

## *Seniors want to know... Questions for Candidates*

### **Ageing at Home**

Seniors have stated that they want to age in place (at home, in their communities), but some often need help with baths, meals, shopping, transportation and housework to stay at home safely. Community support services provide such necessary assistance.

**Q1: If elected, will you promote provision of a comprehensive range of local community support services for seniors?**

**Q2: If elected, will you support funding by Council to develop or expand local community support services?**

### **Basket of Services**

Depending on their individual circumstances, seniors across Ontario need different services to be able to stay at home, but not all services are available in all communities. Seniors need to be able to access a full basket of services so that they can get the services they need.

**Q1: Are you committed to providing access to a basket of services for seniors?**

**Q2: If elected, what will you do to ensure that the basket of services is available in our community?**

### **Primary Care in the Community**

In order to age in place seniors need access to in-home primary care services. Programs like House Calls have proven effective at keeping seniors healthy and at home.

**Q: If elected, will you vote to provide or facilitate access to in-home primary care services to seniors?**

### **Voice of Seniors**

Policies for seniors are usually made without input from seniors. The result is failure to take into account the needs and preferences of seniors.

**Q: How will you ensure that the voices of seniors are heard in the development of local policies and programmes that affect them?**

### **Accessible Public Transportation**

Seniors need accessible and affordable public transportation to maintain our independence in the community, to get to medical appointments, buy groceries, visit with friends and participate fully in community life.

- Q: What will you do to ensure the municipality plans for accessible and affordable transportation services to assist seniors and others with mobility needs? What strategies will you seek to ensure affordability for everyone, including seniors?**

### **Affordable, Accessible Housing**

Another way to help keep seniors living in their own homes and communities, and reduce the demand for more expensive hospital and long-term care beds, is providing affordable and accessible housing for seniors. Municipal governments control the types, number, and location of housing units built in their communities, and play significant roles in the provision and retention of affordable housing.

**Q1: Will you ensure that Council gives priority to meeting the needs of seniors for accessible, affordable and safe housing?**

**Q2: If elected, will you ensure that builders are required to include affordable, accessible housing when the municipality considers development plans?**

### **Ensuring Housing Accessibility**

There are an increasing number of people of all ages with disabilities. Despite passage of the *Ontarians With Disabilities Act*, many of Ontario's buildings are still inaccessible to people with functional or mobility limitations. Universal Design principles foster accessibility in building design.

**Q: Will you support changing local development by-laws to make it mandatory for all new multi-story housing units to be fully accessible?**