



# **SPECIAL REPORT ON THE FEDERAL ELECTION**

**April 21, 2011**

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**Pillar Nonprofit Network asked the local federal candidates for their response to:**

**Once elected, how will you support and strengthen nonprofits and charities in Canada?**  
*Please provide at least two specific examples or actions of support.*

**The question was emailed on March 30 and a reminder was sent again on April 7.**

## **LONDON - FANSHAWE**

### **Roger CARANCI, Liberal Party**

Thank you for your email outlining your questions on behalf of your organizations interest in the upcoming federal election. Pillar Nonprofits work in the London community is very well respected and I remember my time on the London Public Library Board and dealing with a fledgling organization which was looking at doing wonderful things for the nonprofit sector and needed some space to begin their work. The library board agreed to the rental of space and your group was born.

I will be answering your questions from my perspective since it would be me who would be one of your elected representatives if I were to be chosen.

I have had the privilege of working with many nonprofit entities over the course of many years. It is always an honour to be able to work with others who have a goal to make life better for others in their pursuit of their stated goals. It is imperative that I continue to help into the future in two ways. The first being to continue to be a part of these organizations and the second is to advocate from a policy side to help them reach their goals.

I will cite a few examples of what I have done in the past to help some groups who fit into the sector being discussed.

1) Salvation Army Daycare Centre

2) The Salvation Army was considering the construction and opening of a daycare centre on the grounds of their facility at Highbury and Dundas. They were looking to partner with the City of London and other levels of government to seek funding to help in the construction of a new facility. The goal was to have the city provide \$500,000 to help fund construction. I met with the organization and their architect on several occasions and gave them direction on how to approach the funding issue through the city and also to help in securing commitments from other parties. We were successful in doing so and the centre is now a going concern.

3) Italian Seniors Project

4) I was asked to become part of an organization that was exploring the possibility of building a long term care facility which would house seniors of Italian heritage and care for them in a culturally sensitive environment. We worked on this concept for approximately three years before it was discovered that we could not go down this path because of regulations put forth by the provincial government. We then decided to switch focus to a seniors housing complex which is taking shape as we speak. A 52 unit seniors affordable housing project will be completed by October of this year on Hamilton Rd.

These are two examples of organizations that I have been a part of. I have other examples and would be glad to share them if you require more. Please let me know if you do and I will get them to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity in sharing this information with you.

### **Jim CHAHBAR, Conservative Party**

1. I will attend as many non profit/charity events as is possible that I'm invited to and to publicize the work being done by the host, via website, word of mouth, etc.
2. I will work with any non-profit (charity) who asks, to make sure they get everything they are entitled to from the Federal Government in a timely fashion.

### **Irene MATHYSSEN, New Democratic Party**

Thank you for your question.

In the 5 years since I was first elected to parliament, I have been supporting the applications of not-for-profit organizations for federal funding in my riding. Every year, as just one example, the applications for Canada Summer Jobs funding from not-for-profits have been made a "local priority" as my MP directive to Service Canada. I will continue to make the support of local not-for-profits a priority because I believe a good MP puts the priorities of community first. And of course I continue to personally support as many organizations as I am able to with donations, by attending fundraisers and special events, and promoting the good work of these organizations.

At the national level, New Democrat Deputy Leader and Finance Critic Thomas Mulcair (Outremont) tabled bill C-600, which would have made changes to the Income Tax Act to encourage charitable contributions to non-profit and charitable organizations. The NDP bill would have raised the non-refundable tax credit rate from 29 to 39 per cent for every new donation above \$200 that exceeds the donation given in 2009. When parliament returns to session after this election, New Democrats will reintroduce this legislation in order to increase the incentive for Canadians to support charitable and not-for-profit organizations. My colleague Peter Stoffer also introduced Bill C-216 *Income Tax Act* to allow taxpayers who provide a minimum of 250 hours of service in a taxation year to a registered charity, a non-profit organization or a municipality or other public authority, and receive no salary,

stipend or other remuneration in excess of \$3,000 to deduct \$1,000 in the computation of their taxable income.

Both of these legislative changes would make a significant difference in the operations of charitable and non-profit organizations across Canada.

### **Matthew PELOZZA, Green Party**

As a public figure within the community elected or otherwise I will continue to offer my support to several of the organizations in your network through promotion of events where ever I can.

