

# 2019

# FEDERAL ELECTION

## HAMILTON CENTRE CANDIDATE

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Did you Know?**

There are many ways to vote, and you can vote at almost any time: on election day (Monday, October 21) or on advance polling days at your assigned polling station; at any Elections Canada office before Tuesday, October 15; or by mail (application for special ballot must be received by Tuesday, October 15).

To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen, be at least 18 years old on election day, and prove your identity and address.

If you don't have accepted ID, you can still vote if you sign a solemn declaration confirming your identity and address, and have someone who knows you and who is assigned to your polling station vouch for you. Detailed information and a list of acceptable ID options can be found online at: [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)



**Jason Lopez**

[votejasonlopez.com](http://votejasonlopez.com)

**1. Who are you? What do you want voters to know about you?**

I am a lifelong Hamiltonian, raised in the Crown Point neighbourhood. I have worked for a local business on the corner of Barton and Kenilworth for the last 25 years and I currently hold a senior management position. I spent five years at McMaster University, taking a broad range of courses and graduating with a bachelor's in history. I have been involved with the Green Party for about two years, including as CEO of the EDA and running in Hamilton Centre last year as the provincial candidate. I do not do this for power or for recognition. I do this because more people need to be exposed to the Green Party's creative solutions to the problems of today.

**2. What are you and your party willing to do to support people with mental health illnesses and addictions? (How will you improve/increase access to services and address the continued stigma surrounding mental health issues?)**

We must increase funding for mental health and addiction services and ensure timely treatment be free to all Canadians in need. The Green Party



will establish a Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, responsible for the development of community treatment programs run in cooperation with local non-profits. We will prioritize the early detection and treatment of mental illness in youth while supporting a public health initiative to reduce the prescription of mood-altering drugs to children. We will decriminalize personal drug possession treating addicts as patients instead of criminals. The over-prescription of opioids in Canada must be limited, along with more substantive public education on their addictive nature.

**3. What is your position on national pharmacare - is it fiscally viable?**

The Green Party was the first party to support national pharmacare as part of our universal healthcare coverage. Buying in bulk and decreasing patent protection is not only fiscally viable but results in savings of \$11 billion annually. According to a CBC investigation, a drug for Hepatitis C that costs \$800 per pill in Canada costs only \$4 a pill in India. The Green Party will ensure pharmaceuticals are purchased at prices that are competitive to other countries. We will establish clear rules on the sales and promotion of medication and require a thorough review of all new medications considering their effectiveness, side effects and addictive nature.

**4. Canada has joined a growing number of nations (and cities) that have declared a state of climate emergency...**

**4.a) Would your government continue Canada's current policies/practices to address climate change? What additional or alternative actions would your government propose?**

Canada's current climate policies are inadequate. We are the highest per capita emitter among the G20 nations and a recent report has shown our current policies to be among the worst in the world. The Green Party would immediately remove the billions spent annually on fossil fuel subsidies and halt all new pipeline construction. We would remove coal and natural gas from our electricity production and enhance the grid to better transmit renewable energy between provinces. We would retrofit buildings on a massive scale using interest free government loans, tax incentives, and direct government funding in order to make all buildings carbon neutral by 2030. We would set a target for all new vehicles to be electric by 2030.

**4.b) Beyond your party's platform, what are your own thoughts about climate change or environmental policy and practice? (Do you have ideas/proposals/priorities for next steps?)**

I feel that more effort needs to be spent on educating the public on the severity of the crisis in language that is easy to understand. Ads promoting oil exports as good for Canada add to the confusion and make people question the severity of the situation. As a vegan I also feel that more emphasis should be placed on the environmental benefits of a plant-based diet. This can be done through education, government ads and ensuring that plant-based options are plentiful and readily available wherever food is served.

**4.c) More specifically...**

**(i) Should Canada explicitly aim to be a global leader in the development of green economies? What could Canada do to take a leadership role? Would you support a shift in the Canadian economy away from fossil fuels?**

Canada is in a great position to be a leader in the development of green economies. However, our lack of vision and commitment to the Alberta oil sands is holding us back and leaving our economy

Curious about when and where to vote?

Want to see if you're already registered, or update your voter information?

Need info on how to register or what you need to vote?

Want to know about polling station accessibility and assistance tools and services that make it easier to vote?

The Elections Canada website has all the the information you need: [www.elections.ca/home.aspx](http://www.elections.ca/home.aspx)

You can also call for information: 1-800-463-6868 or 1-800-361-8935 (TTY).

Or contact the Local Elections Office for Hamilton Centre

225 King William Street, Suite 3rd fl  
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1B1  
Toll-free phone : 1 866 239-2831

Please note that in addition to the four candidates featured here:

**Melina Mamone** is a running as a candidate with the People's Party of Canada. We attempted to extend an invitation to participate in this survey, but were unable to reach Melina.

**Tony Lemma** is also a candidate for Hamilton Centre in this election. As an independant candidate, Tony wants to bring a very different message to voters and chose not to participate in this issued-based survey.

Tony's campaign is focused on bringing his message driectly to voters at their doors.

Tony's website is: [www.tonylemma.ca](http://www.tonylemma.ca)

behind. China, the European Union and other states are already implementing strategies to position themselves to be world leaders in the post fossil fuel economy. We need to catch up. We can do this by fostering innovation and funding promising Canadian clean tech startups to be competitive on the global stage. We need a streamlined, cost effective system for adding rooftop solar like in Germany, where it is no more difficult to the end user than getting a new furnace. We need to have a national electric vehicle strategy where we can harness both our expertise in automotive manufacturing and AI research to become a global hub for autonomous electric vehicles.

**(II) Canada produces so much waste that we have to ship it to other countries. What goals would your government set for reducing waste and how would you achieve them?**

Instead of shipping garbage to countries responsible for plastic products ending up in the ocean, we will modernize recycling through a federal waste treatment facilities superfund. While currently only 10% of plastic is recycled, homegrown technology like Oakville's Pyrowave can recycle contaminated food packaging, with a 95% yield. Brantford's GreenMantra recycles hard-to-recycle plastics such as grocery bags, bottle caps and shampoo bottles, creating additives for asphalt and roofing. The Durham York energy centre converts garbage into electricity, diverting 90% of trash from landfills creating enough power for 10,000 homes. Canada has the technology, and has the know-how. All we need is a government bold enough to use it.

