



Candidates Questionnaire



The following is a series of questions that have been prepared by The Saint John Chamber of Commerce for the 2015 federal election candidates.

We have responses from the following:

Rodney Weston – Conservative Candidate, Saint John-Rothesay

Wayne Long – Liberal Candidate, Saint John-Rothesay

Jennifer McKenzie – NDP Candidate, Fundy-Royal

Stephanie Coburn – Green Candidate, Fundy-Royal

All responses have been published as they have been received.

Question:

◆ 1. Natural Resources and Development:

◆ A. Please articulate policy on natural gas exploration and development.

Responses:

Rodney Weston

I personally, as well as my party, support the orderly development of our natural resources. We have seen great prosperity come to the provinces that have embraced the development of their resources and I am disappointed the provincial government of New Brunswick does not see the strategic advantage of pursuing the development of our natural gas and oil reserves. With our plan for Responsible Resources Development, we have increased the protection of

the environment, streamlined regulatory reviews and are aggressively working to reach new markets for Canadian natural resources.

Wayne Long

The Liberal Party is the party of responsible development. We are a nation rich with natural resources; we need to get these resources to market.

Without public trust, Canada's environmental assessment processes are increasingly paralyzed. That means not only are we not doing a good enough job at protecting our environment, but we are not getting our resources to market. We need clear and efficient processes that have reasonable, even-handed rules, clear beginning and ending points, and decisions that can be relied on. We will launch an immediate, public review of Canada's environmental assessment processes. Based on this review, a Liberal government will replace Mr. Harper's changes to the environmental assessment process. We will start with a new, comprehensive, timely, and fair process that restores robust oversight and thorough environmental assessments – which have been gutted by this Conservative government – of areas under federal jurisdiction, while also working with provincial and territorial governments to ensure that processes are not duplicated. We will ensure decisions are based on science, facts, and evidence, and that they serve the public interest. We will provide ways for interested Canadians to express their views and for experts to meaningfully participate in assessment processes. We will require project proponents to choose the best technologies available to reduce environmental impacts.

The Liberal Party is pro-development. The Harper government's gutting of the NEB's regulatory processes under Bill C-38 has hampered this process. The results show: this government hasn't built a foot of pipeline in a decade. We will fix the process, and develop a responsible method of getting our resources to market.

Jennifer McKenzie

The Harper Government has used omnibus budget bills to gut Canada's environmental laws protecting our fisheries, lakes, and rivers. The NDP will restore these laws. We will reinstate our environmental assessment laws and ensure that the environmental impacts of major projects, including pipelines and oil and gas, consider the cumulative, regional, and climate change impacts of the project before they are approved.

Stephanie Coburn

Any extreme energy projects need to be looked at locally, regionally, nationally and globally. The pipeline is not going to produce the outcomes reiterated in the print media. When completed, there may be 140 permanent jobs, but the promised boom in job production is a myth. To get those jobs, are we prepared to contaminate our water systems with leaking dilbit?ⁱ

◆ B. Do you support the Energy East Pipeline and why?

Rodney Weston

I support the development of Energy East and am pleased to be a member of the only party with a leader who welcomes the prospect of transporting Canadian crude oil from Western Canada to consumers and refineries in Eastern Canada and ultimately to new markets abroad.

Our government has been clear: pipeline projects will only proceed if they are safe for Canadians and safe for the environment. This project is subject to a science based review by the independent National Energy Board. Subject to regulatory approval, our government supports energy infrastructure projects that will create jobs and generate economic growth in Canada for future generations.

Our government is keeping taxes low and providing the right conditions to attract proposals that would transport western Canadian oil to eastern Canada. This approach to responsible resource development creates jobs, strengthens Canada's economy and further decreases our dependency on foreign oil. Initiatives like this could allow Canadian refineries to process more potentially lower priced Canadian oil, enhancing Canada's energy security and making our country less reliant on foreign oil. In the Saint John region the Irving Oil refinery is a major employer and contributor to our economy. The Energy East Project will enhance its competitive position, leading to growth in our region and security for the employees and suppliers.

