

# PRIORITIES FOR THE CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

## WHO'S ON YOUR SIDE?

### Ask Your Candidates About These Five Priorities:

#### 1. INFRASTRUCTURE

Citizens depend on local governments to build and maintain infrastructure (water, roads, garbage, etc.) as well as social infrastructure, such as libraries, parks, community centres, etc. Municipalities are responsible for the majority of all infrastructure in our communities.

Our priorities related to infrastructure are:

- Say "No" to Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), as they cost more to taxpayers.
- Adopt a "Buy Local, Buy Canadian" policy for municipal purchases of goods and services. Let's create jobs at home in our communities.
- Ensure no contracting out of publicly delivered services.
- Continue lobbying to increase provincial government transfer payments and contributions to municipalities to ensure revenues to maintain infrastructure and programs.

#### 2. TRANSPORTATION

Throughout the Cape Breton Regional Municipality, transportation decisions made at the municipal level are very important. Citizens need accessible and environmentally sustainable transportation solutions.

Our priorities related to transportation are:

- Increase the number of public transit bus routes and the number of buses running on busier routes, and increase overall funding to the public transit system.
- Ensure public transit service on Sundays and holidays.
- Ensure that future transit buses are purchased and built in Canada, and locally where possible.

#### 3. SOCIAL WELFARE

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality is home for people with different levels of income. Our economic decisions should benefit all citizens.

Our priorities related to social welfare are:

- Implement a living wage policy for all work contracted by the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.
- Develop and implement jobs creation programs to ensure employment opportunities for youth from our communities.
- Prioritize community economic development programs to stem the flow of out-migration and the continued decline in population in our communities.
- Prioritize and fund housing revitalization programs, as well as initiatives to provide new affordable housing programs, including support for housing cooperatives as well as other forms of non-profit housing.
- Strengthen employment equity programs for municipal hiring.
- Increase funding to youth recreation programs, as well as arts and culture programs.
- Map out "community assets" and provide municipal assistance to develop and retain these assets.

*\* these community priorities for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality were developed in consultation with local groups and community members at a series of three public community visioning forums in Sydney (March 26, 2008), Glace Bay (April 3, 2008) and Sydney Mines (April 10, 2008).*

## 4. DEMOCRACY

Increased transparency and accountability, along with increased citizen involvement, in setting community priorities and decision making, will benefit all residents of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Our priorities for municipal democracy are:

- Ensure Cape Breton Regional Council practices full transparency of all decision making processes, without secrecy or closed-door decision making.
- Ensure there is broad public engagement, through regular community meetings and forums in each of our communities, so that citizens can be involved from start to finish in policy decisions.
- Support citizen stakeholder involvement in all development decisions.
- Increase citizen participation in developing budget priorities which reflect the needs and values of our communities across the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.
- Ensure that Council works together as a team.
- Assess and remove barriers to citizen participation, including initiating education campaigns on municipal planning and budgeting processes.
- Support and encourage the development of emerging community leaders, to ensure the Cape Breton region has the future leadership it needs to prosper and grow.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT

Decisions we make today will have an impact on the Earth and on the quality of life for ourselves and our children and grandchildren.

Our priorities related to the environment are:

- Encourage and improve recycling and composting programs.
- Improve and enhance our public transit system and develop and support green alternatives (bike lanes, walking trails, etc.)
- Provide support and programs to increase home energy efficiency and utilization of solar energy and sustainable technology.

# GET OUT AND VOTE: OCTOBER 18, 2008

## Going to an “All Candidates” Meeting? Ideas for questions

When you are attending “All Candidates” meetings in your community or meeting your local candidates, you may want to use these sample questions to find out what their positions are on important community issues.

1. As an elected Councillor, what actions would you take to address sustainability and the environment?
2. What would you do to address affordable housing issues in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality? Do you feel that the Municipality has a direct role to play in supporting the development and construction of new housing cooperatives, non-profit and transitional housing?
3. How would you improve the public transit system?
4. What is your position on “Public-Private Partnerships” (P3s) and the privatization of our municipal resources and infrastructure? Would you oppose contracting out public services?
5. Do you agree the Municipality needs to adopt a “Buy Local, Buy Canadian” policy for all municipal purchases of goods, services and infrastructure, to keep jobs at home?



Recycled

Cert no. SW-COC-0013  
© 1996 FSC



Canadian Labour Congress

Congrès du travail du Canada