**5. Will you advocate for universal childcare why/ why not? Will this be a priority policy area for you?**

The Green Party is committed to a high quality, federally funded childcare program, accessible to any family. Small children benefit tremendously from spending time with mothers and from extended breastfeeding. Therefore, we would ensure that we

also support parents that choose to stay home with young children, and incentivise businesses to create child care spaces within the workplace. Workplace childcare spaces allows greater participation in the workforce, reduces driving, and makes it easier for parents to rely on transit.

**6. What is your plan for immigration reform? What values and data is your plan based on?**

The Green Party recognises that Canada's multicultural diversity is intrinsic to its identity as a nation and that immigration plays an important role. According to a report by the Conference Board of Canada, we will need significant levels of immigration by 2030 in order to effectively replace older Canadians leaving the workforce and not leave a labour deficit. We need to attract immigrants, and establish a system that is fair to all. We should eliminate the exploitative temporary foreign workers program and increase immigration where labour shortages are established. Green immigration values are based on keeping Canada an open, fair, and just country.

**7. What role do you see for gender-based analysis in public policy? Will you ensure that GBA+ is broadly implemented?**

The importance of intersectionality in public policy analysis cannot be understated. A life does not exist in a vacuum; social response dictates much of our experiences from youth to adulthood. Especially in today's society, the difference between biological sex assigned at birth and the social construct of gender needs to be acknowledged and incorporated into all levels of governance. The Green Party sees no need to dismantle the current government's efforts to enshrine GBA+ and will work to ensure equality for all genders, not just one or two, is held up.

**8. What next steps would your government take in Canada's relationship with indigenous peoples?**

# Election 2019 and the Power of Seniors

BY MICHELLE FERRARA

Newsflash: Canadian seniors will decide the outcome of the federal election. Who makes up the largest, richest and most influential demographic in Canada? That would be the 7.6 million Canadians over the age of 55. 60% of us voted in the last election; we absolutely have the power to decide the outcome this fall.

So many items, in addition to global, financial, climate and terrorism; the list is long for those in this demographic...

National Seniors Strategy, National Dementia Strategy, National Drug Plan, Minister of Seniors, Affordable Housing, National Standards for Homecare and Long Term Care, Keeping Seniors out of Poverty, Age-Friendly Communities, particularly for transportation and housing, public health care including mental health, dental, vision and hearing. Caregiver tax credits, ending capital gains tax, no federal tax on first 15K earned, lower tax on 15-100K, and increase tax above 100K.

At the time of writing this article, the only party to have released a Seniors' Platform is the NDP. Everyone else has ideas, but have not released their plan. With only a few short weeks before full-court press campaigning, all parties had best get it together, because the senior population want answers and plans. Einstein said, "the definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing and expect a different result". Let's make a different decision this federal election.

My encouragement is to pay attention to who serves the needs and concerns of those aged 55+. If you aren't in that age group now, remember two things: one - this demographic increases significantly every year, and two - it's precedent-setting time, if not for you, for your parents. Vote!

Michelle Ferrara is a longtime advocate for the elderly, with a blog on Facebook: Elder Advocacy Hamilton. Her work in elder-care includes community outreach and working with families needing services for elder relatives.

Making rapid and significant progress in improving the lives of indigenous peoples in Canada is imperative. It is unacceptable that indigenous community infrastructure is so lacking in basic necessities, such as power and indoor plumbing. The Green Party is committed to making the necessary investments in First Nations infrastructure and plans to immediately address the lack of clean drinking water in communities across Canada. We are committed to fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and will amend the Constitution of Canada to ensure that it is consistent with the recognition and protection of indigenous treaty rights at all levels of government.

**9. How would your government address growing income inequality?**

Inequality is growing in Canada and worldwide. According to the World Economic Forum, "excessive reliance by economists and policy-makers on GDP as the primary metric of national economic performance is part of the problem." Canada needs to replace gross domestic product as our primary economic indicator with that of a Genuine Progress Indicator, or GPI. This would measure our economic success based on the personal well being, literacy, health, education and employment of everyday Canadians, to name a few criteria. We will shift the tax burden away from those who are struggling and collect more from corporations who currently contribute a disproportionately low share.

**10. How would your government address the rising cost of living, especially with respect to housing?**

The Green Party would work with municipal governments to rapidly convert existing properties and brownfields to affordable, energy-efficient housing. We would return the CMHC to its original mandate of providing capital for the creation of cooperative and community housing projects. We would change the Income Tax Act to offer incentives for building and maintenance of affordable, multi-unit rental housing, and introduce incentives for the conversion of existing condos to rental units. We will work with the provinces to introduce measures to eliminate property speculation, and we will protect people in the courts by enshrining the right to housing in the charter of rights and freedoms.

**11. How much of our national budget should go toward foreign aid and development? What should**

**our priorities be?**

Despite Canada's history as a peacekeeping nation--a country quick to provide aid to those in need--we've failed to hold up that reputation. As of 2018, the Liberal federal government's budget for foreign aid assistance in international development was well below its fellow members in the OECD. The Green Party will do everything in its power to change that. We will act with compassion and understanding, seeking to match Canada's peers in times of international crisis. Our priorities should be crisis response and aid, so that no city or country ravaged by war or weather has to prolong its suffering due to a lack of resources.

**12. What specifically will you do to eradicate hate and intolerance of minority groups in Canadian society? (LGBTQAI2S+, Indigenous, newcomers, etc.)**

The Green party will invest in greater public education, particularly among youth, who account for the largest proportion of those accused of committing hate crimes. We need to make it easier to prosecute hate crimes by making them clearly defined in the criminal code. Elizabeth May has called for greater regulation and transparency of social media where hate groups otherwise flourish. The human rights code must be strengthened to not only consider internet hate speech discriminatory, but to also allow the human rights tribunal to issue cease and desist orders along with hefty fines as had been their mandate before 2013.

