

Staff Report 2019-78

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Subject: 2019 Town of Caledon Federal Election Priorities

Submitted By: Devan Lobo, Senior Analyst (A), Corporate Initiatives, Strategic Initiatives

RECOMMENDATION

That the Town of Caledon Priorities related to the 2019 Federal Election as identified in Staff Report 2019-78 be endorsed.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The next federal general election is scheduled to be held on or before October 21, 2019.
- The Town of Caledon needs support from other orders of government to achieve the priorities identified in Council's Work Plan.
- By endorsing a set of priorities, the Town of Caledon can speak as a collective voice when advocating for potential policy changes with candidates in the Dufferin-Caledon riding.
- The Town of Caledon Priorities document for the Federal Election is to educate local candidates on the types of issues they can advocate for, if elected.

DISCUSSION

Legislative and funding actions taken by the Federal Government can have significant impact on municipal governments, in general, and the Town of Caledon specifically. These actions can assist or hinder Town Council's ability to execute upon their identified priorities. Staff believe that it is important to educate and inform those seeking public office about the challenges being faced by Caledon residents and businesses.

On or before October 21, 2019 a Federal Election will occur. As candidates for all parties are selected, and then begin to campaign within the Dufferin-Caledon riding, the Town, along with local residents and businesses, have an opportunity to communicate their priorities to the candidates. By endorsing a set of priorities, the Town of Caledon can speak with one voice to these candidates to increase candidate knowledge and ultimately the priorities of the next Ontario government to support the needs of the Town.

Town of Caledon Priorities

From an advocacy perspective, it is important for the Town's "asks" of future governments to be consistent and closely aligned with Council endorsed priorities. To this end, these priorities were created based on Council's 2018-2022 Work Plan, and a review other strategic documents such as the annual department business plans and budgets. Where appropriate, these priorities also reflect additional feedback provided by Council.



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Staff recommend the following items be communicated as part of the Town of Caledon's Federal Election Priorities document:

- The Town of Caledon expects the next federal government to invest in broadband internet access for rural communities.
- The Town of Caledon expects the next federal government to support the rural environment and economy through value-added agriculture and other supportive policies.
- The Town of Caledon expects the next federal government to help single households, persons with disabilities and older adults stay in their communities by providing incentives for the private sector to build suitable, affordable housing opportunities.
- The Town of Caledon expects the next federal government to invest in transportation and transit infrastructure to support the movement of goods and people.
- The Town of Caledon expects the next federal government to strongly address climate change mitigation and adaptation and meet its commitments of the Paris Agreement and limit the average global temperature increase to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Region of Peel Election Priorities

The Region of Peel has approved a set of infrastructure priorities as part of their federal election strategy. These priorities revolve around four infrastructure areas; social, green, transportation and funding. The Town priorities around issues of broadband, rural economy, transportation, climate change and housing are complementary to what has been outlined in the Peel documents. More information on these priorities can be found at: <http://www.peelregion.ca/council/advocacy/>

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

In relation to the upcoming federal election, FCM is advocating for a number of local and rural priorities. These include better roads, transit, water and energy infrastructure, housing affordability and a national broadband strategy. Further, discussions have revolved around achieving a modernized municipal-federal relationship, obtaining predictable long-term municipal funding for areas such as climate change and infrastructure and applying a rural and remote municipal policy lens.

Status of Provincial Party Platform Alignment (listed alphabetically)

- The Conservative Party of Canada released their platform on October 9, 2018. Of note from a Caledon perspective, there is focus within the platform on balancing the budget and removing the carbon tax. These commitments have some alignment with recommendations under climate change of the Town of Caledon Priorities document and items under Connected Community within Council's Work Plan.
- The Green Party of Canada released their priorities, *Vision Green*, on September 9, 2018. The party proposes to focus on reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

- emissions and green economic principles. The priorities have some alignment with the climate change and rural economy recommendations of the Town of Caledon Priorities document and items under Sustainable Growth and Connected Community within Council's Work Plan.
- The Liberal Party of Canada released their platform, *Real Change – Investing in the Middle Class*, on October 5, 2018. With respect to Caledon, the plan focuses on affordable housing and support for first time home buyers, climate change action, skills training, small business and entrepreneurialism, and investments in infrastructure. The plan aligns with the recommendations of climate change, small business and economy, housing, broadband and transportation planning of the Town of Caledon Priorities document and items under Sustainable Growth, Connected Community and Improved Service Delivery.
 - The New Democratic Party released their platform on October 9, 2018, aligning with recommendation of housing of the Town of Caledon Priorities document and items under Sustainable Growth and Connected Community within Council's Work Plan. The party priorities focus on affordable housing, climate change and improving access to cellular and internet coverage.

Next Steps

Staff (Strategic Initiatives) recommends the following tactics be executed upon in 2019:

- Develop a communication document to circulate Priorities to all candidates in the Dufferin-Caledon riding as they are nominated by their parties.
- Circulate Priorities document to other impacted stakeholders including Federal Party Leaders and Federal Party Headquarters, the Region of Peel, and cities of Mississauga and Brampton.
- Support the Mayor's Office in hosting an all candidates meeting to brief Dufferin-Caledon candidates on the Town's priorities.
- Staff will work with Regional staff to coordinate efforts regarding government relations on the 2019 Federal Election where applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Sustainable Growth - Ensure that Caledon grows in a balanced and sustainable manner
Connected Community - Strengthen the bonds that connect the community

Improved Service Delivery - Improve service delivery to reflect the changing needs of the community

Good Governance - Steward resources through sensible, prudent budgeting and transparent, participatory decision-making

ATTACHMENTS

None.