

From: Navdeep Bains [mailto:info@navdeepbains.ca]
Sent: 2011/04/22 11:38 AM
To: Hazel McCallion
Subject: RE: 2011 Federal Election

Your Worship,

In regards to your questions a Liberal government will provide leadership, working with other levels of government and the private sector to put in place a Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy that targets long-term economic benefits.

The last Liberal government took a strategic approach, with the Pacific Gateway Strategy, which combined international trade competitiveness with transportation infrastructure investment. However, under the Harper government, interest in sound policy gave way to partisanship. The federal role in infrastructure became little more than posing for pictures with big cheques in Conservative-held ridings.

Looking to the future, all governments will need to coordinate strategies and investments with each other and the private sector. The successful gas tax transfer to municipalities is ongoing, but other infrastructure funds that were launched before the recession expire in the next several years. A new Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy will underpin a next generation of programming. In a time of record high fiscal deficits and infrastructure deficits, realism, cooperation, clear thinking and tough choices will be necessary. A Liberal government will bring clarity and coherence to the federal role in infrastructure. It's about investing for long-term results on major Canadian objectives such as international trade competitiveness, regional development, economic growth and modernization, urban quality of life and greenhouse gas and other pollution reduction.

Liberal infrastructure priorities include:

- Highways and major roads that support international trade, regional commerce and economic development;
- Local and regional transit, rapid transit and commuter rail that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing efficient alternatives to private vehicles;
- Municipal infrastructure, particularly for water and sewers to meet local needs and reduce pollution, and major public multi-function spaces;
- High-speed rail in regions where rapid, convenient connections between major urban centres promise environmental benefits, enhanced mobility, decreased congestion and a boost to international commerce, if coordinated with investments underway in the United States.

Canada's cities are drivers of good living standards and economic competitiveness in today's global economy. Still, serious infrastructure gaps are costing us jobs and productivity. The Harper government has paid little attention to cities, and advanced no vision of their role in the economy of the future. A Liberal government's Canadian Transportation and Infrastructure Strategy will address the needs and opportunities of cities, and build on their dynamism and innovation.

Thank you again for writing.

Regards,

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