Wayne Long

Wayne Long is a strong and vocal supporter of Energy East. A Liberal government will approve the Energy East pipeline project as long as environmental, community, and stakeholder concerns have been properly addressed. We will be committed to responsible and sustainable ways of getting our resources to market. We will ensure this project has broad

regional representation and sufficient expertise in fields such as environmental science, and community development.

Jennifer McKenzie

Moving oil from west to east makes sense – but it's not responsible to go ahead with any project unless there's a strong environmental review regime in place. We know that the Conservatives just want to rubber stamp these projects. Ontario and Quebec have already raised concerns about the impact of the pipeline on natural gas supplies which will need to be addressed. An NDP government will strengthen the environmental assessment regime to ensure that the public interest and our environment are protected.

Stephanie Coburn

The Nexen pipeline in Northern Alberta was touted as "state of the art" that would shut down automatically when a leak was detected. There WAS a leak, lasting weeks, found finally by someone who was just driving by the area. The Energy East pipeline is slated to cross more than 250 watercourses. Given the past history of accidents and cover-ups, it's just too much of a gamble. Remember the leak in Kalamazoo Michigan? The company spent billions of dollars cleaning that one up, but couldn't get all of the dilbit off the floor of the river.

The other misinformation being repeated is that this pipeline will contribute to our National Energy Needs. This is not true. There is no refinery in Canada that can refine this product. It is simply for export. And, thinking globally, as we are concerned about increasing carbon emissions in the atmosphere, why would we want to triple the carbon being dug out of the ground in Alberta? This pipeline makes no sense except to the large companies who stand to make a lot of money from it.

Question:

◇ 2. Economy

◇ A. Do you plan to run a deficit or a surplus and why?

Responses:

Rodney Weston

I am pleased to be a member of a party committed to balancing our budget and protecting our children and grandchildren from paying our bills. We remain on track for a balanced budget in 2015. We budgeted to account for the continuing weakness in the global economy. Economists project the Canadian economy will grow in 2015. Canada posted a

surplus of \$3.9 billion for April and May 2015. This balanced budget came at the same time we invested in key infrastructure projects (drinking water, port modernization, Y and more), reduced taxes for Canadians and increased transfer payments to the provinces for essential services every single year.

Wayne Long

After a decade of mismanagement, the Liberal government will kick start our flagging economy with the most ambitious infrastructure program in Canadian history. To do this, we will run three modest deficits of less than \$10 billion, before returning to a balanced budget in 2019. Every dollar spent on infrastructure generates \$1.20 in GDP. Interest rates are historically low and notable economists such as Kevin Page and David Dodge have endorsed the Liberal plan as the best way to move Canada forward after a decade of stagnation.

Jennifer McKenzie

Governing is about making choices and setting priorities. Stephen Harper has chosen \$60 billion in tax giveaways for big corporations, and millions more in tax breaks for CEOs and subsidies to oil companies. Justin Trudeau has chosen to continue Harper's tax giveaways, and will even borrow money to do so. That's not a long-term solution. New Democrats have different priorities. We're going to make corporations pay their fair share instead of saddling Canadians with more debt. Tom Mulcair has fully-costed plan to invest in \$15-dollar a day childcare, break up gridlock with major investments in public transit and infrastructure, and lift thousands of seniors out of poverty.

Stephanie Coburn

I was the owner and manager of a business in Sussex for 25 years. I know that what goes out must come in, and am personally averse to debt. To say definitely that the Green Party would run a surplus or deficit is talking in a vacuum. What we would do is to diversify the economy so that it would not be dependent on the single sector that the Conservatives have supported for 10 years. We would stop subsidies to the oil and gas industry (\$1 billion a year) and use that money for renewable resource start-ups, retrofitting housing and built stock.

◆ **B. Please articulate initiatives and strategy for job creation in our region.**

Rodney Weston

Our government is keeping taxes low and providing the right conditions to attract economic opportunities to Canada and our region. Development of a clear regulatory regime, access to international markets and promoting the development of our natural resources will provide benefits and jobs to the Saint John region. We have our natural advantage of a great harbour with a Port that will be modernized to handle goods for our trade partners to go along with our energy cluster and abundant land for new developments.

