



## Questions for your Candidates. Election Day October 19.



### 1. What policies in your party's election platform do you feel will be most beneficial to residents of Cumberland-Colchester?

**(Armstrong):** When re-elected my top priority will be to continue to create jobs here in the riding. Policies that make it easier for small business to grow and create jobs, like our Conservative plan to lower the small business tax from 11% to 9% will help more than 700,000 small businesses across Canada. Our plan - and track record - of lowering taxes to create jobs is the biggest contrast to the Liberals who plan massive tax increases.

**(Blanch):** We will develop The Canadian Sustainable Generations Fund that will make critical investments in trades, apprenticeships, and education, and will ensure that all Canadians have the skills and training to prosper today and contribute to building the Canada of tomorrow.

**(Casey):** The Liberal plan for infrastructure investment of \$125 billion over 10 years will significantly benefit our riding. There is a strong focus on renewable energy throughout our plan, including \$100 million annually for innovation. With the federal government's support we can establish and develop tidal, geothermal and other potential energy sources.

**(Jackson):** I am offering the opportunity for citizens to be directly involved in government. I want to enhance our democracy so that we are the prototype for effective government across the nation. I am tabling a democratic process which utilizes technology, to return democracy to its grass roots citizen origin. I have complete confidence that the citizens of our constituency, and Canada, are capable of formulating an effective direction rather than a handful of professional politicians in the PMO.

**(Robinson):** Making it easier for seasonal workers to get UI and stay in our region is very important. With improved access to pharmacare, people won't have to choose between drugs and heat. Along with the change in eligibility for old age pensions from 67 to 65 years of age. The promise of \$15 daycare will allow more women to work outside the homes. Our leader's promise to work more closely with all levels of government means we can finally plan our way toward rural sustainability.

### 2. In working with provincial and municipal governments, what specific talents will you bring to the table to rebuild or significantly improve the economy of Rural Nova Scotia?

**(Armstrong):** It is important to be able to work with people and groups to get things done for those who serve. Since I was first elected nearly 6 years ago I have worked with various Departments, levels of Government, and community groups to fund more than 300 projects across the riding. This has meant hundreds of millions of investment for Cumberland - Colchester. Here in this area alone we have seen funding for Veterans' Memorial Park in Bass River, a new water tower in Debert; and tidal power in the Bay of Fundy. These projects directly reflected the priorities of the communities. Talk is cheap, but I've delivered.

**(Blanch):** I am by training a facilitator and counsellor. The skills necessary to excel in these positions are an ability to listen deeply and identify meaning. This is a talent that will serve well in working across party lines and with all levels of government. As the Ivany Report identifies, we need an atmosphere of collaboration in government that lasts longer than the normal 4 year election cycle.

**(Casey):** In my business career I established several small businesses; and I have worked as a Member of Parliament for seventeen years, and as a senior official of the Nova Scotia government. This experience and perspective are important resources.

**(Jackson):** As an Independent I have the complete freedom to work with all parties and all levels of government. The ability to collaborate with the MLA's is the most important role that an MP in our riding can have. I personally do not believe in separation of Constitutional powers so would participate in all policy areas. On the economic front, I plan to have technology companies and the supporting infrastructure come to our region. Rural Nova Scotia needs to move forward by opening itself to new economic sectors.

**(Robinson):** My experience as Mayor and Town Councillor in Stewiacke gives me the solid background I need to develop plans and work with others. I have already established relationships with other municipal leaders and I understand the inner workings of municipal government. I understand the relationship between all three levels of government and can navigate within each level.

### 3. What methods of communications will you use to keep in constant touch with residents of Cumberland-Colchester? If town hall meetings are part of that accountability plan how often do you anticipate holding them for small specific areas within the constituency?

**(Armstrong):** I have - and will continue to - communicate with constituents using a number of different methods. I have held a dozens of Town Hall meetings across the riding since 2011; I send out flyers on Government policies and initiatives; I have Facebook, Twitter, and a webpage which are followed by thousands of local residents; I contribute a monthly column to the Shoreline Journal; and most importantly I constantly attend community events to meet and talk with community residents. I will continue to make myself accessible to constituents as long as I have the honour of being your Member of Parliament

**(Blanch):** Green Party has a policy of holding regular town hall meetings where residents can come out monthly to voice their

concerns or seek clarification on certain issues and policies. These meetings will happen monthly and will rotate to different communities in the riding.

**(Casey):** As an MP for 17 years, I regularly held town hall meetings scheduled or upon request. I plan to keep in touch with our constituents through my website and by email, I am easy to get in touch with.

**(Jackson):** If town hall meetings are part of that accountability plan how often do you anticipate holding them for small specific areas within the constituency? The technology I am offering is already in place for all communication at www.kenneth-jackson.ca. Further, I plan to spend the majority of my time in the riding. I would only be in Ottawa for formal sittings of the House of Commons.

**(Robinson):** I intend to use a newsletter, hard copy and on-line to keep in touch with the most rural of the residents. I anticipate holding constituency days in settled area to meet with residents throughout prearranged days. I would hope to get to each area once a year.

### 4. In what way will you work with community groups, which focus on a specific region (Example: Glenholme to Five Islands) to strengthen the economy of each area?

**(Armstrong):** I will continue to work with community groups to deliver funding which support local projects and priorities. This approach was successful in delivering funding to Veterans' Memorial Park, as well as to numerous seniors groups and community halls. These projects improve our local facilities and put local trades people to work.

**(Blanch):** Each area and community group will receive the same respect and attention. The actual support they receive will be dependent on what sort of initiative they are advocating for and the type of support that they require. I will strive to respond to the initiatives of the community and not to try to implement solutions with a top down approach. No idea is a good idea unless it is understood and supported by the community.