**13. The majority of Canadians live in cities, with aging infrastructure and increasing threats from extreme weather. Does your party have a plan to fund new projects/improvements?**

The Green Party considers climate adaptation to be indescribably important in protecting Canadian homes and businesses from an increasingly extreme climate. We would restore and enhance funding for adaptation planning measures across Canada. We would properly fund municipalities through six \$500 million municipal super funds and directly transfer proceeds from the federal gas tax. Restoration of ecosystems will also play a key role, particularly the restoration of critical wetlands and riparian buffers that serve to dampen flood levels.

**14. Will your party invest in public transit or cycling infrastructure? What specifically do you propose?**

The Green Party would directly fund municipalities through a Cycling and Pedestrian

Promotion fund in order to support both pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. The goal would be to transform cities into walkable communities linked by transit and to effectively reduce the need for owning and using cars. We would also establish a Mass Transit Promotion fund that directly invests in greater access to transit with the focus on electric buses and light rail. The Green Party will make large investments in our national rail system, building more train cars in Canada and linking national rail to Ontario's own GO transit and municipal LRTs.

**15. Social and political discourse in Canada is becoming increasingly polarized and acerbic. How can you change the rhetoric so that ideas and policies can be vigorously debated without dehumanizing those who hold differing convictions?**

The best way to do this is leading by example. The Green Party does not believe in personal attack ads that are the political status quo. Instead, we believe in working together and building consensus. My goal is to not stoop to the level of attacking my competitors, but to run a campaign singularly focused on the many important issues of the day.

**Bonus Questions\***

**A - What was the last song that you had stuck in your head? Was it a good thing?**

My seven year old son has been obsessed with "Old Town Road" by Lil Nas X. Naturally, it got stuck in my head. Looking into it further, It's pretty cool how Lil Nas X not only broke into the billboard country charts, but became the first openly gay man to be nominated for a CMA.

**B - If you were suddenly to acquire a superpower of your choosing, what would it be? and what would you choose as your superhero name?**

Calm strength. There is strength in serenity. To remain calm, while the world around you is swirling in confusion, is to be firmly in control. As for a name, I always liked the name Leader-1 from the 1980s GoBots cartoon.

**C - Final bonus question suggested by an eight-year old: "Why don't we just snap our fingers and get cake?"**

Because eating cake is great, but have you eaten your vegetables yet?



**Monica Ciriello**

[www.conservative.ca/team-member/monica-ciriello](http://www.conservative.ca/team-member/monica-ciriello)

**1. Who are you? What do you want voters to know about you?**

Hi, my name is Monica Ciriello and I am your Conservative Party Candidate in the 2019 federal election working to bring change to Hamilton Centre.



After completing my graduate studies in politics and public policy, I went to law school where I developed a passion and commitment for public service. In 2013, I moved to Hamilton where I began working at City Hall. I am married and live in Hamilton with my husband Greg.

I current manage the daily operation of legal and court services. I ensure trust and confidence in the judicial system by providing a timely access to justice for all. In my role, I combine my passion for public safety with my desire for change to apply practical solutions to government to make processes work more quickly, fairly and efficiently for people. Previously, I managed and implemented local by-laws working for the City of Hamilton, and has worked as a municipal lawyer in Toronto, London and Windsor.

I am also a champion for small business and know the importance of small businesses as part of a strong and vibrant community. I have demonstrated this through my work in redrafting and implementing Hamilton's Business Licensing By-law, amd reducing regulations on local businesses in Hamilton Centre to create jobs for people in the community. Through this experience, as well as representing several municipalities across Ontario, I understand the issues

facing Ontario communities and the challenges and opportunities facing families in Hamilton Centre.

Since being nominated, I have hit the ground running, knocking on doors and hearing about what is important to people in the community. On top of jobs, the economy and public safety I am hearing that life is becoming increasingly unaffordable for families.

I want to get things done for you and your family and will be a strong voice in Ottawa. I am working hard to earn your vote in 2019, to ensure you are getting ahead, not just getting by!

**2. What are you and your party willing to do to support people with mental health illnesses and addictions? (How will you improve/increase access to services and address the continued stigma surrounding mental health issues?)**

The Conservative Party of Canada announced the Health and Social Program Guarantee: a commitment to maintain and increase the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST) by at least 3% per year, as is currently mandated in legislation. Under a new Conservative government, Canadians will be able to count on stable and predictable health and social program funding.

**3. What is your position on national pharmacare - is it fiscally viable?**

The Liberals have been promising a pharmacare plan for decades and have done nothing about it. It was in their 1997 election platform and was again promised in 2004. The Hoskins' Report recommends that taxes be raised drastically to support their plan. Conservatives know that some Canadians legitimately struggle to pay for or access prescription medications. This is why our platform is focused on keeping more money in the pockets of Canadians. Conservatives are focused on bringing forward solutions that address the priorities of Canadians, and policies that put people before government.

**4. Canada has joined a growing number of nations (and cities) that have declared a state of climate emergency...**

**4.a) Would your government continue Canada's current policies/practices to address climate change? What additional or alternative actions would your government propose?**

Canadians trusted Justin Trudeau when he said he would protect the environment and lower Canada's emissions. Instead, all they got was a carbon tax. Not only is Canada failing to hit our Paris Agreement targets, we are getting further and further away. As an environmental policy, the carbon tax is a failure. It makes virtually no contribution to the global fight against climate change, and it only makes life more expensive for Canadian families and small businesses.

A Conservative government has A Real Plan to Protect Our Environment which is built on three guiding principles:

- Green technology, not taxes.
- A cleaner and greener natural environment.
- Taking the climate change fight global.

This plan is the most comprehensive environmental platform ever put forward by a political party in Canada. Sixty pages and fifty-five specific, realistic, and achievable policy commitments.

