

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.

Gil Leclerc

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

Anything to do with Workforce is complex with no simple answer. If you are talking about Improving our workforce there are many ongoing efforts underway which are addressing current workforce capabilities (such as Work Place ethics or skills development - see Prince Edward Learning Centre PELC). If you are talking about developing the economy for more work such as attracting business to the County then I suggest the economy has industries such as Ag (Farms) and Agr-itourism (wineries) or straight tourism (Shopping, Sand Banks, Air BnB etc) that are doing very fine and need more labor support in the form of accommodations, bylaw enforcement and in the case of shopping in the County - better signage and bathrooms. In the end many people come to the County to work but cant find a place to stay so cannot work here. So that takes us to your next question.

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?

This was the #1 election platform 12 years ago! And still nothing has been done to successfully address this issue. Furthermore, i don't think I would be exaggerating if I said the issue has gotten much worse! Therefore, I support the idea of a formal Commission to deal with this issue which will take it out (mostly) of the political sphere and into a single issue based, focused group. I do have some suggestions. 1) Open a Hostel. The Hostel offers low cost mid-term accommodation for families and individuals. There is nothing fancy about a Hostel. But it is a bed and a kitchen. Casual workers, temp workers, seasonal workers can all start by staying in a Hostel until more permanent accommodations can be arranged. 2) Plan to build Apartments. The County can hold land to create apartments on and offer incentives to builders to erect them. 3) Enforce the bylaws that are possibly eliminating potential LT rentals for ST in the case of Air BnB.

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?

Yes, we need to find the balance between the competing forces

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?

The Planning department needs more staff. There is money that needs to be reallocated from other departments. I would not add but reallocate.

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

Yes., see my answer above

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

Yes! We need to listen to the businesses on Main St (Picton, Wellington, Bloomfield etc). They need to structure what would be the best way to aid them. We have to prioritize the list and then take appropriate, affordable actions. As far as I know, Ec Dev has dropped the ball on this one.

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 need to rationalize our infrastructure. We need to know what is a need and what is nice to have. WE need a budget that serves our basic needs first. Then lets chat about some of the other things

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 support the single most important economic driver in the COUNTY - Farming. So yes I would reduce the tax burden on this industry.

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 with the half load removal of restrictions FOR FARMERS. But I would like to hear the impact on the roads from the Road repair people so I could understand the costs of such a reduction in terms of road repairs.

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 dont know why I would want a civic address for a field. Unless of course I expect to have an emergency on the part of the land (ie; Farming accident). I think GPS location services are working really well now.

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?

I am not sure why or why not we charge or don't charge for development of a farm business. Is this another way we support Farmers, what about all businesses request to expand. This may be part of the Farm tax reduction discussions

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!



This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms