

**Daniel Osborne, New Democratic Candidate
Cumberland-Colchester**

The following questionnaire was distributed to campaign offices of all candidates in Cumberland-Colchester. This submission is from Daniel Osborne, candidate for the New Democratic Party of Canada.



Daniel Osborne

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

Housing is an issue that needs collaboration between all the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, as well as community organizations and the private sector. I believe strongly in the NDP's commitment to build 500 000 new affordable homes across the country, and I will make sure that plan includes Cumberland-Colchester. We can build good, affordable homes, and create good jobs for members of our communities in the process.

2. With the surge of interest from people who can work from home and wishing to relocate from larger urban areas to enjoy a better lifestyle or start their own business, there are two major factors: High speed broadband and the condition of the rural roads. 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 the responsibility of the province, municipality and taxpayers in a possible 20%, 20% and 10% contributions?

Our infrastructure is the #1 driver of our economy. In order to have an economy that is in good shape, we must first have infrastructure that is in good shape. And in the twenty-first century, the internet is one of the most important types of infrastructure. Without access to high-speed internet, it can be difficult to do business, learn, and access online healthcare resources. This is detrimental to our economy and our communities. That's why I believe the federal government needs to invest in rural internet. The NDP has a plan to invest 55% from the federal level, and require a provincial investment of 23%, and the balance shared by local internet users and service providers.

3. 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?

Keeping seniors in the communities that they're a part of and want to be in is crucial. We have so many older folks who spent their entire lives giving to their communities, and I believe that we need somebody in Parliament who will fight for proper funding for our support for seniors.

4. Wait times for ambulance service have 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?

This is one of the biggest issues that Nova Scotia is facing right now. Unfortunately, it's mostly under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. I believe that the federal government needs to encourage the Province to properly fund the EHS, while also respecting their purview over the issue.

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

I understand that building a Cumberland-Colchester where everybody feels included - regardless of their race - will come from government action, but it will also come from a shift in the views and beliefs of our society over time. I would be personally committed, as MP for Cumberland-Colchester, to making sure that all laws passed by our government are inclusive; anti-racist and non-discriminatory. If we're going to build communities where everybody feels included, and everybody wants to include others, we need to start by making sure the government never leaves anybody behind. I would also like to listen to Black and Indigenous members of our community about how we should approach this issue. I'm white, and so are the two other major candidates in this race. No matter who wins, they will never have experienced racism, and we're going to have to start by listening.

6. 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?

We need to work toward making it easier for people who didn't complete high school to go back and get a GED. I also think that there's a lot of work to be done to make post-secondary education more accessible. I would work as our MP to make community college free for everybody, so that all of our community members can go to school, obtain a diploma, and earn a living near their home in an area of their choice.

7. 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?

I believe that Cumberland and Colchester each need to have their own agencies to promote tourism, similar to "Discover Halifax" in the HRM. I would work with community members who also believe in the need for an organization like this, and work with the federal government to get funding for these organizations.

**Jillian Foster, Green Party Candidate
Cumberland-Colchester**

The following questionnaire was distributed to campaign offices of all candidates in Cumberland-Colchester. This submission is from Jillian Foster, candidate for the Green Party of Canada.



Jillian Foster

As I was not selected as the local Green candidate until after the original deadline for this paper I am open to constituents calling me personally on all questions- 902 664 4307. I do "google" and have many of my personal views posted on the web. See especially www.linkedin.com/in/jfosterdvm and <https://www.facebook.com/think-food-affect-and-effect-1253122301463160>

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

I have lots of ideas, each property is different but getting resources needed into those able to take action and sharing of expenses has to be key.

2. 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 the responsibility of the province, municipality and taxpayers in a possible 20%, 20% and 10% contributions?

The question here is who is going to profit long term? But having eyes in rural Canada is a plus for the entire nation not just the people who live here...so federal cost to more.

...go to top of next column.

8. 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?

We need more than just infrastructure for a solution. Canada needs a Universal Basic Income. It makes sense, and has support from economists and politicians of all stripes. It saves money that would be spent on other government assistance programs, and provides the country a better workforce and a safer, kinder society. With universal basic income, every resident of Cumberland-Colchester would be living outside of the poverty level, and nobody would be left behind.

9. 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?

We need to reach "zero waste" in Canada. The amount of garbage we throw out, and toxins we put into the environment is terrible for the environment, but it's also not good for business. Everything costs us money, including things that we just throw out. I would like to work with all levels of government, and the private sector, to reach a point where we're not wasting any of our valuable resources.

