

# PEC Chamber of Commerce Candidate's Questionnaire

The PEC Chamber of Commerce's Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee recently surveyed their members, asking them what their top priorities are for the next council. From those priorities we have created the following questions. As is our tradition, we have also asked the Prince Edward Federation of Agriculture to provide questions as well. If possible, we would like these questions to be answered and submitted by noon on Tuesday, September 25th. Please be aware that these answers may become available to the public.

## Prince Edward County Chamber of Commerce Questions

Please fill out your name and ward.

Barry Turpin Ward 1, Picton

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**How will you tackle the Workforce Development and labour shortage issues in Prince Edward County?**

We have to work with the employers and solve some of the problems around accommodation as well as some specific training for their needs.(HEAT)

Employers need to work with the County to make sure their ideas are put forward so we can work together to solve this problem.

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**Affordable Housing is at a crisis point, what action will you take to address it to ensure current residents can afford to continue living here and new, young residents are enticed to move here?**

We need to improve our housing stock in smaller homes and also rental properties. The non profit Corporation will help to develop more affordable housing. Using vacant buildings such as schools properly can help with this as well (LOVESONG in Bloomfield). Queen Elizabeth School when available. It would be nice if some large AIR BNB would use their properties for supplying housing for workers.

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Short Term Accommodations licensing and registration - do you agree with the direction the County is currently taking? What is your plan for dealing with Short Term Accommodations in PEC?

We need to have some rules to make sure that there is a level playing field for those that wish to rent out their houses or rooms. In order to do this we need to have some sort of licencing to determine what is here now. Eventually we should bring in a MAT Municipal Accommodation Tax to help pay for affordable housing and help to solve the question about employment.

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Development Charges and Process Restructure – there is a severe staff shortage in the Planning Department and the planning process is considered by many to be onerous and costly. How do you propose to address it?

We need to review this and continue to work with developers to improve our processes. If we need staff, we will continue to look for the best people to fill these positions.

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Would you support the waiver or reduction of development charges and building permit fees for affordable housing development to encourage such development?

I would but it must be done on a case by case basis and I see this is one of the things that an Affordable Housing Corporation could look at.

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What are your thoughts on Downtown Revitalization within Picton, Bloomfield, Wellington and Consecon as well as the parking issues faced by these towns?

We must work with each area to solve the problems for their particular area as each one is different. Community Improvement Plans need to be developed for the individual area.

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Roads and infrastructure (state of roads, drainage, water and sewage). Does the County have the means to deal with the true quality issues for roads in the County? What is your plan for addressing these major infrastructure projects?

We have to keep these issues in the best shape that we can and work with higher levels of Governments for larger projects.

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## Prince Edward Federation of Agriculture (PEFA) Questions

Farm land property taxes have increased by over 25% for the second year resulting in the farm tax class share of County expenses rising to 2.2% of County revenue from 1.6% in 2016. Are you willing to support reducing farm tax ratio to ensure the percentage of municipal tax revenue contributed by the farm property tax remains at the level of 2018?

We Have an ad hoc committee for farmers now and we need to see how that works to take the strain off the most vulnerable in that sector.

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There is an urgent need to relax the current half load restrictions which are a barrier to farmers who need to market beans and corn to fill contracts where the farmers do not control the scheduled delivery dates. These deliveries should be included with other essential services such as the transport of milk, potable water and prepared animal feeds as they are required to meet the market demands for animal and human consumption. The timely sale of these commodities are essential for farm viability and maintaining worker employment in the winter. Are you in favour of removing the seasonal axle load restrictions that can impede the movement of farmers' crops to markets as required?

I agree that there is a problem that needs to be solved but I am not sure what the best solution is.

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There is a need for adequate emergency services in rural areas and improved response times. A Farm 911 Sign initiative has been created in The Quinte area. How does this municipality handle civic addresses on vacant properties? Is there a program in place for farmers to request a civic address for vacant farm land and what is the fee?

I think we need better 911 signage but it must be where the farmers need it the most. I think that we could help the farmers if a certain amount from the sale of these 911 signs go into the fund to help farmers.

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Do you support the OFA position that all new farm buildings should be exempt from development charges as is currently the case in most Counties including Prince Edward County?

If these are farm buildings and not used for Commercial buildings after they are built. eg. storage buildings

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!



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