



Public transit is an important service for all of us

Affordable, accessible public transit allows us to get from A to B and connect with our communities. It contributes to local economies, and it is good for the environment. But, chronic lack of investment has contributed to almost non-existent public transit in rural areas, which hurts those with low incomes the most.

Province needs to pay its fair share for transit operations

In most communities in Oxford County, public transit is not available. Without affordable, accessible transportation, community members struggle to meet even their most basic needs – grocery shopping, getting to and from work, and accessing appropriate and timely health care. Rural and small municipalities struggle to afford public transportation, and the social service sector is devoting staff time, expertise, and agency dollars that are continually decreasing, so that the people they serve can access the appropriate care. The province needs to step up and help rural residents access safe, affordable public transit.

Rural public transit – there's a lot on the line

There's not much agreement when it comes to how to pay for public transit in rural areas. It's a tough call. But politicians need to stop evading the question and find the most fair and equitable way to cover the cost. Let's take high user fares off the table right now. Communities need affordable options.

Some have raised the issue of privatization in transit services. But privatization in other areas has led to cancelled routes, increased costs, and disputes with private operators. It raises serious concerns like transit access, affordability, safety, maintenance, and accountability.

Ask your candidates:

- How will your party invest in transportation in rural Ontario?
- How will your party ensure fair and equitable methods for funding transit across the province?
- Will your party ensure that the transit system remains publicly operated and maintained?
- What is your party's position on public-private partnerships for transit infrastructure?

Resources:

Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Transit: <http://www.fcm.ca/home/issues/transit-and-transportation.htm>

Ontario Public Transit Association: <http://www.octa.on.ca>

Rural Public Transit Library by The Rural Overland Utility Transit: <http://catchthetrout.ca/library-rural-public-transit/>

Oxford Transportation Strategy: <http://www.spcoxford.ca/oxford-transportation-strategy>