I would make it easier for non profit organizations to raise money for worthy causes. One of the great imbalances we have right now is that political donations are treated much more favourable for tax credits than a similar donation to a non profit. I would support at the very minimum equal treatment so that charities and non profits can better reach their financial needs.

### **G.J. RANCOURT, CHP**

We affirm that Canadian residents should not lack essential food, shelter, and clothing but to be our brothers “keeper” does not establish an indiscriminate and universal claim on public charity for those able but unwilling to work. Welfare services should be provided by government only after prior spheres of responsibility have been exhausted, namely the individual’s self-initiative, other members of the family, and voluntary social agencies. Municipal, provincial, and federal authorities should cooperate in formulating effective programs in meeting basic human needs.

We further affirm that the needs of the community are better served when responsibility is placed where it rightfully belongs: close to the “grassroots” of society, rather than at the level of the state. Rather than being the means of first resort in responding to the needs and wants of its citizens, civil government should assume this responsibility only after the other spheres of government (i.e., the individual himself, the family circle, voluntary associations, charitable societies, and the church) have failed in their prior responsibility, or are unable to meet these needs. Liability should be reinstated for parents to maintain their children below age eighteen and living at home. Similarly, liability should apply for children to provide reasonable support for aged and infirm parents.

Government should strive to eliminate the universality of welfare, restricting it to those in genuine need. No one who is able, but refuses to work has a just claim to be supported by others. Those able-bodied individuals who apply for state welfare, and otherwise not bound by having to care for dependents, should be obliged to take part-time or seasonal employment, or other public service if such is available in the community or can be secured by social welfare agencies.

## LONDON - NORTH CENTRE

### **German GUTIERREZ, New Democratic Party**

In London we have a wonderful network of community and not-for-profit groups that work hand-in-hand with government to support families who need help. For the past year I have been a member of the London and Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership, a new initiative that is co-sponsored by CIC, the United Way, and the City of London and that seeks to strengthen and promote specific actions aimed at improving the effectiveness and scope of the many services available to immigrants. I have also been a volunteer with other non for profit agencies that seek employment opportunities and the technical and professional advancement of struggling Canadians. I believe that by supporting and strengthening our non-profits and charities we're making life better for thousands of families. Our non-profits and charitable social agencies across the province serve people who would otherwise be defenseless in the face of growing costs, increasing unemployment and deteriorated conditions of living.

Should I be elected as your MP for London North Centre I will continue to support the applications of not-for-profit organizations that are in need of Federal funding.

I will also make myself available to organize fundraising activities and special events that strengthen and promote the work of agencies like those I have been collaborating with as a member and/or volunteer. I will continue to support the efforts of my New Democrat colleagues to introduce changes to the Income Tax Act as a way to support and encourage charitable contributions to our non-profit and charitable organizations. By raising the non-refundable tax credit rate from 23 to 39% for every new donation above \$200 that exceeds the amount donated in 2009, we will be encouraging new contributions by Canadians in support of their non-profit organizations.

At the NDP we strive to build a society in which every one of its members can reach their full potential. Such progress is judged by how society cares for and supports one another. That means strengthening our non-profit and charitable organizations so that every citizen has access to high quality social programs.

It also means working to make our communities engaged and to ensure the inclusion of all our social actors so we can create a nation where the standard is mutual respect and integrated neighborhoods. Nowhere is the commitment to social justice stronger than in our support of our charitable and non for profit organizations. Social democracy is the embodiment of caring for one another and a New Democrat government must always ensure that all Canadians prosper and no one is left behind.

### **Mary Ann HODGE, Green Party**

Thank you for your question. The Green Party of Canada and I recognize how important all charities and nonprofit groups are in building strong communities and meeting needs not met through other

means. Because of this importance, the Green Party will help support and strengthen all Non Government Organizations (NGO's) here in London and across Canada by making it easier to receive funding, recruit volunteers and advocate for change.

Like all organizations, NGO's require funding to operate. If elected, I, along with the rest of the Green Party, would urge the government to provide an increased tax break to Canadians who donate to registered charities. Through our income tax cuts to help relieve the financial burden on the middle class, as well as our plans to advocate for a higher minimum wage in the Labour Code, and our income tax cuts for low income earners and plans to review new and better ways to make poverty history here in Canada, people will be better able to invest money in their communities through charitable donation.

