

Dear Mayor Crombie,

Thank you so much for writing and sharing the concerns of the people of Mississauga with us. New Democrats have a solid platform to help Canadians living in large urban centres such as Mississauga, and their municipalities, thrive.

In your letter, several specific questions were asked, so here are the New Democrat responses:

Will you and your party commit to maintain and enhance the investments in transit in Mississauga?

Yes. Canada's New Democrats will not only maintain, but increase federal investment in transit for all municipalities including Mississauga. A New Democrat government will modernize and expand public transit in communities across Canada, and ensure that federal transit funding flows with an emphasis on scaling up low-carbon transit projects, like zero-emissions buses and electric trains, with the goal of electrifying transit and other municipal fleets by 2030. Working with provinces and municipalities that identify it as a priority, we will help them build towards fare-free transit to ease commutes, help people make ends meet, and lower emissions.

Will you provide direct funding on an allocation basis to Mississauga to build local and rapid transit in our City?

Yes. As mentioned above, we are ready to help Mississauga with all of its self-identified local and rapid transit priority projects. A New Democrat government will also support creating high-frequency rail along the Quebec-Windsor corridor and expand rail service options in other regions in partnership with the provinces and territories, and municipalities.

Do you and your party commit to developing long-term, predictable, and sustainable funding programs from the federal government to specifically fund the building and maintenance of municipal infrastructure?

Yes. New Democrats believe that Canadians should be able to count on the federal government to invest in infrastructure to make a real difference in communities across the country, not to pad the bank accounts of investment firms. Our vision is one where communities can afford to build the infrastructure they need to thrive, from roads and bridges to community centres and child care centres, and everything in between. These investments will create good jobs in every part of the country. To get there, we will partner with provinces, territories, First Nations, and municipalities to deliver reliable public infrastructure funding that puts people – not profit – first. By using Community Benefit Agreements, we will guarantee that good jobs, training, apprenticeships, and support for local businesses are part of every infrastructure project.

Will you commit to providing permanent, direct funding to municipalities, similar to the one-time doubling of the Federal Gas Tax?

Yes. New Democrats agree that one-time increase to municipalities from the Federal Gas Tax fund is not going to get our communities the modernized transit, climate resilient infrastructure, or affordable housing they need to succeed in the long run. A New Democrat government is committed to be a long-term, stable partner for our municipalities when it comes to infrastructure funding.

Do you and your party commit to a National Housing Strategy and to maintaining and enhancing the \$40 billion commitment to build affordable housing across Canada, including in Mississauga?

Yes. Everyone should have the right to a safe and affordable place to call home. Working people should be able to afford to live close to their workplaces, including in the heart of our biggest cities. Young people should be able to stay in the neighbourhoods they've grown up in. And seniors should never be forced out of the communities that they've spent their lives in. New Democrats believe that it's time to help people now. We have an ambitious plan that will make a difference in every community in our country – because finding a good, affordable place to live shouldn't be like winning the lottery. It's time to relieve the stress and worry that people feel by choosing to make it easier to rent and buy a home.

A major part of the long-term solution to the problem is to ensure that more affordable rental units are built across the country. One in three Canadians is a renter. In many cities, the few affordable apartments available get snapped up quickly, and people end up living in either inadequate housing or forced to spend a huge chunk of their income on rent

A New Democrat government will also create 500,000 units of quality, affordable housing in the next ten years, with half of that done within five years. This will be achieved with the right mix of effective measures that work in partnership with provinces and municipalities, build capacity for social, community, and affordable housing providers and co-ops, and meet environmental energy efficiency goals. This ambitious plan will create thousands of jobs in communities all across the country, and help Canadians get the affordable housing they need. Our federal investment will begin with \$5 billion in additional funding in the first year and a half of a New Democrat government.

In order to kick-start the construction of co-ops, social, and non-profit housing, we will set up dedicated fast-start funds to streamline the application process and help communities get the expertise and assistance they need to get projects off the ground today, not years from now. And for Canadians who are open to innovative paths to home ownership, a New Democrat government will provide resources to facilitate co-housing, such as model co-ownership agreements and connections to local resources, and ease access to financing by offering CMHC-backed co-ownership mortgages.

Also, to help put an end to speculation that's fuelling high housing prices, we'll put in place a Foreign Buyer's tax on the sale of homes to individuals who aren't Canadian citizens or permanent residents. New Democrats will also fight money laundering, which fuels organized crime and drives up housing prices.

Do you and your party commit to working with the City of Mississauga and other municipalities on a new funding framework for municipalities that includes permanent and direct funding?

Yes. and especially so given our pledges to municipalities in this campaign.

An NDP government will put in place a permanent, direct, allocation-based funding mechanism for modern public transit across Canada for the long run. We will also step up investments now to help cities transition their bus fleets to electric to help lower emissions and ease commutes. New Democrats will partner with provinces and municipalities to create 500,000 affordable housing units over the next ten years – including social housing, community and non-market housing, and co-ops. We will streamline the application process and provide dedicated fast-start funds to help get projects off the ground. An NDP government will also prioritize helping communities cope with the impacts of the climate emergency and extreme weather events. We will expand federal funding to respond to disasters and support communities in proactively adapting their infrastructure to withstand floods and other extreme weather events. We will also make significant investment in updating federal, provincial and municipal buildings to enhance energy efficiency.

Because we believe a one-time increase to municipalities from the Federal Gas Tax fund is not going to get our communities the modernized transit, climate resilient infrastructure, or affordable housing they need to succeed in the long run, a New Democrat government is committed to be a long-term, stable partner for our municipalities when it comes to infrastructure funding and it will certainly require a new funding framework given the scope of our ambitions for municipalities.

Thank you again Mayor Crombie for writing, and we hope that the priorities of the people of Mississauga are also New Democrat priorities. Should you, your fellow councillors, staff, or residents have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us during or after the election as they arise. Please accept our best wishes for a prosperous and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

The logo for Jagmeet Singh, featuring the text "Jagmeet Singh" in a large, orange, serif font. Above "Jagmeet" is a small orange plus sign followed by "NDP" in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. Below "Singh" is the slogan "In it for you" in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font.

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