

# 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.

Dianne O'Brien

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

I would like to see a trade school here in the county that provides hands on training relating to carpenters, plumbers etc. We could work with our local college to provide this training as well as look to some experienced people that are looking to retire from the workforce.

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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?**

I would work very closely with Habitat by providing some land that is surplus to our needs. I strongly support Habitat as I believe there is pride in ownership and that builds much needed confidence in home owners. I would also look at some type of fee reduction.

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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?

conflict of interest due to son and daughter in law operating airBnB in Bloomfield

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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?

First I ask why there is such a shortage of staff in the Planning Dept and address that issue. Work with local college to solicit new graduates.

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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 support a reduction of development charges and fees to allow for and encourage affordable housing

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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?

It is vital to our County to have our Downtowns flourish and I would work towards that end. For example Parking is an issue that should be address perhaps some parking at fair grounds with a shuttle service provided for the business employees.

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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?

No we do not currently have the means to deal with the roads and infrastructure however we could lobby all levels of government to provide more funding. Have projects shovel ready for possible funding.

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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?

I would consider reducing the farm tax ratio if the program set up to assist New and Young Farmers does not provide the necessary assistance.

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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?

Yes I would support reducing the 1/2 load restriction for the farmers.

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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?

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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?

Yes definitely

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!



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