**4.c) More specifically...**

**(I) Should Canada explicitly aim to be a global leader in the development of green economies? What could Canada do to take a leadership role? Would you support a shift in the Canadian economy away from fossil fuels?**

Canada needs to take a leadership role by exporting our environmental excellence and taking the climate change fight global. In Ottawa, I will work with a Conservative government to hold countries who are responsible for polluting our air, land and sea accountable. I will also be a champion of Green Technology, not taxes so we can create jobs by exporting green products and services worldwide.

**5. Will you advocate for universal childcare why/ why not? Will this be a priority policy area for you?**

I believe the families should keep more money in their pockets so they can afford the things their children need, including childcare. A new Conservative government will remove federal income tax from maternity and EI paternal benefits by providing a non-refundable tax credit of 15 percent for any income earned under these two programs. The benefit to a Canadian whose salary is \$50,000 would be about \$4,000

**6. What is your plan for immigration reform? What values and data is your plan based on?**

A Conservative government will work immediately to restore the fairness, order and compassion of our immigration system. I support safeguarding and emphasizing economic immigration. I will stand up for families and ensure that spouses and children can be reunited. A Conservative government will also focus on improving language training to ensure greater proficiency in English and French and newcomers' ability to succeed economically and socially in Hamilton.

**7. What role do you see for gender-based analysis in public policy? Will you ensure that GBA+ is broadly implemented?**

As a lawyer with a background in public policy who has worked in this field for the City of Hamilton, I have experience making recommendations to improve public programs and services that make lives better for people in Hamilton Centre. As your MP, I will support practical solutions that not only consider gender, but ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation when bringing forward legislation that make lives more affordable for people in Hamilton Centre.

**8. What next steps would your government take in Canada's relationship with indigenous peoples?**

Canada's relationships with Indigenous communities have been impacted by the Liberal government's mismanagement of key issues. With respect to getting key infrastructure projects built, a Conservative government will establish clear time lines and consult with Indigenous communities right up front. I would also support a Conservative government's approach to reinstate constructive consultations on protected areas with stakeholders and Indigenous groups that were cancelled by the Liberals.

**9. How would your government address growing income inequality?**

Two thirds of Canadians feel that they either can't pay their bills or feel that they have nothing left over at the end of the month after they do. Whether it is gasoline, groceries, home heating, real estate or debt I am hearing from people that everything keeps getting more expensive. Andrew Scheer has a positive vision for Canada's economy. A Conservative government will live within our means and leave more money in your pocket so you can get ahead.

**10. How would your government address the rising cost of living, especially with respect to housing?**

As you MP, I will work with a Conservative government to:

- Scrap the carbon tax.
- Remove the GST off home heating bills and home energy costs.
- Make parental benefits tax-free.

Parents should put that money toward buying a car seat, school supplies or paying the bills. With respect to housing, a Conservative government will work with provinces and municipalities to knock down regulatory barriers that discourage new home construction, so more homes can come on the market to lower prices.

**11. How much of our national budget should go toward foreign aid and development? What should our priorities be?**

I believe that Canada must always side with those who value freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. A Conservative government will reinvigorate Canada's role in the alliances we share with our democratic allies. This includes existing alliances like NORAD, NATO, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, and the Five Eyes, but it will also include greater overtures to India and Japan. We will work with our allies to increase trade, maintain peace and security and provide aid where required.

**12. What specifically will you do to eradicate hate and intolerance of minority groups in Canadian society? (LGBTQAI2S+, Indigenous, newcomers, etc.)**

As an MP, I will represent everyone in my riding regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. The Conservative Party welcomes all people and we will always take a stand against intolerance of any kind.

**13. The majority of Canadians live in cities, with aging infrastructure and increasing threats from extreme weather. Does your party have a plan to**

**fund new projects/improvements?**

As your MP I will supporting a Conservative government that believes in investing in communities. The founders of Confederation bound our country together with a great railway because they knew a country of this size could not function without significant investments in infrastructure. It's no different today. From highways, airports and harbours to subways, bridges and community facilities, infrastructure projects create good jobs for tens of thousands of Canadians, drive our economy, improve our quality of life, and connect us to each other. While more than 95 percent of Canada's core public infrastructure is owned by provinces, territories, and municipalities, our Conservative Government will continue to support building and maintaining infrastructure across the country.

**14. Will your party invest in public transit or cycling infrastructure? What specifically do you propose?**

Transit and other pieces of green infrastructure is an important part of our Real Plan to Protect Our Environment which is built on three guiding principles:

- Green technology, not taxes.
- A cleaner and greener natural environment.
- Taking the climate change fight global.

One specific example of our 'Guided by our Green Technology, Not Taxes' principle, is our Green Patent Credit will encourage research and development in the transportation industry. A company, seeing the benefits of the Green Patent Credit, could be incentivized to create a fast charging electric vehicle battery. We will support Canadian companies to create emissions-reducing technology with the goal of getting their products to market faster. In turn, the increased supply of these products will make green options more affordable for Canadians.

**15. Social and political discourse in Canada is becoming increasingly polarized and acerbic. How can you change the rhetoric so that ideas and policies can be vigorously debated without dehumanizing those who hold differing convictions?**

I am focused on running a positive campaign and taking Andrew Scheer's positive message to the people in Hamilton Centre. I will show leadership by continuing to work positively and look to my fellow candidates and constituents to join me along the way.

**Bonus Questions\***

**A - What was the last song that you had stuck in your head? Was it a good thing?**

"High Hopes" – Panic! At the Disco

**B - If you were suddenly to acquire a superpower of your choosing, what would it be? and what would you chose as your superhero name?**

Superpower: Incredible Speed.

Name: Monica Lightning – I could knock on all the doors of every home in Hamilton Centre every night

**C - Final bonus question suggested by an eight-year old: "Why don't we just snap our fingers and get cake?"**

Ask Marie Antoinette.



## Matthew Green

matthewgreen2019.ca

### 1. Who are you? What do you want voters to know about you?

As a relatively new father, I'm somebody who is very proud to be raising my family right here in Hamilton Center. Over the last 15 years I've had the privilege of working with many of you on the community issues right here in the Sherman hub. Together we have worked to build a safe and vibrant Community full of opportunities for everybody regardless of their income or their area code.

