



September 21, 2011

Her Worship, Hazel McCallion
City of Mississauga
300 City Centre Drive
Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1

Your Worship,

Thank you for your letter and for sharing questions on behalf of your Council.

During the last eight years, life has become unaffordable for too many families. Surprise new taxes have taken repeated bites out of the family budget. Expensive energy experiments have sent hydro bills skyrocketing. The provincial government has become too big, too bureaucratic, and too meddlesome in municipal affairs.

We need to bring change to Ontario. *Changebook* is our party's commitment to Ontario families should we form government on October 6th. It's been built from conversations with families at coffee shops and hockey arenas; on the phone through email, Twitter and Facebook; and our unprecedented Have Your Say Ontario survey.

And it comes from conversations we've had with community leaders like you.

You deserve a partner that gives you clear rules and honest answers. Local governments have a difficult job to do, balancing demographics, demand for services, and tax bases. Given the challenges of recent years, you've had to make tough choices.

A reliable partner at Queen's Park is absolutely crucial for you to set your own budgets and properly plan for the future. For nearly eight years Dalton McGuinty handed out unsustainable collective agreements that set the benchmark for arbitration with your public sector unions. Even while Ontario is saddled with record deficits and a struggling economy, arbitrators are still awarding unions excessive contracts that far exceed what municipalities can afford. Ontario needs change.

The arbitration system is badly broken. I will ensure public sector agreements reflect the ability of families to pay the bills. I will bring more transparency and accountability to the arbitration system, requiring arbitrators to justify their decisions to you and your constituents. And I will provide you with clear and tight timeframes that you can count on. Long, drawn out negotiations are not fair to the workers, they're not fair to municipalities, and they're not fair to Ontario families.

When it comes to stable infrastructure spending, for the past eight years all we've seen are backtracks, flip flops and U-turns from the McGuinty Liberals. The same infrastructure projects get announced, re-announced, and sometimes re-re-announced –but never built.



This kind of uncertainty will come to an end under an Ontario PC government. We will be a partner you can trust. Unlike Dalton McGuinty, we will not try to be all things to all people or make promises we know we won't keep.

On the subject of provincial gas tax funding allocation, we will fix the broken provincial gas tax program and give every municipality access to provincial gas tax funds. We will ensure that no municipality receives less funding, but more importantly that no municipality gets left out or left behind. I will end Dalton McGuinty's practice of making value judgments and let you spend more on your transportation priorities, whether it is a road, a bridge, or a bus.

You also raised the issue of development charges.

The last thing Ontario needs is yet another new tax. At a time when families are struggling just to get by, and the Canadian dream of home ownership is out of reach to more and more young families, we simply cannot afford to put even more new taxes on homes.

I believe it's the government's role to create the right conditions for the private sector to succeed, to create jobs – and then get out of the way. That means getting the fundamentals right, principles like reducing red tape, providing reliable and affordable energy, and competitive tax rates. It also means getting the fundamentals right, that's why an Ontario PC government will invest \$35 billion in infrastructure, with a significant portion going towards breaking gridlock and moving people and goods more quickly and efficiently.

And finally, your Council report identified post-secondary education funding as a key issue. In *changebook*, we allocate \$600 million in additional funding, as well as committing to creating up to 60,000 new post-secondary spaces and raising the threshold of financial support to make OSAP more accessible for all families to send their children to college or university.

I believe the secret to good government comes from respecting your partners, keeping your word, sticking to a budget, and staying true to your principles. That's the kind of partner I will be.

To read more about the change we're proposing for Ontario families, I encourage you to visit www.changebook.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Hudak', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Hudak
Ontario PC Leader