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

In order to build a grassroots economic issue, we need to get money out of politics. The reason our economy and political systems disproportionately benefit the wealthy is because the two parties who traditionally govern Canada, the Liberals and Conservatives, are close friends with those same wealthy individuals and businesses. Businesses like Loblaw and Irving, who shouldn't have any influence on our politics. A vote for me is a vote for something different from that corrupt norm.

11. 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 think the best thing that I can do to improve the economic well-being of our area is to listen. I want to listen to our local MLAs, mayors, and business owners to hear what they need to improve the well-being of all of our residents, and then I will be best prepared to make sure the federal government is properly addressing their needs.

12. Why should people vote for you?

I am the youngest candidate in this race. In fact, Lenore and Stephen are both old enough to be my parents. Some may say that makes me unqualified. I, however, believe the opposite is true. I know what it's like to grow up in an economy that's rigged against you from the start. I know what it's like to live in a world where the environment is slowly dying, where I'll never be able to enjoy it with my kids the way my parents did with me. I'm also not a political insider. Our MP was elected two years ago and hasn't passed a single bill. But I can guarantee you that I have the drive, and the passion to work on these issues that me, and every resident of Cumberland-Colchester faces. A vote for me is a vote for something better. And if you ask me, we're ready for better.

3. 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?

My parents stay with me out of necessity, this is a concern of mine especially given what has happened recently with new residents in their later years...ask

4. 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?

Decentralization of healthcare is a must, perhaps the military should be our air ambulances...and augment paramedic services...more later

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

I visited South Africa during apartheid. Discrimination and exclusion based on any visible or invisible factor eats at me to the core especially where there is no justifiable reason for divisiveness. The Green party core values speak to this, especially that of diversity, both with man, infectivity and the environment.

7. 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?

As a mother of four children who went through the rural NS school system I see a lot of potential here, essentially, we need less top down direction and more inclusivity and teaching of core green values with accurate science in the schools. This doesn't happen as much as it should locally and is often based on teacher volunteerism and home and school. Volunteers and acceptance of external local resources for teaching is a must...the protocol should fit the patient, not the patient the protocol. Post secondary education should not only be accessible to those who have the financial means but accessible to those with commitment to learning and selection based on potential.

8. 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?

Hmm...

9. 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?

Basic living wage???

10. 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?

There needs to be a reinvestment in the regenerative and renewable resources that can do well here...Grass and pastoral agriculture is key. Community health and economic wellbeing begin at the true grass roots...we are fortunate that grass can grow well here...a return to the historic levels of productivity from local farm land would be both sustainable and help our community thrive. "Death tax" sales of viable farms, forests and businesses out of productivity should be addressed...lots to learn here.

11. 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"?

This is a hot topic but it starts at the real grass roots...let the green grass be grazed...just ask me...one simple change would be to have all federal programs geared to funding to export based developments also be applicable for "import replacement" based development. To do things our selves and support local keeps our communities strong and allows for circulation of wealth within our community and keeps overall community expenses down, 20 fold. Too complicated to go into here...but I am willing to share if asked directly.

12. 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 have spent many years of listening, problem solving and finding solutions within my client's means - I bring these skills to the table. In the last 17 years I have dealt with the aftermath of the mad cow crisis on our family farm Linden Leas and the secondary effects on my vet practice. In looking for solutions to survival-"leaving no stone unturned" led me to understand a little more of all levels of government and law than most are exposed to. I am a mother of 4, (yes I know what it is like to be a self-employed single mum) and now grandmother to 4. I am privileged but have experienced much in the work place both as employer and employee, and in working with clients. I was instrumental in starting Northumberland Veterinary Services in Pugwash and also started a food-farm cooperative. If there is a way...I will find it...

13. Why should people vote for you?

I am running under the Green party banner because the Green party core values or fundamental principles of: Non-violence; Sustainability; Social Justice; Ecological Wisdom; Participatory Democracy and Respect for Diversity. These are central to my being and actions. As a farmer, the Green party is the only party that prioritizes regenerative agriculture (pastoral agriculture is key) and recognizes that man cannot sustainably bully or destroy natural systems and survive, but we must work within our means and with the earth to survive and be a place where my grandkids can thrive. As a veterinarian I have spent years dealing with health and sickness in large and small animals. The concept of ONE HEALTH is embodied in my thoughts and actions embraced by the green party, but not the other parties. Today, after over 30 years practicing as a vet, know I could do more for our community as a Member of Parliament than as a veterinarian. I am committed to doing the job well. As a Green MP I would have the ability to vote with my conscience and for the longterm benefit of all...not just the popular or party decision...Cumberland Colchester has been a back bench riding for far too long, being a Green candidate no matter, who is in power, I could vote for the best decision for the riding. Green is not just a colour, it is a way to live. Green action is needed for today and the future.

I wish you all the best of health.
Please vote Jillian Foster

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