**(Casey):** I would work with our communities to help them identify their own strengths, and to assist them in building on those strengths by accessing the available government programs.

**(Jackson):** I embrace full collaboration in all aspects of riding activity. Discussions with citizens, business, non-profits and municipal groups will occur on a regular basis.

**(Robinson):** If people make me aware, I will attend all meetings concerned with community improvement and development. I will investigate sources of funding for all the groups I work with.

### 5. Will you form several localized "citizen's advisory" committees to work as volunteers on-an-ongoing basis to report to and meet with you to provide "grassroots" needs and expectations on what your office should deliver? If so, how many committees?

**(Armstrong):** I constantly seek the feedback and input of constituents. This is done at my Town Hall meetings which have been held throughout the riding, as well as on feedback forms on my mail outs. However, I still believe that the best way to hear from constituents is to attend community events, that is why I have attended thousands of meetings and events over the past 6 years as your MP.

**(Blanch):** I do not believe that I would do this. Civil society groups already exist in our communities and I do not feel I would have the ability to create a truly representative group. I will be open and responsive to all groups and individuals that approach me with concerns and recommendations regarding life in rural and urban Nova Scotia.

**(Casey):** I am always happy to hear from any group of constituents with input to give me and to work with them on their concerns.

**(Jackson):** Yes. In addition to the existing citizen consultations, the bulk of the actionable portion of my platform is a citizen-committee format. There would be as many as required. In addition to following through on the results, my role is to keep them effective and relevant.

**(Robinson):** I really like the idea of citizen's advisory committees and will attempt to form them whenever possible.

### 6. What process would you use to ensure each committee is "truly" representative of the area?

**(Armstrong):** Continued outreach through the meetings I mentioned above and attending events here in your own communities.

**(Blanch):** See above.

**(Casey):** I think community groups should determine their own membership from those willing to serve in that capacity.

**(Jackson):** I would identify residents through the citizen consultations. Citizens who demonstrate an interest in specific areas would be invited to participate. In the future, I would institute compensation for participation. This could be through direct payment, tax credits, tax rebates, discounts.

**(Robinson):** I will encourage fair representation of women and minorities represented in the community.

### 7. Should MP's have more opportunity to vote in accordance with wishes of their constituents, or constantly vote in favour of party policy?

**(Armstrong):** I will always put the interests of my riding first. I ran for office to serve my community, not to serve a political party. That is why I have used my voice in the House of Commons to support lower taxes, improved support for seniors, families with young children, and community projects, and to eliminate the Long Gun Registry. I believe these policies reflect the needs and values of rural communities like ours.

**(Blanch):** The Green Party has a policy of no whipped vote, I will always vote according to the needs and wishes of the constituents of our riding.

**(Casey):** I have always put our constituents first and foremost. Over the years I had voted against the party line on numerous important issues, including supporting an end to the use of cluster bombs, voting for the Clarity Act, supporting women's right to choose, and supporting the Atlantic Accord. I will continue to do so.

**(Jackson):** I believe strongly that MPs should always vote in accordance with the wishes of their constituents. The entirety of my candidacy is based on this principle.

**(Robinson):** I believe MPs should have more freedom to vote according to their conscience, but recognize that MP's must vote with their party on some priority issues.

### 8. If you favour voting according to constituent's wishes, what action or statements will you make in the House of Commons to demonstrate you will honour that commitment during your term in office?

**(Armstrong):** I regularly make statements in the House of Commons on matters of importance to Cumberland - Colchester. I share my positions with constituents through newspaper columns, by posting videos online, and through community meetings.

**(Blanch):** The Green Party policy of no whipped vote.

**(Casey):** The track record I have in the House of Commons demonstrates the lengths I will go to make sure our constituents come first.

**(Jackson):** I would relate the results of the on-line citizen consultations on a regular basis in parliament. Further, I would establish an on-going media campaign to popularize the concept of citizen engagement nationally. I would also offer a performance guarantee for the citizens of Cumberland-Colchester to constantly evaluate my performance.

**(Robinson):** If I know my constituents feel a certain way on an issue, I will try to support them as long as their stance is not overtly in opposition to my party's stand. In this case, I will vote with my conscience.

### 9. If elected as the area's MP where would you open constituency offices?

**(Armstrong):** I will continue to operate offices in Truro and Amherst as I have for the past 6 years. I will also reach out to more rural areas by continuing to have Town Hall meetings and attending community events so all Cumberland - Colchester residents have equal access to their MP.

**(Blanch):** I will have a mobile office that I will take on a set schedule to different communities in the riding. This will be more cost effective and will increase my availability in the riding.

**(Casey):** We will have primary offices in Amherst and Truro, with smaller satellite offices as needed.

**(Jackson):** The office would be in Wentworth (centre of the riding).

**(Robinson):** Constituency office should be located, in Truro, Amherst, and other communities if funding permits. Constituency Days will help replace the need for a constituency in some smaller communities so people won't have so far to drive to see their MP.

*Bass River United Baptist Church*  
5692, Hwy 2 - Bass River NS - B0M 1B0

Sunday Worship Service ..... 11 a.m.  
Bible Study - Mondays ..... 10 a.m.

 Gospel Coffee House  
4th Saturday every month... 7 p.m.

Lic. Larry Tirrell - Pastor  
Church: 902-647-2567 Home: 902-843-5941

**PROTECT & PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY MEMORIES**

 VHS Home Videos Transferred to Digital Disk

**JD MacLean & ASSOCIATES** jmaclean@eastlink.ca  
128 Oakwood Drive  
Truro, NS B6L 1N4  
Print Layout/Correction Audio - Video Production 902-893-3466