Not only are the Green Party and I committed to making poverty history here in Canada, we are also committed to ending poverty around the world. Some Canadian NGO's that work in the developing world have had their funding cut and even eliminated by the Harper government. These cuts were not based on performance, but political ideology. Organizations here in Canada with strong track records for effective strategies in the developing world, like Planned Parenthood, Match and KAIROS would have their funding restored by the Green Party and funding would also be restored to the Canadian Council for International Co-Operation.

The Green Party also recognizes that money alone will not be effective. Statistics Canada reports a steady decline in volunteer hours donated by Canadians. Many Canadians today are suffering from "time poverty" with little enough time for their families, let alone their communities. The Green Party recognizes that lack of time to contribute to the community leads to feelings of loss and alienation whereas time spent to better our society leads to feelings of belonging and empowerment. In order to free up time for people to contribute, we will advocate for changes in the Canada Labour Code that establish a minimum of three weeks of paid vacation and a managed reduction in the standard work week to 35 hours. The Green Party will also promote an integrated program of supports, tax cuts and awareness raising emphasizing that time spent with children and/or in the community is essential for the continuation of our society. We are also committed to introducing income splitting, a joint calculation of income that will reduce taxes, between all partners. Not only will this relieve the tax burden on many middle class families, allowing them to donate financially, it will also allow more choice for one partner to stay home, for any reason, it will also make it easier for one partner to take a lower paying job. This will make it easier for people to choose charitable or nonprofit work.

Finally, the Green Party and I believe that NGO's have the right to advocate for their beliefs. With that in mind, we will promote revising and updating laws relating to charitable NGO's so that they may participate in advocacy, yet still retain their charitable status and their ability to accept tax deductible donations.

As you can see, we in the Green Party firmly believe in the importance of all NGO's to individual health and well-being, the strength of our communities and the country as a whole, and to nations around the world. Canadians have always been proud of our willingness and ability to help those who

need it, both at home and abroad. Unfortunately, though our willingness remains strong on an individual level, our ability has been slowly waning. As a country, we have the ability, but the political willingness has been declining. The Green Party and I are committed to redressing this imbalance so that we may restore Canada to a nation of strong communities and retake our place as an example to other nations with our international aid. That is a Canada we can all be proud of together.

### **Glen PEARSON, Liberal Party**

Thank for contacting me about what has been an issue central to my life's work. Having been the director of the London Food Bank for over 25 year I know firsthand the importance of nonprofits and the impact that they can have on people's lives. This is not something exclusive to Canadian lives. The effect of Canadian nonprofits is felt throughout the world as I have seen in running Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan (CASS) along with my wife Jane Roy.

Since my I was first elected to office in 2006 I have been working for the interests of Canadian nonprofits. This is work I feel strongly about and work that I will continue if I am fortunate enough to win reelection.

Recently I wrote a letter to the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) congratulating them on their call for a "new deal" between Canadian NGOs and The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The CCIC represents Canadian NGOs many of which are nonprofits and I am a strong advocate for their work and repairing the relationship between NGOs and CIDA. The government cannot be an impediment to the work of nonprofits and I along with the Liberal party will work to ensure that their work is facilitated when we are in government.

### **Susan TRUPPE, Conservative Party**

Thanks for your email. Susan facilitates the successful 'Pick a Pie for Charity' program at the Four Points Sheraton; 'Pick a Pie' donates proceeds to a preselected charity each year. In 2010, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual version, they sold a whopping 1350 pies, raising over \$12,000 for Hutton House & the Sunshine Foundation.

Susan has also volunteered with numerous other charity and not-for-profit organizations throughout her many years of service to the London community and she enjoys supporting worthy causes.

As MP, Susan will continue to take an active role in the various causes and organizations that she proudly supports. Susan looks forward to working closer with the Pillar Nonprofit Network and thanks you for your participation in the current election.

If you should need anything further, please feel free to contact me directly at 519.636.3828.

Joshua Workman, Campaign Manager, Susan Truppe Campaign

## LONDON WEST

### **Ed HOLDER, Conservative Party**

I had a chance to show your note March 30 to Ed Holder and ask him how he might respond to your question.

