

**Dr. Stephen Ellis, Conservative Candidate
Cumberland-Colchester**

The following questionnaire was distributed to campaign offices of all candidates in Cumberland-Colchester. This submission is from Dr Stephen Ellis, candidate for the Conservative Party of Canada.



Dr. Stephen Ellis

How will you prioritize your efforts to increase housing affordability and accessibility in the Constituency?

We are not building enough homes to keep up with our population's needs. This is a big part of why homes are getting harder to afford. A Conservative Government would improve affordability through our plan to build one million homes in the next three years, provide more Canadians with a path to homeownership by making it easier for more families to get a mortgage.

With the surge of interest from people who can work from home and wishing to relocate from larger urban area to enjoy a better lifestyle or start their own business, there are two major factors: High speed broadband and condition of the rural roads. A \$-Multi-Million Broadband Construction project is in the works. What might be your plans to promote a plan with at least 50% of the significant costs funded from federal sources and remaining 50% to be responsibility of the province, municipality and taxpayers in a possible 20%, 20% and 10% contributions?

I am happy that the Conservative Party's Recovery Plan will create jobs across rural Canada - not just in big cities. We want to get people back to work. We will also take several specific steps to help rural Canadians. This includes high speed internet nation-wide, specific allocations of infrastructure spending to rural communities, and a thorough tourism strategy. Finally, a new seat at the Cabinet table for Rural communities will ensure our voice is not ignored as it has been under the Trudeau Government.

Although more of a provincial responsibility what might you be able to do to assist, mentor or help community organizations obtaining significant financial support to spearhead development of assisted senior housing and medical services / outposts in rural areas in excess of 30km from larger urban centres?

I want to help seniors stay in their own homes, improve the quality of Long-Term Care, and maintain financial security for seniors by ensuring that their pensions are secure. With my Conservative colleagues, I will help Seniors Stay in their Own Homes by amending the Home Accessibility Tax Credit by increasing the limit from \$10,000 per dwelling to \$10,000 per person; allowing seniors or their caregivers, including their children, to claim the Medical Expense Tax Credit for home care instead of only allowing them

to claim attendant care if they live in a group home. We will help the many Canadians who are taking care of their parents and help seniors avoid having to live in Long-Term Care homes by introducing the Canada Seniors Care Benefit, paying \$200 per month per household to any Canadian who is living with and taking care of a parent over the age of 70. Finally, we will fix long term care by devoting \$3 billion of infrastructure funding over the next three years to renovate Long-Term Care Homes across Canada and allocate funding to train more staff.

Wait times for ambulance service has reached crisis proportions. What do you vision as your role to assist in financial, establishment and operation of EHS ambulance services located at new medical centres / outposts?

As a family physician, I saw first hand the crisis in our healthcare system. Add to that, my daughter is a paramedic. I couldn't sit on the sidelines any longer as the Trudeau Liberals allowed it to deteriorate. I feel I am uniquely positioned to fight for the changes we need in Ottawa. I'm pleased the Conservative Party has committed to \$60B in additional transfers over the next decade, meaning Canadians will be able to count on stable and predictable health and social program funding.

Racism and cultural exclusion continues to be prevalent in rural and urban areas. What plans do you have to encourage and develop broader basis of ethnic inclusion in all areas?

As a Member of Parliament it is important to work with people from all regions, backgrounds and cultures. The Conservative Party will ensure decisions are made in a collaborative fashion and believes in equal opportunity for all, regardless of background, race, religion, or socio-economic status.

School dropouts, lack of life-long learning and skill development continues to hamper improvements in skills in trades and job readiness. How do you propose developing "grassroots" led initiatives to increase the earning capacity of residents close to their residence?

The Conservative Recovery Plan will create jobs across rural Canada - not just in big cities. It includes connecting all to high speed internet in the next couple years, ensuring Federal infrastructure spending is made in rural communities, and developing a robust tourism strategy. We will double the Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit for the next three years to help create more places for apprentices. In addition, we will invest \$250 million over two years to create the Canada Job Training Fund. We would also create a Minister of Rural Affairs, so that the voice of rural communities is heard around the Cabinet table.

What government programs are most lacking in Cumberland-Colchester? How would they help business and residents? What will you do to encourage community-led groups to put these programs in place?

There is a healthcare crisis. It has been made worse by years of Liberal Government. That's why I'm running. Better access to primary care, and mental health services can only be fixed by better Government policy. Without it, people cannot live here and raise a family. A Conservative government would invest an additional \$60 billion over the next 10 years. This money would allow the province to hire more doctors and nurses, reduce wait times and invest in mental health treatment.

What infrastructure is needed in Cumberland-Colchester to implement government programs to reduce reliance on government assistance, yet increase the incomes above the poverty level?

High speed internet is the biggest issue when it relates to job creation here. Without it, businesses will not re-locate here and young families will not move to the rural communities. We would connect ALL Canada - including rural communities to high speed internet over the next couple years.

If you were to "think outside the box" what initiatives would you propose to significantly increase the economic viability of businesses; community focused groups and residents? How would the goals be achieved?

Low and predictable tax rates; access to proper training for in-demand jobs; and the infrastructure to support the businesses and young families our area needs, including high speed internet. This means working with businesses and entrepreneurs, not dictating to them or layering them with additional costs and red tape.

If you were elected on September 20th what will you do to change the momentum of economic development from "top down" to "grassroots bottom-up"?

The current government is not friendly or supportive to business. They are not friendly or supportive of rural communities. They have increases taxes, red-tape, and policies which make life more expensive in rural communities. We need a government that supports and values entrepreneurs and supports rural Canada, not just our big cities

What personal talents and efforts do you promise to commit to the constituency to "Champion a movement to improve economic well-being and improved lifestyle for all residents and businesses?"

I believe in service. I have served Canada in the Armed Forces for almost a decade; I have served my patients as a family physician for more than 20 years, and I have served our Northern Region as the COVID medical lead. I now want to serve Cumberland-Colchester. It is not about ego, it is about serving your constituents and advocating for the policies that will make us healthier, safer, and more prosperous. That is what I will continue to do as MP.

Why should people vote for you?

Our healthcare system is in crisis. That's why I politics. We deserve better than what we have received from 6 years of Liberal Government under Trudeau. I will fight for better healthcare, and be a voice for rural communities, job creation, and fiscal responsibility.

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Thank you

Words cannot truly express how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve and work with you over the next four years.



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