial government. Given the potential for local food systems to not only provide employment but also counter negative trends in human

and environmental health, I believe agricultural jobs would be more meaningful on these lands.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: The Green Party platform calls for the establishment of a dedicated transit fund for the GTHA. I believe solving the crisis on our roads is more urgent and deserving of tax dollars than a new airport.

Liberal Party of Ontario: Michael Chan

Did not respond

Ontario Libertarian Party: Allen Small

Did not respond

Ontario NDP: Nadine Kormos Hawkins

Did not respond

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: Shan Thayaparan

Did not respond

OAK RIDGES--MARKHAM

Green Party of Ontario: Emilia Melara

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: Class 1 food lands should not be paved over. The Green Party is committed to making every effort to preserve the land, and therefore food, and water that sustain us now and for future generations. Green MPPs will introduce legislation to permanently protect Ontario's Class 1 farmland.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: Losing farmland threatens our ability to feed ourselves and jeopardizes our economy. The food and farming sector employs over 700,000 people, contributes over \$30 billion to Ontario's economy and is essential to our quality of life. Protecting these lands costs us nothing but benefits us in so many ways.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: Transit infrastructure. There is no economic case for building a new airport in Pickering. This year alone, the average commute time in the GTHA cost our economy \$6 billion in lost productivity. Upgrading transit infrastructure and improving transit should have priority over a new, unnecessary airport.

Liberal Party of Ontario: Helena Jaczek

Did not respond

Ontario Libertarian Party: Karl Boelling

Did not respond

Ontario NDP: Miles Krauter

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: The federal and provincial governments blindsided the residents of the area by resurrecting the airport plan with no warning or consultation. Rather than explain to Ontarians what an airport would mean for them and their communities, the Liberals weakly pleaded ignorance. There has never been any clear business or practical case made for a project of this magnitude on the Federal Lands. New Democrats at all levels of government have been clear that no development should proceed without full and informed consultation with the community, including through a provincial environmental assessment, something that has never been done in the decades since the airport plan surfaced.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: Food security and safeguarding our agricultural wealth are important to the Ontario NDP. We will reward the family farmers of Oak Ridges-Markham for environmentally-sustainable choices they are already making. We will maintain and modernize supply management systems to ensure local producers get a fair deal. Perhaps most crucially, we will work proactively to rein in urban sprawl and set strong targets for protecting more of our farmland.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: Transit is a priority for our party. The NDP will give municipalities stable and adequate funding to upgrade and expand transit infrastructure, ending years of uncertainty and cuts. We will prioritize high-impact projects so that riders in expanding regions like ours are not left behind. And we will make sure that transit is accessible and affordable for all Ontarians.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: Farid Wassef

Did not respond

Trillium Party TPO: Gennady Vilensky

No contact information available

PICKERING--SCARBOROUGH EAST

Freedom Party of Ontario: Matt Oliver

Did not respond

Green Party of Ontario: Anthony Navarro

Did not respond

Liberal Party of Ontario: Tracy MacCharles

Did not respond

Ontario Libertarian Party: Scott Hoefig

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: The owner of the property should have full control of his land and appropriation by government should be illegal. The federal land that was appropriated should be dealt with, and reparations made. If the previous owner is satisfied with the reparations the land should be auctioned off.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: The beliefs of politicians should not affect how an individual or community uses their land. If the previous owner is satisfied with his reimbursement for the appropriation the land should be or auctioned off.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: Taxes should be lowered for everyone and transportation industries deregulated to let competition and choice in. If an individual wishes to invest in these systems they should be free to invest to their full desires. The government should not be in the business of picking winners or losers in business.

Ontario NDP: Eileen Higdon

Did not respond

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: Kevin Gaudet

Did not respond

SCARBOROUGH--ROUGE RIVER

Green Party of Ontario: George B. Singh

Did not respond

Liberal Party of Ontario: Bas Balkissoon

Did not respond

None of the Above Party (NOTA): Amir Khan

No contact information available

Ontario NDP: Neethan Shan

Did not respond

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: Raymond Cho

Did not respond

WHITBY--OSHAWA

Freedom Party of Ontario: Douglas Thom

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: I do not agree with the concept of federal lands in the first place. It creates precisely this sort of situation where popularity makes the decisions, likely ignoring a rational economic choice.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: I do not go on “belief”. Only rational choices based in fact would make sense. The issue here is that it’s “Federal land”. How can “Canada” know what to do with each of its 9,984,670 square kilometres? The first thing that makes sense to me is to lobby to transfer it somehow to the current dwellers or people in the community interested in the land.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: In the current context, and between those two options, I agree that our tax dollars would be better spent on transit infrastructure.

Green Party of Ontario: Stacey Leadbetter

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: It is the position of the Green Party of Ontario (GPO) that Class 1 should be protected. A key component of our platform is to make sure that our food and water are safe and secure and that we maintain as much agricultural land as possible.

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: Local food creates local jobs which create better communities. Ontario was built on a strong agricultural foundation and we need to keep it thriving.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: Transit! The GTHA is horribly underserved and in desperate need of effective, efficient transit. It is our plan to create a transit fund that cannot be used for anything but transit. This will be paid for by parking fees, gas tax and congestion charges.

Liberal Party of Ontario: Ajay Krishnan

Did not respond

Ontario NDP: Ryan Kelly

Q #1: Best Option – Pave the Lands or Plant the Lands?

A: Access to foodland, especially locally, is essential. From what I’ve read from your organization, an airport in Pickering makes no sense. The NDP position is to “Set stronger targets for protecting farmland and reining in sprawl.”

Q #2: Best Job Creator – Airport or Sustainable Food Production and Processing?

A: I would be guessing in answering this question. Again, sustainable food production is very important. Environmentally sound practices that protect the land and water table are essential. People need access to affordable, local, organic produce.

Q #3: Best Use of Tax Money – A Pickering Airport or GTHA Transit Upgrades?

A: The NDP has a plan to expand transit infrastructure by 60 kilometres annually. In Whitby, we currently have \$1 billion worth of infrastructure projects set to be completed by late 2015. We will need to support this growth in a responsible, environmentally sound way.

Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario: Christine Elliott

Did not respond