Ed says it is probably apparent from his more than 30 years as an involved participant and leader with about 50 not-for-profit organizations in the City of London that he is a sincere believer in the values of community service and the contributions a community receives from the service of charitable institutions and the volunteers who work with them.. He points out that while he has taken on the role as a Member of Parliament he has continued to maintain his commitment to the values and activities of non-profit organizations -- and that he has every intention to continue to offer leadership and support in the future. Examples would include his continuing work with the Business Cares program for the food bank, his fund raising with the Y for Kids, and his time as an organizer of the New Years Eve celebrations in Victoria Park.

In other words, he is devoted to the roles played by nonprofits and charities, and will do what is necessary to support and strengthen them in our community and country.

via Jim Etherington

### **Doug FERGUSON, Liberal Party**

Thanks very much for your request regarding the Liberal plan to support nonprofits and charities. On behalf of Doug, I'm happy to provide some of the ways that a Liberal government invest in and strengthen our social sector.

It starts with the volunteers, upon whom many charities rely. Volunteerism is a proud Canadian tradition which a Liberal government will strengthen by creating a new Canada Service Corps. Its mandate will be to encourage volunteerism, support training of volunteers, and to facilitate volunteer opportunities.

The Liberal government will also invest in social housing and put in place a renewed long-term affordable housing program to help reduce homelessness, maintain and renew existing affordable housing stock and stimulate new construction of affordable housing. It will offer a platform for more effective collaboration among all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors and it is intended to replace current, temporary arrangements.

In the fight against poverty where provincial agencies have taken the lead, the Liberal Federal government will build on those efforts and will work with partners at all levels to develop a Poverty



Reduction Plan for Canada. It will set goals and identify practical measures for achieving them with the help of all partners, including the social and not-for-profit sectors.

There are also several aspects of our Canadian Learning Strategy that will involve the not-for-profit sector in various ways. These include:

- the Early Childhood Learning and Care Fund,
- support and increased funding for Aboriginal Learning, and
- expanded language training for new Canadians.

Other initiatives include a refundable tax credit for volunteer firefighters who perform a crucial service in local communities. The Liberal government will also work with and support the arts, defend equal rights for Canadians with Disabilities.

Lastly, all levels of government, civil society, researchers, business and the public must have access to independent and reliable statistics and demographic information to make informed decisions and develop sound policy. Therefore, a Liberal government will restore the mandatory long form census, which has provided valuable information for nonprofits and charities for decades.

Best,

Martin Cooke, VP, Policy, London West Federal Liberal Association

### **Peter FERGUSON, New Democratic Party**

Firstly, I applaud you for the work Pillar does to make London an even more active and engaged community.

While our formal platform with specific measures will be released a little later in the campaign, I can speak to some strategies surrounding these issues that I personally believe in .

New Democrats like myself recognize that the volunteer sector not only enriches the lives of thousands of Londoners, but also has a huge economic impact worth hundreds of millions of dollars every year, in London, many billions of dollars all across Canada. However, nearly every one of these groups are underfunded and must make difficult prioritization decisions.

That is why, when elected, I will support re-introducing a private member's bill originally tabled by New Democrat Thomas Mulcair, that would introduce changes to the Income Tax Act to encourage charitable contributions. The bill would raise the non-refundable tax credit rate from 29 to 39 per cent for every new donation above \$200 that exceeds the donation given the previous year. It has been estimated that while this may cost the federal government \$40 million a year in tax revenue, it will add \$200 million a year into charitable coffers. One of my responsibilities as an MP is to encourage people

to make donations to charities and support the work they do, and this type of legislative response will help fund frontline work.

In the longer term, I would like to see support for New Democrat Brian Masse's private member's bill that would treat charities the same as federal political parties for tax purposes, up to the current annual political spending limit. While this is a much more expensive route, I have never understood why political donors should get a larger tax benefit than other charitable donors.

On a different front, I support re-instating the long form of the census. Non-profits and charities need this information to track fluctuating social, environmental, cultural and economic challenges. Without this, it is difficult to plan services to support our communities.

Along with my New Democrat colleagues, I will also continue to fight for the development of arts and culture policies that nurture this sector as a vital economic engine. Many volunteer hours are spent building our cultural sovereignty and these need to be supported.