As a former small business owner it became clear to me that the pace in which the city was changing didn't necessarily keep up with the social pressures that our neighborhoods were dealing with.

In 2014, we took an incredible four-year journey together.

As Ward 3 City Councillor, I was honoured to connect people to the process of local government. Together, we invested in social housing. We stood up for human rights. We fought against poverty and pushed for economic justice for workers. And we defended the environment fighting for clean air and water while holding polluters accountable.

Together, we:

- Became the first city in Ontario to introduce an environmental Bill of Rights
- Licensed and regulated predatory payday loan businesses and supported Postal Banking options through Canada Post
- Invested over a million dollars in Social Housing including seniors housing along with bold partnerships with the Hamilton Community Land Trust and Indwell.
- Championed the campaign to Keep Transit Public
- Created a local Community Benefits Network to ensure our communities are getting shared value out of major infrastructure investments and urban development projects

We achieved a lot but there's more work to be done. After careful consideration, I decided to seek election as Member of Parliament for Hamilton-Centre as your NDP candidate. Following in the honourable David Christopherson's footsteps.

I'm not just asking for your vote, I'm inviting you to be a meaningful part of the political process. Together, let's champion policies that put the delicate future of our ecology first, and the just transition of our workers at the centre of a fair economy.

### 2. What are you and your party willing to do to support people with mental health illnesses and addictions? (How will you improve/increase access to services and address the continued stigma surrounding mental health issues?)

Across Canada, we are seeing the need for greater access to mental health services. We have seen an increase in need among aboriginal communities, veterans, farmers, youth and people struggling with addiction. The NDP is committed to a national strategy for mental health and increasing access to



services as part of universal medicare and to increase awareness of mental health challenges.

The NDP will make it a priority to declare a public health emergency and work closely with all levels of government to meet the challenges of the opioid crisis head on. This would include supporting overdose prevention sites and expanding treatment on demand, destigmatizing and decriminalizing drug use so that those wishing to get treatment can do so without the fear of arrest, and launching an investigation into the role of drug companies in the opioid crisis and seeking financial compensation.

### 3. What is your position on national pharmacare - is it fiscally viable?

New Democrats believe that you should be able to pay for your prescription drugs with your health card and not your credit card. A universal, comprehensive plan would cover the costs of the most commonly prescribed medications and a bulk buying program would result in a 30% drop in drug costs.

A public pharmacare program will save Canadians at least \$4.7 billion a year, increase the quality of life for millions of people and lead to a reduction in health complications and unnecessary. Businesses would also benefit from a national program with employers saving up to \$600 per employee each year.

### 4. Canada has joined a growing number of nations (and cities) that have declared a state of climate emergency...

#### 4.a) Would your government continue Canada's current policies/practices to address climate change? What additional or alternative actions would your government propose?

Canadians were shocked when Justin Trudeau adopted the same climate reduction targets as Stephen Harper, and despite existing policies, Canada is nowhere near meeting its Paris Agreement targets. The NDP has a comprehensive plan to address climate change and meet our emission reduction targets while creating 300 000 good jobs and supporting workers in a just transition to a greener economy. We would maintain a price on carbon, make all new buildings in Canada net zero carbon and create retrofit programs for existing housing stock. An NDP government would eliminate the \$3.3 billion in fossil fuel subsidies and redirect the fund to low carbon initiatives. We would also work with communities to improve public transit and get more zero emission cars and electric vehicles on the street.

#### 4.b) Beyond your party's platform, what are your own thoughts about climate change or environmental policy and practice? (Do you have ideas/proposals/priorities for next steps?)

Climate change is the defining issue of our lifetime. It is already having dramatic impacts around the world and across Canada where our climate is warming twice as fast as the global average. One proposal I would like to see implemented is transitioning skilled workers from the oil extraction industry to be part of the clean-up and remediation process. Once an oil company is done extracting oil (and wealth) from the ground they often abandon the oil wells with no timeline to clean them up. Alberta alone has more than 100 000 abandoned wells. Supporting workers for the clean-up process will maintain thousands of well-paying jobs and help prevent further environmental damage.

#### 4.c) More specifically...

**(I) Should Canada explicitly aim to be a global leader in the development of green economies? What could Canada do to take a leadership role? Would you support a shift in the Canadian economy away from fossil fuels?**

The transition away from fossil fuels will

be a critical part of addressing the threats of catastrophic climate change and we must start the shift to a carbon free economy right away. Canada can and should be a world leader in clean technology research and manufacturing and an NDP government would invest in centres of excellence to further develop innovations to support a transition to a low energy economy. Canada can also become a world leader in the development and production of zero-emission vehicles, renewable energy and smart power grid technology.

### (II) Canada produces so much waste that we have to ship it to other countries. What goals would your government set for reducing waste and how would you achieve them?

Offloading waste produced in Canada onto other, often less developed, countries masks a much bigger problem and is an unfair relationship between countries. The NDP has proposed a ban on single use plastics and supports the transition to more sustainable materials. We would also hold companies responsible for the entire lifecycle of their plastics products and packaging and would join with municipalities to help improve their waste management and recycling programs and work towards a zero-waste future.

### 5. Will you advocate for universal childcare why/why not? Will this be a priority policy area for you?

As a parent of a young child, I know the challenges families face to find affordable, available and quality childcare. I also know the impact that childcare can have to increase education outcomes, support women, and help families escape poverty. And since Doug Ford's government has cut back funding that cities used to help keep childcare spaces open, there is an even greater need for the federal government to take action. The NDP will make childcare a priority by investing \$1 billion in 2020 and growing that investment annually, along with the provinces and territories.

### 6. What is your plan for immigration reform? What values and data is your plan based on?

Unless you are from one of Canada's First Nations, Metis, or Inuit communities, Canada is – and will continue to be – a country founded on immigration. Our immigration process should be rooted in the values of fairness, respect, and dignity and should recognize the important role plays both culturally and economically. We must offer a fair process that meets Canada's labour force needs and recognizes people's experiences, contributions, and ties to Canada. We will tackle the backlog on family reunification applications and work to prevent the exploitation of care givers and temporary foreign workers.