We need to capture the opportunity provided through the European Union Free Trade Agreement to attract suppliers of goods and services to this major market who are looking for a location with easy access, skilled work force, welcoming atmosphere and a low dollar in comparison to their market.

Since 2006, we have made promoting trade and opening new markets for Canadian businesses a priority. We have more than tripled the countries we have free trade agreements with from 14 to 44 and launched negotiations with additional countries. The latest agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will create and protect jobs and grow our economy in every region of Canada by giving us preferential access to a market of 800 million customers in 11 other nations. This will benefit our seafood, agriculture, forestry and manufacturing sectors.

We are making record investments in infrastructure, lowering taxes, balancing the budget, supporting growth in the manufacturing sector. We have launched a national shipbuilding procurement strategy worth \$35 billion over 30 years to ensure long-term certainty for Canada's naval and Coast Guard procurement in the years and decades ahead. There is employment in Saint John from this project.

Wayne Long

We are going to give a huge boost to our local economy by launching the largest infrastructure program in Canadian history. We will double current spending to \$125 billion over the next ten years, bringing much needed jobs and growth to our riding. This is a real plan. We will provide historic new investments in public transit, green infrastructure, and social infrastructure. We will consult with businesses and community leaders, working with all levels of government to fast track necessary infrastructure projects that are already green-lit. Our funding will be flexible to

the requirements of municipalities, which in the Saint John Region would include Exhibition Park Fieldhouse, Fundy Quay, Port Development, and the Atlantic Potash plant.

Jennifer McKenzie

Tom Mulcair has committed to creating an Innovation Tax Credit for businesses that invest in machinery, equipment and property used in innovation-boosting research and development. This plan will save Canadian businesses making these critical R&D investments approximately \$40 million each year. The NDP will also extend the accelerated capital cost allowance for manufacturing and processing machinery and equipment, which set to expire this year. This will encourage new investment and help make Canada's manufacturers more globally competitive. This measure will save manufactures approximately \$600 million a year for two years to help attract new investors, grow their exports and create good, family-supporting jobs. The NDP will also invest in small business to create good-quality, well-paying jobs. The NDP have proposed to cut the small business tax rate from 11 per cent to 9 percent to better support a sector of our economy that creates 78% of all new private sector jobs in Canada. The NDP will start with an immediate reduction from 11 to 10 percent, injecting some \$600 million into Canada's small businesses - followed by an additional reduction to 9 percent in the second year of our mandate. Once fully implemented, this will cut small business taxes by nearly 20 percent.

Stephanie Coburn

There is so much initiative in our Province in local food production, processing and distribution. Small business accounts for over 70 percent of the jobs in this country, yet, provincially and federally, politicians seem to be enamoured of big announcements, reluctant to see the value in small sustainable businesses that fill a need in the community. When corporations get too big, innovation is stifled. The Green Party knows there is lots of innovative thinking out there which just needs some help.

C. Please detail plans for infrastructure investments in our region.

Rodney Weston

As with my previous campaign, I have developed what I call 4 in 4 (4 priorities in 4 years). This is where I will focus my efforts. These major projects have been identified as local priorities, they are as follows:

1. ENERGY EAST PIPELINE-The Conservative Party is the only Party to fully support the construction of the Energy East pipeline. It will bring thousands of good-paying jobs to Saint John-Rothesay and New Brunswick.
2. AIRPORT MODERNIZATION-Saint John-Rothesay needs competitive air access to other markets. Improving and expanding our runways will allow larger aircraft to land in Saint John, and provide better service for both business and vacation travelers.
3. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE-Rodney will work to make the Exhibition Park Fieldhouse and Dual Ice Surface projects a reality. And he'll seek federal funds for Rothesay wastewater improvements, UNBSJ Ward Chipman Library retrofit, and affordable housing.
4. HAROURFRONT IMPROVEMENTS-Development of Partridge Island and Fort LaTour will celebrate our history and draw more tourists to our riding, and construction of a community harbour will provide fishermen and commercial and recreational boaters a safe place to dock.

