

# MUNICIPAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 2000

# Ask *the candidates about* *Public Libraries* *in Toronto*

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You may find the following suggested questions helpful when you attend your local candidates meeting.

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1. Studies have shown that libraries contribute to the business, economic, and cultural life of a community.
  - A. ***Do you believe that public libraries are an essential service to our community? Why/Why not?***
  - B. ***As a politician, what is your view of the value of libraries to the people in your community?***
- 2 Our public library responds to the needs of our community in a rapidly changing world. Public Libraries serve as one of the finest information services in our rapidly changing world.
  - A. ***How would you rank the library in importance among municipally funded services?***
  - B. ***What will you do to support equity of access to library service?***
3. The library is an economic asset with valuable collections including Internet access to other library collections worldwide.
  - A. ***How would you enhance and maintain the value of that asset?***
  - B. ***Do you know the library budget for this year?***
  - C. ***How would you support the library's role in exposing local citizens to new technologies and thereby enhancing their ability to compete in a global economy?***
4. Municipal Councillors determine the quality of public library service in Ontario through budget allocation and by appointing public library boards. In times of economic difficulty and social change, the public library helps people find information they seek for their professional and personal lives.
  - A. ***Do you use your library card?***
  - B. ***What is your vision of our public library in the next century?***
  - C. ***How will you ensure effective governance through the appointment of committed board members which will represent the diverse needs of our community?***
5. The public library demonstrates our society's belief in the value of universal education as a continuing and life-long process. Public support is the highest for the educational role of public libraries.
  - A. ***Provincial reductions in school funding imposed new demands on the public library system. If elected, would you consider more funding for the library to meet these demands?***
6. Every February, libraries celebrate Intellectual Freedom and Freedom to Read Week.
  - A. ***How would you support Intellectual Freedom in your community?***
7. Because of the tremendous number of citizens who make use of its sources, the library is one of the most visible of all municipal government agencies.
  - A. ***What do you think the role of the Toronto Public Library should be in making information about City policies, programs and publications available to the people of Toronto?***