On a more personal level, I am an active volunteer not only with the NDP, but with my church where I serve as a board and committee member. I co-founded a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) volunteer committee that studies science issues and policy. I was co-founder and initial organizer of the Roland Parris Activist Awards that recognizes local activism. Along with my family, I continue to volunteer to clean up natural areas, such as Meadowlily Woods, and to plant trees with local groups. I am a member of the Friends of the Public Library. Finally, my employer, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, operates a number of social justice and community service groups and encourages all members and employees to be active in enriching our communities.

I trust this answers your question but I encourage yourself or any of your member agencies do contact me again for further information. And once more, thank you for your efforts to bring a voice to this too-often overlooked sector.

## **ELGIN - MIDDLESEX**

### **Carl HIEMSTRA, Christian Heritage Party**

The Christian Heritage Party is strongly driven by the belief that we are called to “be our brothers’ keeper”. We believe that no Canadian, that no individual, should lack essential food, shelter and clothing, and strongly support nonprofits and charities that exist to provide health and security to those in need, or that exist for the betterment of society.

One of the ways that the CHP supports the nonprofit and charitable sector is by putting Canadians in control of their own income. We do not believe that the government has a right to demand a portion of your income (i.e. income tax). By implementing the Fair Tax (17-20% sales tax) to take the place of

income tax, Canadians have the option of being left with greater disposable income. We also believe the implementing the Fair Tax will act as an incentive to productivity and entrepreneurialism which will, in turn, result in the greater fiscal success of many Canadians. Another benefit of this method of taxation will be the creation of more jobs (a sales tax will encourage saving, which translates into investments, which translates into jobs). All three of these benefits will result in a wealthier, more generous Canada. Under these conditions, Canadians will have a greater disposable income, leaving them with more to give to non profits and charities.

The CHP will also support the non profit and charitable sector in Canada by sharing some of the burden with them. Most charities are driven by the desire to provide aid for those in need, both at home and abroad. A CHP government would help care for those “at home” (in Canada) by providing a \$1,000 family allowance to families with children under 18 still living at home. This allowance will also apply to families who provide in home care for an elderly parent or a family members living with disabilities. This will not only help reduce financial hardship within a family, but it will encourage stability in homes by making it more possible for a family to subsist on a single income. A CHP government would implement government assistance for humanitarian programs which minister to the hurting, strive for reconciliation in marriage through counselling, support those involved in crisis pregnancies and seek to help individuals overcome difficulties that inhibit self-reliance.

These are a few examples of the various ways that a CHP government will encourage those worthy organizations that are operating for the honourable cause of caring for others in our country.

### **Joe PRESTON, Conservative Party**

No answer

### **Fred SINCLAIR, New Democratic Party**

I think all levels of government need to work with and hear non-profits’ and charities’ requests for help, issues and needs.

If elected I would sit down and discuss with the charities and nonprofit groups what their issues and concerns are and work with them.

### **Graham WARWICK, Liberal Party**

Thank you for your e-mail. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my support for the 161,000 Charities and Nonprofits in Canada. The work you do is vital to making a stronger and more just society. If elected, I along with the Liberal Party will strongly support our Nonprofit sector through investments in Canadian culture, supporting our immigrants and refugees and by demanding equal pay for equal work to recognize the important role women play in our labour force.

A Liberal government will significantly increase support for the Canadian artists and creators by doubling the annual budget of the Canada Council for the arts from \$180 million to \$360 million over the next four years. We will also restore the Promart and Trade Routes cultural promotion programs, increasing their funding to \$25 million. Both these programs play an important role in bringing Canadian culture to the world and increasing our exports.

If elected, I will work with the Liberal party to fix the immigration and refugee determination process as one of my top priority. Waiting times are currently unacceptably long and the procedures are confusing and inefficient. We will consult with Canadians and recent immigrants on finding ways to better improve this system, while continuing to focus on family reunification and expanded language training for new Canadians as a crucial part of Canada's immigration policy. We will also work hard on credential recognition so that foreign trained immigrants are able to work in their specialized fields in a more timely manner.

Thirdly a Liberal government will recognize the important role that women play in our workforce by taking immediate steps upon being elected to reverse the Harper government's decision to reduce pay equity to an ordinary labour relations and collective bargaining issue in federally regulated industries. We would instead create an effective, proactive system for implementing and monitoring pay equity at the federal level in which equality is again recognized as a human right.

Again, I thank you for the important work you do and I invite you to go to my website at <http://grahamwarwick.liberal.ca/> to learn more about the Liberal platform and the things I believe in.