I know these are lofty goals involving infrastructure spending, but I believe, as in the past, I will have success in achieving them. The Conservative party has in place programs that will accomplish our goals. I had great success with my previous campaign's 4 in 4 and see no reason why I can't achieve these new goals. Please visit my website at: www.voterodneyweston.ca where you find a listing of the infrastructure projects in Saint John since being elected.

Wayne Long

Tourism – Saint John's Trail of History

The Conservative government has repeatedly cut funding to support the Canadian tourism industry. We have consequently seen our industry stagnate compared to our competitors, costing Canada thousands of jobs and causing Canada's share of global tourism to decline significantly. A Liberal government is committed to working in partnership with the Canadian tourism industry to increase their competitiveness and ensure visitors from around the world can experience the beauty and excitement of Canada in greater numbers. We plan an unprecedented revitalization and expansion of our neglected historic landmarks: I will personally advocate for the creation of an "Octagon Interpretive Centre" at Fort Howe, to fix the Martello Tower, to build a landing wharf on Partridge Island, to undertake a Partridge Island Clean-up, and to expand on Fort LaTour. City Market, Loyalist House, and the Loyalist Burial

ground will all be stops on "Saint John's Trail of History"—a major cultural infrastructure project that will create local jobs and boost tourism.

Jennifer McKenzie

Tom Mulcair has outlined plans to build a new relationship with municipalities to build the infrastructure Canadian families and businesses need. The NDP plan to help build stronger communities is bold, measured, and fully costed. We will respect provincial and local decision-making, simplify application processes and remove funding barriers through direct, stable and transparent transfers to municipalities and provinces for their priorities. It will ensure the long-term success of Ontario municipalities. We will start with investing the equivalent of one additional cent of the existing gas tax. This will provide additional funding in the first year that will ramp up to an additional \$1.5 billion invested at the end of a first mandate. This NDP initiative will provide annual, stable, long-term investment for infrastructure projects.

Stephanie Coburn

Given the way weather events are getting more extreme, we should be improving infrastructure to mitigate climate chaos. Even the Insurance Bureau of Canada is calling for improving our water systems, sewage systems, and built systems to withstand the weather events of the future. We don't need more at this point, but we do need better.

Question:

- ◇ **3. Unemployment insurance and temporary foreign workers program:**
 - ◇ **A. Would your policy include changes to these programs, please give details.**

Responses:

Rodney Weston

The EI system continues to be there for Canadians who lose their job at no fault of their own. By helping Canadians connect with available jobs and putting a priority on skills and training, we are ensuring continued economic growth, job creation and long-term prosperity. Our goal is to help Canadian workers get access to the services they need to help them get back to work.

In 2013, which is the most recent data available, among those who had paid EI premiums in the previous 12 months, and either lost their job or quit with just cause, 85.8% were eligible to

receive EI regular benefits. Of those people who were disqualified from EI in 2014, far less than 1% were disqualified because they failed to search for work or refused to accept suitable work.

(http://www.esdc.gc.ca/eng/news/ei_facts.shtml)

In October 2014, we announced that we would: Stop an increase in the EI premium rate from \$1.88 to \$1.93 (which equals a total saving of \$660 million for businesses and employees), freeze the EI rate for three years and ensure the break-even rate would come into effect in 2017. The break-even rate ensures that any funds collected through EI premiums will be used for EI expenses or lead to lower EI rates.

The unemployed population includes many people for whom the program is not designed, such as people who did not work in the previous 12 months (33.1% of unemployed); people who are self-employed and unpaid family workers (4.5% of unemployed); people who have quit their job to go back to school (7.1% of unemployed); and, people who have quit their job without just cause (7.8% of unemployed).

