

## Survey of By-election Candidates (November 2013): Highlights

The following are some highlights from the survey results:

- NDP candidates responded that the certainty of a long-term plan means more effective planning to meet housing needs.
- Liberal candidates mentioned that a long-term and flexible plan is necessary to meet the housing needs of Canadians.
- The Green Party indicated that the housing should be seen as an investment in the future and it advocates energy efficiency measures to reduce the cost of shelter.
- Conservative party candidates did not respond to the survey, despite repeated requests.
- The candidates believe we need a wide range of important federal-municipal partnerships to address critical needs, such as housing, infrastructure, transit and waste water.
- The Liberal candidate in Toronto Centre told FCM that her party has promised a highly flexible long-term Affordable Housing Strategy, with real money behind it. She also indicated that Liberal party will continue to make affordable housing a priority, as Party members having overwhelmingly supported a National Housing Strategy.
- The Liberal candidate in Bourassa indicated he is committed to reaching out to his municipal council on housing issues.
- The NDP candidate in Toronto Centre said that municipalities need the certainty of long-term funding arrangements in order to efficiently plan for their housing needs, also arguing that infrastructure and public transit are critical areas for increased federal collaboration. She also said that the federal government must put cities like Toronto at the heart of its national agenda. She also made the link between a decline in social programs and services, and the cost of housing. She indicated that the protection of health care services for families in the Greater Toronto Area is vital to ensuring that no parent has to choose between paying the rent and providing care for a sick child.
- The Green Party candidate in Toronto Centre said that providing affordable housing is an essential investment in the future of our communities, arguing that the term "affordable housing" should include not only rental costs, but the cost of the green, energy-efficient utilities to support that home.

