

From: Paul Szabo [mailto:szabocampaign@gmail.com]
Sent: 04/17/2011 10:15 PM
To: Hazel McCallion
Subject: Re: 2011 Federal Election

Dear Mayor McCallion,

Having consulted with the Liberal Party, the official responses to your questions are as follows:

Re Urban Transit:

POSITION

Liberals believe that the federal government should invest more in public transit to improve the environment, make communities more sustainable, create a better business investment climate, and improve the quality of life of Canadians.

TALKING POINTS

A Liberal government created the Gas Tax Transfer, delivering \$2 billion per year to Canadian cities to invest in things like public transit.

The Harper government has no vision for municipalities or public transit and they have done little to advance public transit in Canada beyond piggy-backing on previous Liberal programs like the Gas Tax Transfer.

A Liberal government will create a renewed partnership with provinces and municipalities, based on respect and co-operation, to address public transit for the long term.

A Liberal government would consider as a priority urban public transit that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduces commute times and improves the quality of life of Canadians.

Re: New deal with cities:

POSITION

Modern, efficient infrastructure is a driver of a productive economy and a high quality of life. A Liberal government would see municipalities as equal partners and would listen to municipalities, keep promises, and bring our country closer together.

TALKING POINTS

Rather than creating jobs for all Canadians, the Conservatives used most of the Economic Action Plan's (EAP) programs to pork barrel spending into Conservative ridings and they wasted millions of dollars on advertising.

The Conservatives made no effort to track the number of jobs actually created by the EAP. In comparison, they spent countless hours meticulously tracking the 8,500 Economic Action Plan signs - forcing provinces and cities to install and pay two-thirds of the cost of each federal sign.

The Harper Conservatives have no vision for municipalities. Stephen Harper only values municipal infrastructure investment in the short-term, in the context of a recession, and he ignores the over \$100-billion infrastructure deficit in Canada.

A Liberal government will create a new kind of partnership with provinces and municipalities, based on respect and co-operation, to address infrastructure for the long term.

Sincerely,

Paul Szabo MP