### 7. What role do you see for gender-based analysis in public policy? Will you ensure that GBA+ is broadly implemented?

Everything a government does should be done through the lens of GBA+. Not only is it the right thing to do, evidence shows that it will lead to better outcomes for all Canadians, not just women. The NDP is committed to implementing GBA+ as part of its budgeting and policy analysis and will take action to ensure the federal government leads by example, such as finally implementing true pay equity across all federal government jobs.

### 8. What next steps would your government take in Canada's relationship with indigenous peoples?

A new framework for reconciliation between Canada and indigenous peoples must be grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which sets out minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of Indigenous peoples. An NDP government would work with Indigenous peoples to co-develop a National Action Plan for Reconciliation which will include implementing UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation

Commission's 94 Calls to Action. Our comprehensive commitments to indigenous peoples must also include a new fiscal relationship support programs and services, and access to revenue streams to help close the socio-economic gap and support self-government.

**9. How would your government address growing income inequality?**

Income inequality has been on the rise for years in Canada at a time when the tax burden has shifted away from corporations and onto the shoulders of individuals. It's time for new, fair and progressive taxation sources so that governments can make investments that will benefit all Canadians. An NDP government would close stock option loopholes and crack down on tax havens, increase the taxes on capital gains, and ask the very rich to pay a new one percent wealth tax on wealth over \$20 million. We would also roll back the Conservatives' corporate income tax cuts by three percentage points to 2010 levels.

**10. How would your government address the rising cost of living, especially with respect to housing?**

According to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, if you're a minimum wage earner in our city, you would have to work 54 hour a week to be able to afford a one-bedroom apartment. With a focus on and building capacity for social, community, and affordable housing providers and co-ops, an NDP government would work with provinces and municipalities, to create 500,000 units of quality, affordable housing in the next ten years, with half of that done within five years. Our federal investment will begin with \$5 billion in additional funding in the first year and a half of a New Democrat government. We would also fast-start funds to streamline the application process for co-ops, social and non-profit housing to help jumpstart new projects, double the homebuyers tax credit, and re-introduce 30-year terms to CMHC insured mortgages on entry-level homes for first time home buyers.

**11. How much of our national budget should go toward foreign aid and development? What should our priorities be?**

The NDP has long committed to meeting a foreign aid commitment of 0.7% of GDP. We must focus on our international commitments to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, further invest in global health initiatives and step up efforts to promote gender equality and access to education for women and girls. Canada should also hold Canadian companies to a high standard of corporate social responsibility at home and abroad – and ensure they meet it. We must also take a global leadership role in

helping low-income countries deal with the impacts of climate change.

**12. What specifically will you do to eradicate hate and intolerance of minority groups in Canadian society? (LGBTQAI2S+, Indigenous, newcomers, etc.)**

As a resident of the Sherman hub, I along with many of you work to ensure that our asset-based community development model upheld anti-racist in anti-oppression values. And as a city councillor I ensured that the uncomfortable conversations around anti indigeneity, racism, homo and transphobia, xenophobia islamophobia and anti-semitism were not ignored. By supporting Hamilton's vast diversity of cultural and ethnic communities in their organizing around justice issues in and around City Hall, I worked to support the leadership and development of power 'within' those communities and simply not 'for' those communities

Our communities are not immune to the growing rise of white supremacy. As the executive director of the Hamilton Centre for Civic inclusion we supported a co-ordinated community response to very difficult experiences of homophobic attacks on Pride Hamilton this past summer. During this process I led practical workshops on how folks can Ally with communities being targeted by the violence of intolerance.

Although it may be unrealistic to claim that we can eradicate hate, we can and must strongly speak out against it and condemn it at every instance. As a Civic leader I am proud to state that I certainly have and will continue to face off and fight passionately against all forms of discrimination.

**13. The majority of Canadians live in cities, with aging infrastructure and increasing threats from extreme weather. Does your party have a plan to fund new projects/improvements?**

Along with the building retrofit program, a New Democrat government will expand federal funding to respond to disasters, and support communities in proactively adapting their infrastructure to withstand floods, forest fires and other extreme weather events. We will also partner with Canadians and communities to make serious investments in making buildings more energy efficient, helping families save money and fighting climate change.

**14. Will your party invest in public transit or cycling infrastructure? What specifically do you propose?**

The NDP would commit to 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, with the goal of electrifying transit and other

municipal fleets by 2030. We would also work with provinces and municipalities that identify it as a priority, we will help build a path towards fare-free transit.

The NDP has developed a national cycling strategy that would set clear targets for the expansion of cycling friendly infrastructure, increase education for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists and encourage more Canadians to choose cycling as their mode of transportation, and improve national safety standard measures, such as side guard rails for trucks.

**15. Social and political discourse in Canada is becoming increasingly polarized and acerbic. How can you change the rhetoric so that ideas and policies can be vigorously debated without dehumanizing those who hold differing convictions?**

I believe in the importance of open and honest dialogue in politics and everyone who is participating in the democratic process in good faith deserves respect. Though all ideas and policies deserve to be debated, I do not believe in giving a platform to ideas and policies that promote hatred and bigotry. To some, this may seem polarizing, but things feel polarizing right now because we're having a values conversation in our country. I believe Hamilton is a city for everyone, and I will always prioritize protecting the human rights of my neighbours over holding space for people who promote bigotry and hatred.

**Bonus Questions\***

**A- What was the last song that you had stuck in your head? Was it a good thing?**

Clearly any campaign worth its salt in this city has "Knocking at the door" by the Arkells on playlist repeat. I know we do... and it's definitely a good thing.

**B - If you were suddenly to acquire a superpower of your choosing, what would it be? and what would you chose as your superhero name?**

My superpower would be to magically and democratically redistribute the economy and my superhero name would have to be Captain Justice.

**C - Final bonus question suggested by an eight-year old: "Why don't we just snap our fingers and get cake?"**

This election we have the opportunity to snap our fingers, elect a New Democratic government, and get universal pharmacare, while the billionaire pharmaceutical corporations would simply rather just "let us eat cake".