Temporary Foreign Workers are needed to meet the requirements of certain industries but the system had been used to not meet the intended goal. Our government has been clear that Canadians must be first in line for available jobs. We have taken a comprehensive overhaul of the program which will significantly reduce the number of temporary foreign workers in Canada, improve labour market information, and correct labour market distortions caused by the previous program, while strengthening enforcement and penalties for employers who break the rules. Our comprehensive and balanced reforms restore the Temporary Foreign Worker Program to its original purpose—as a short-term last resort for employers when there are no qualified Canadians to fill available jobs.

These reforms will require that employers make greater efforts to recruit and train Canadians for jobs, through initiatives like the Canada Job Grant. We will ensure that the program is only used to provide temporary help where clear and acute labour shortages exist and Canadians are not available.

Wayne Long

Starting in 2017, we will reduce the waiting period for benefits. When a worker loses their job and applies for Employment Insurance, they will only be without income for one week, not two. We will also reverse Stephen Harper's 2012 EI reforms that force unemployed workers to move away from their communities and take lower-paying jobs. We will ensure that the Employment Insurance system is providing real income security to workers, including those with precarious work.

The Liberal Party is proposing immediate reforms to the Temporary Foreign Workers Program: the government must ensure real transparency and accountability in the program, which should begin with a full review of the program by the Auditor General, as well as the public disclosure of information concerning what jobs are being offered to temporary foreign workers and in what communities; it must require employers to demonstrate that every effort has been made to fill positions with Canadian workers and young Canadian workers in particular; and finally, the government should tighten the Labour Market Opinion approval process.

Jennifer McKenzie

For the past 20 years, since Paul Martin launched the Liberals' cuts to Employment Insurance benefits in the 1990s, consecutive Liberal and Conservative governments have made it much harder for Canadians to access the coverage they have earned and have raided the EI fund.

We will set a fair, accessible threshold to allow workers to receive EI benefits. Those who lose their jobs through no fault of their own will be eligible to receive EI after working at least 360 hours in the preceding 52 weeks, wherever they live. We will replace the unfair eligibility penalties introduced by the Liberals in the 1990s with a new, fairer 360 hour threshold for new entrants and re-entrants.

We will provide a fairer EI benefit for Canadians with uneven work hours by calculating all EI benefits on the best 12 weeks of pay. This \$460 million investment will especially benefit women and young workers who are more likely to have precarious work. Additional support will be given to regional economies and workers in seasonal industries with a \$430 million investment in a maximum five extra weeks of benefits in regions where unemployment is high and work is hard to come by. We will also reverse the Harper government's 2012 punitive and unfair changes to Employment Insurance including definitions for "suitable employment" and "reasonable job search definitions" that force workers to accept any job at 70% of their previous salary.

Conservatives badly mismanaged the Temporary Foreign Workers program, tripling the size of the program while taking away paths to citizenship and creating uncertainty for workers and employers. New Democrats have consistently called for a review of the Temporary Foreign Workers Program to eliminate abuse of the program. We want to ensure that employers are getting the skilled workers they need and Canadians are getting the first crack at jobs. New Democrats will work to protect temporary foreign workers and will restore pathways to citizenship for all temporary foreign workers.

Stephanie Coburn

Given that New Brunswick has a high proportion of seasonal work, I think EI needs to be strengthened, not weakened. The Green Party is proposing a Guaranteed Livable Income program, different across the country taking into account the different costs we incur in NB as compared to Toronto or Vancouver. This program is estimated to cost about \$43 billion dollars. It would replace a myriad of other programs which now cost federal and provincial governments about \$180 billion. Canada has 4 million people living in poverty right now, and a GLI would go a long way to fixing that inequity.

Question:

◇ 4. Environment:

◇ A. Do you support a carbon tax or cap and trade system, please give details.

Responses:

Rodney Weston

Neither a national carbon tax or cap and trade program would provide Canada with the capability to reduce its carbon emissions. The provincial governments are largely responsible for the main areas of emission (transportation, energy generation, human activity). Different provinces have established approaches that best reflect the makeup of their economies with a carbon tax in British Columbia and a planned cap and trade program in Ontario and Quebec. Our Government will continue to implement a responsible sector-by-sector regulatory approach that is aligned with our major economic competitors – like the United States – to ensure Canada's economic competitiveness is protected.

