

# 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.

Phil Prinzen. Ward 2 Bloomfield-Hallowell

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

The workforce development and labour shortages are broad issues that I believe all relates back to the housing shortage we have. People that have chosen to live outside of the area have also decided to work outside of the County. It's an issue that would be tackled in connection with the housing issue

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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 believe a short term accommodation bylaw/regulation of some sort would address some of these issues

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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?

I believe that the short term accommodation licensing and registration is a step in the right direction. I don't agree totally with the one that has been presented but I do believe they need to be registered and regulated.

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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?

All departments would need to be looked at for efficiency and duplications.

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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 believe first we need to determine what is affordable housing. Any major developments that was for "affordable" housing would have to be considered for a reduction. I would be against a total waive of development fees or building permits

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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 need to have our downtowns. But they also need to be customer friendly to promote people to going to them. We need to also look at more parking like in Bloomfield keeping a corner of the Pinecrest school to make public parking for the downtown. This could be free parking and have parking meters on the streets as it has been said that some people park all day on the main streets to either work or other activities.

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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?

Roads and infrastructure is a major concern of people as it's something they see or use everyday. I believe we need to create a few more dollars from our visitors to help repair or replace this infrastructure.

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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 think it needs to be looked at again. The program they put in place for young farmers is great but doesn't really address the majority of farmers in Prince Edward

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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 believe that we should be able to work together on such issues. I don't think we can totally remove all the axle limitations but when it comes to products that are sensitive to seasonal changes and other wise would be wasted we need to make sure those get where they need to when they need to.

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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?

Farm 911 is a great project that needs to be supported by everyone in Prince Edward County. I don't have all the details as to where Prince Edward is on the request and the fees but it should be a priority to make it done at little to no cost to land owners of this county

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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

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire!



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