Jasper Kujavsky

jasperkujavsky.liberal.ca

**1. Who are you? What do you want voters to know about you?**

I am a devoted father, uncle and family person



who is passionate about public affairs and civic engagement, social justice, and pluralism. I love sports both as a participant and a fan. I have varied interests including architecture, urban planning, music, and the arts. I am a lawyer who has represented many refugee claimants from some of the world's most strife-torn countries seeking freedom and security in Canada. I have worked as a crown prosecutor seeking to ensure public safety and justice for victims of crime. I have been part of many city and community building projects in Hamilton's urban core. And I am a proud Hamiltonian who deeply believes in this City and is committed to working to improve the lives of all the people who live in this riding.

**2. What are you and your party willing to do to support people with mental health illnesses and**

**addictions? (How will you improve/increase access to services and address the continued stigma surrounding mental health issues?)**

Our Government has worked hard to ensure mental health support for as many as 500,000 young Canadians who currently are not receiving basic mental health services by investing \$5 billion in health care. Examples of the government's commitments in this area include the establishment of a national Suicide Prevention Crisis Line to ensure Canadians are able to access crisis support across the country. More will continue to be done as the Government works with other levels of government and numerous agencies and community organizations to provide the support, educational programming and advocacy required by those in need.

**3. What is your position on national pharmacare - is it fiscally viable?**

Absolutely, it is both fiscally viable and morally required to ensure Canadians have access not only to quality health services but then as well to the medications required that flow from the medical care they have received. The most recent budget

committed to the creation of a Canadian Drug Agency, a new national drug agency that will build on existing provincial and territorial successes and take a coordinated approach to assessing effectiveness and negotiating prescription drug prices on behalf of Canadians. By negotiating better prices, this could help lower the cost of drugs for Canadians by up to \$3 billion per year in the long term.

**4. Canada has joined a growing number of nations (and cities) that have declared a state of climate emergency...**

**4.a) Would your government continue Canada's current policies/practices to address climate change? What additional or alternative actions would your government propose?**

Our Government has led on this crucial priority, including putting a price on carbon pollution, a progressive policy a number of provincial governments led by Doug Ford are actively opposing. From making zero-emission vehicles more affordable and accessible to proposing a ban on harmful single-use plastics our Government has done a great deal, and will do more, to address this key area.

**4.b) Beyond your party's platform, what are your own thoughts about climate change or environmental policy and practice? (Do you have ideas/proposals/priorities for next steps?)**

I believe in our Government's balanced and proactive approach to environmental policy and look forward to having the opportunity to promote and further positive programmes like the Climate Action Fund which provides up to \$3 million annually to support projects that raise awareness and increase participation on climate change across Canada, including a Youth Climate Change Ambassador Programme in Ottawa, a green building educational programme in Ontario, and an Indigenous-focused climate change programme for schools in Nova Scotia. I will do all I can to encourage education and action on climate change by supporting our Government's efforts to work with Canadian innovators which will not only help protect the environment in communities across the country, it will also grow our economy.

**4.c) More specifically... (If not already addressed above)**

**(I) Should Canada explicitly aim to be a global leader in the development of green economies? What could Canada do to take a leadership role? Would you support a shift in the Canadian economy away from fossil fuels?**

Canada under this Government is already a leader in promoting and developing a green and environmentally sound economy, including putting in place regulations to reduce air pollution and reducing health issues like asthma by reducing methane emissions by 40% to 45% by 2025. The government also is phasing out coal power and transitioning to 90% clean electricity, for cleaner air and healthier communities. These are but a few of the many examples of our Government's leadership in this crucial field.

**(II) Canada produces so much waste that we have to ship it to other countries. What goals would your government set for reducing waste and how would you achieve them?**

The proposals regarding the ban on harmful single-use plastics is an example of the proactive and positive approach our Government has taken for reducing waste and protecting our environment, and more will be done if we are again given the opportunity to serve all Canadians in government.

**5. Will you advocate for universal childcare why/why not? Will this be a priority policy area for you?**

Our Government has increased support for families and introduced the new CCB which has lifted over 300,000 children out of poverty. EI parental leave options have been improved, the EI Parental Sharing Benefit was introduced, and support

for those with autism and their families has been brought in. More needs to be done and will be done including the key area of childcare which I will make a key priority of my work if I am honoured to become this riding's next Member of Parliament, especially given the number of young families including single parents who are resident in Hamilton Centre.

**6. What is your plan for immigration reform? What values and data is your plan based on?**

Our Government is responsibly growing immigration levels to 350,000 by 2021, with 72% of the growth by 2021 being in economic programmes. The Government has increased the Provincial Nominee Program by 52% to 71,300 by 2021 to better respond to regional labour market needs, and has created the Atlantic Immigration Programme to attract and retain newcomers in that region. Space here simply does not permit a full accounting and listing of the multiple programmes the Government has implemented and will continue to implement to encourage and facilitate immigration in Canada, fulfilling our mandate and belief in welcoming peoples from across the planet who want to share in the multicultural, pluralistic and democratic Canadian experience.

**7. What role do you see for gender-based analysis in public policy? Will you ensure that GBA+ is broadly implemented?**

Our Government has ensured that its policies and programmes serve Canadians of all backgrounds by putting a gender and diversity lens (Gender-Based Analysis + or GBA+) in the development of all its policies and programmes. It introduced a Gender Results Framework to guide future decision-making and to measure progress in fostering an economy that works for everyone. It enshrined gender budgeting in the federal government's budgetary and financial management processes. It hosted nearly 1000 leaders, in-person and online, from across Canada and the world, to further enhance the application and impact of GBA+ during the Gender-Based Analysis + Forum in November 2018, and created a new Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics to help address gender gaps through evidence-based policy and decision-making. These are but a few of the multiple actions our Government has taken to lead on this important file and a re-elected Government will clearly continue to lead and make progress in this area.