Wayne Long

The Liberal party understands that climate change is real and needs to be addressed. In the ten years since Stephen Harper has been prime minister he has done nothing about climate change around reducing emissions. In the interceding years the provinces have stepped up and created their own initiatives to work on these issues. Four different provinces representing 86 % of the Canadian economy have come up with systems to tackle the problems of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. In British Columbia they use a world renewed carbon tax system that has been well-received. In Quebec and Ontario they have gone with Cap & Trade systems. For Ottawa to come in and impose solutions on all the provinces when they already have these systems in place would be counter-productive. It is better for us to learn from the work that these provinces have done so that they can be used to help formulate a national strategy and move our country forward.

If the Liberal Party forms government after Oct. 19th, Justin Trudeau has pledged to take all 10 provincial premiers to the COP 21 (United Nations Climate Change Conference) on November 30th in Paris with a commitment to reach targets that will avoid the 2 degree Celsius increase in global temperatures that scientists have agreed would be catastrophic.

Jennifer McKenzie

To ensure that polluters pay the real costs of the pollution they create, we will:

- Work with provinces and territories to put a price on carbon and reduce emissions;
- Prepare a pan-Canadian cap-and-trade system, which will establish hard emissions limits for Canada's biggest polluters to ensure companies pay their environmental bills and to create an incentive for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Ensure that provincial and territorial governments can opt out of the federal plan if they have carbon pricing plans that meet or exceed federal goals;
- Help provinces and territories co-ordinate efforts and integrate within a harmonized panCanadian system;
- Advance an integrated continental cap-and-trade system that ensures a level economic playing field for North American businesses

Stephanie Coburn

The Green Party proposes a Carbon Tax and Dividend program. Under this program, there would be a tax on all carbon taken from the ground and all carbon crossing the border into Canada. It's a revenue neutral program, as the intention is to return that money to all Canadians over 18 years of age, annually, the Carbon Dividend.

- ◆ **B. What are your targets for greenhouse gas emissions and how do you plan to achieve?**

Rodney Weston

- We committed to reducing Canada's emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, largely relying on provincial measures to meet that goal.
- We agreed with other G7 nations to move to a low-carbon economy by 2050 and eliminate use of fossil fuels by the end of the century.
- We are the first Government in Canadian history to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – and we've done so while protecting the Canadian economy and Canadian jobs. Canada has a fair and ambitious GHG reduction target that is in line with other major industrialized countries and reflects our national circumstances, including Canada's

position as a world leader in clean electricity generation. In 2013, Canada's GHG emissions were 3.1% lower than 2005 levels while the economy grew by 12.9% over the same time period. Our Government will continue to implement a responsible sector-by-sector regulatory approach that is aligned with our major economic competitors – like the United States – to ensure Canada's economic competitiveness is protected.

In 2012, Canada was the first major coal user to ban the construction of traditional coal-fired electricity generation. Coal is the largest source of GHG in the world.

Wayne Long

The Liberal Party will end the cycle of federal parties – of all stripes – setting arbitrary targets without a real federal/provincial/territorial plan to reach these targets. We will instead partner with provincial and territorial leaders to develop real climate change solutions, consistent with our international obligations to protect the planet, all while growing our economy. We will work together to establish national emissions-reduction targets, and ensure that the provinces and territories have targeted federal funding and the flexibility to design their own policies to meet these commitments, including their own carbon pricing policies. These targets must recognize the economic cost and catastrophic impact that a greater-than-two-degree increase in average global temperatures would represent, as well as the need for Canada to do its part to prevent that from happening. Partnering with the provinces and territories, we will create a new Low Carbon Economy Trust. The Trust will provide funding to projects that materially reduce carbon emissions under the new pan-Canadian framework. We will endow the Low Carbon Economy Trust with \$2 billion in our mandate.

We will protect our communities from the challenges of climate change and grow our economy by making significant new investments in green infrastructure. We will fulfill our G20 commitment and phase out subsidies for the fossil fuel industry over the medium-term. We will also work in partnership with the United States and Mexico to develop an ambitious North American clean energy and environmental agreement.

Jennifer McKenzie

The NDP will announce additional tools that will assist in reaching our targets, as well as help for communities to adapt to a low-carbon future. NDP climate change initiatives will be undertaken in collaboration with provinces, territories, municipalities and indigenous governments. We will also ensure that any carbon pricing proceeds are revenue neutral to the federal government and reinvested into provincial and territorial greenhouse gas reduction efforts.

Stephanie Coburn

The Green Party targets for GHG emissions reductions are 40% reduction below 2005 levels by 2025, 80% by 2050. But numbers can and have been thrown around for years now, with almost no actual reductions taking place. What we need is a binding global treaty to be signed in Paris in November, and we need Canada to be front and center in pushing for the reductions that are needed. A group of scientists and engineers in Saskatchewan has proposed that it is entirely possible to move to renewable electricity production by 2035, and to eliminate 80% of GHGs by 2050. The most significant barrier to achieving this is not technical nor economic, but the absence of Federal leadership and the lack of political will.

Elizabeth May, the leader of the Green Party of Canada, has been the only opposition MP to take part in previous COPP negotiations. She has been to every global meeting to address this issue. It's the issue of our time, and vitally important that we don't make the mistake that the economy can trump the environment. Think of the jobs that could be created by working to eliminate 80% of GHGs by 2050!

Question:

◇ 5. Intergovernmental Relations

◇ A. Please indicate your views and plans on working with other levels of government.

Responses:

Rodney Weston

I have been fortunate to have served at the municipal and provincial levels of government prior to becoming our federal representative. This has given me a clear understanding of the needs and pressures on other elected representatives. All elected officials are trying to do what is best for the people they represent while not always agreeing on the approach and final outcome.

Working with the 2 municipal councils in the riding of Saint John Rothesay has been very positive and we find almost complete agreement on the local priorities and I am pleased to work pursuing federal support for their projects.

Working with the government is different in that they have the entire province to consider while the municipal members and I are focused on our region. However every provincial government is committed to moving our province and region forward. This common commitment has resulted in support for many projects including the Port modernization, barge terminal; clean safe drinking water, toll removal on the harbour bridge and many more.

I will continue to work for the people of our region and am sure that the other elected officials from our area and province will continue to put the best interests of our region first. Our projects are strong, well-researched, supported by different groups and interests and beneficial to the entire province.

Wayne Long

My focus in Saint John-Rothesay is boosting our stagnant economy thorough implementing our historic \$125 billion infrastructure plan. A plan of this magnitude requires that we work with all levels of government. I will work with municipalities, as Paul Martin did when he successfully implemented the gas tax transfers program than made it possible to fund such projects as Clean Safe Drinking Water and the Harbour Clean-Up in Saint John. My plan is to facilitate the most urgent green-lit infrastructure programs for Saint John-Rothesay, as soon as I am elected. I will also work closely with the province to facilitate development, especially on important regional projects such as Energy East. The ability to working successfully with all levels of government will be the hallmark of my administration.

Jennifer McKenzie

NDP Response: The NDP will have a Minister of Urban Affairs to make sure that the views of Cities like Saint John are heard at the cabinet table. In addition we will respect local priorities for infrastructure by increasing transfers instead of complicated applications and political interference from the Federal Government in local decision-making. We will have better consultation for important development projects, be it pipelines, airport, rail or port developments. An NDP Government lead by Tom Mulcair will include local leadership on issues like climate change – economic security and sustainable development.

Stephanie Coburn

The record of the current government in working with other levels of government is quite poor. There haven't been meetings between the Prime Minister and Premiers for quite a long time. We have pressing issues to address, as I mentioned above, as well as health care and senior care. The federal ministers must meet with their provincial counterparts as well as leaders of our municipalities to find solutions to these problems. The Green Party has worked across Party lines in Ottawa on many issues, and this needs to continue with more Greens elected to Parliament. Collaboration is a cornerstone of our work.

ⁱ Response has been cut and split for format purposes.