**8. What next steps would your government take in Canada's relationship with indigenous peoples?**

Our Government has created two new departments focusing on Indigenous issues that will increase capacity to implement the existing and future agreements with Indigenous Peoples, following the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. It launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and responded substantively to the interim report including a commitment of nearly \$50 million in new funding to: Increase health supports and victim services for families and survivors. The Government took immediate action with investments in women's shelters, housing, education, reform of child welfare, and safety on the Highway of Tears. It continues to work with First Nations to resolve historical grievances through specific claims, at twice the rate of any previous government in Canadian history, settling 100 specific claims since November 2015, which is twice the average rate of settlement from the time the process began in 1973. Clearly much remains to be done and significant work lies ahead, but this Government has demonstrated a sincere commitment to addressing these concerns and will continue to do so if honoured with a second term in government.

**9. How would your government address growing income inequality?**

Our Government has worked hard to grow our economy, lower taxes for the middle class, and create

many good new jobs. Over 850,000 people have been lifted out of poverty and over a million new jobs have been created during this Government's first mandate. Clearly more needs to be done and will be done, for as our Government repeats all the time, "better is always possible", but we are on the right course.

**10. How would your government address the rising cost of living, especially with respect to housing?**

The Government's commitment to affordable housing is clear in the \$55 billion National Housing Strategy, and its commitment to creating good new jobs, lowering taxes for the middle class, protecting and strengthening pensions, investing in better roads, transit and bridges, and providing better health care for all peoples and specifically our seniors is clear evidence that the Government understands the pressures of the cost of living and is working hard to put in place policies that improve the lives of all those in Canada.

**11. How much of our national budget should go toward foreign aid and development? What should our priorities be?**

The Government's Budget provided an additional \$2 billion over five years, starting in 2018-19, to Canada's International Assistance Envelope to support Ottawa's humanitarian assistance and development priorities under its new Feminist International Assistance Policy. Our Government has responsibly identified effective ways to maximize the benefits of investments in foreign aid that help those who most need assistance, and Canadians can expect more responsible leadership on the international front if our Government wins the right to further its work in a second term.

**12. What specifically will you do to eradicate hate and intolerance of minority groups in Canadian society? (LGBTQAI2S+, Indigenous, newcomers, etc.)**

As a Member of Parliament I would do my best to use the platform of that office to reach out and encourage tolerance and dialogue while promoting the Canadian values of equality, diversity and inclusion. One example of how our Government has directly addressed historical concerns and past injustices was seen in the recognizing of the wrongs committed against LGBTQ2+ Canadian Armed Forces members who were released because of who they love. As part of the Prime Minister's formal apology to LGBTQ2+ Canadians, impacted current and former members of the Canadian Armed Forces can now submit their claims in order to begin righting this historic wrong. I will do all I can, if honoured with the opportunity to serve, to ensure past injustices are identified and addressed while trying as best I can to prevent any further injustices from ever taking place.

**13. The majority of Canadians live in cities, with aging infrastructure and increasing threats from extreme weather. Does your party have a plan to fund new projects/improvements?**

Our Government has pledged to continue implementing the historic Investing in Canada Plan, evidenced by the establishment of the Canada Infrastructure Bank, which uses federal funds to attract private sector investment in transformational infrastructure projects that are in the public interest. Our Government has approved more than 4,800 projects across the country, more than four times what the previous government approved in the last five years of their mandate. The Government has stipulated that unspent infrastructure funds from older, inactive programmes are transferred to municipalities through the Gas Tax Fund to support local infrastructure priorities, and doubled the Gas Tax Fund in the 2019 Budget, providing a one-time injection of \$2.2 billion for municipal projects across Canada. This is just a fraction of the comprehensive list of initiatives the Government has undertaken, and more will follow in a second term for our

Government.

**14. Will your party invest in public transit or cycling infrastructure? What specifically do you propose?**

Our Government has made significant investments in public transit, including funding the purchase or refurbishment of more than 8000 new and refurbished buses, upgrading nearly 15,000 bus stops and shelters to protect commuters and encourage more Canadians to use transit services, providing 586 new or refurbished rail vehicles and 205 kilometres of new public transit rail track, and funding 89 projects resulting in 472 new or upgraded paratransit vehicles. The Government can be expected to continue working cooperatively with its provincial and municipal partners to encourage more effective and environmentally sustainable public transit and cycling infrastructure.

**15. Social and political discourse in Canada is becoming increasingly polarized and acerbic. How can you change the rhetoric so that ideas and policies can be vigorously debated without dehumanizing those who hold differing convictions?**

I have many friends of differing political and other views, and I believe fundamentally that we are all different but equal. That is at the core of pluralistic thought, respect and celebration for difference and individuality. I try my best to practice the concept that we can agree to disagree without being disagreeable. The essence of the EDI lens is that if we truly believe in equality and diversity we don't then personally attack those who disagree with us and label them "the other". That said, however, we must also balance inclusion with the need to deal with outright hate and racism which cannot and should not be normalized under the umbrella of free speech. It is a difficult balance we have to continuously work on, but it is so important we must do it every day as we strive to make our communities stronger and safer.

**Bonus Questions\***

**A - What was the last song that you had stuck in your head? Was it a good thing?**

The Carpenters "Top of the World", which in my view was a good thing given that the late Karen Carpenter had, in my view and that of many music experts I have heard speak to this subject, one of

the most beautiful singing voices in popular music history.

**B - If you were suddenly to acquire a superpower of your choosing, what would it be? and what would you chose as your superhero name?**

I have long had a fascination with the concept of time travel, and some of my favourite movies and books of fiction have been themed around this idea. I understand this name may already have been used in a film, but The Time Traveller would best describe the superpower of my imagination.

**C - Final bonus question suggested by an eight-year old: "Why don't we just snap our fingers and get cake?"**

Because life includes the values of hard work, preparation, and commitment, and not simply entitlement to whatever you want whenever you want it. That said, however, there are things we do have the fundamental right to have, such as access to quality health care, good education, a basic income and standard of living, affordable and safe housing, and freedom from abuse and discrimination.

2019 Federal Election

TRUTH

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