

# FoTTSA SPECIAL REPORT:

## Your Guide to the 2019 Federal Election

The upcoming federal election takes place on October 21. To help Simcoe North voters make an informed decision, we invited candidates to answer seven questions. Their responses appear below. For information on how and where to vote, visit the Elections Canada website: [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca)



**Bruce Stanton,**  
Conservative Party  
of Canada  
(incumbent)



**Gerry Hawes,**  
Liberal Party  
of Canada



**Stephen T. Makk,**  
People's Party  
of Canada

### 1. What personal experience and traits would serve you well as an elected member of parliament?

**In the years since I was first elected to be your MP, I have used a customer service approach,** learned from years of experience in our family's tourism business, to help resolve constituent problems, attract record federal investments, and provide services to the people of Simcoe North. My guiding principles around public policy are found in the Conservative traditions of fostering free markets, innovation, and private enterprise; upholding crucial public institutions and investments that underpin Canada's integrated, diverse social well-being.

**As a bilingual, lifelong resident of this area and long-time executive assistant to former Liberal MP Paul DeVillers, I am in tune with the people of Simcoe North.** As an accomplished public policy professional and senior government advisor, I know how to navigate bureaucracy, open doors, and get things done. I am a hard-working leader who values fairness, equity and inclusion, and enjoys working with people from all walks of life.

**My education and experience as a professional engineer have taught me how to understand and solve problems.** I will make sure that I completely understand the nature of an issue or problem before jumping to solutions. I will be careful to exclude emotion from my decision-making process while acknowledging the emotions of others as relevant information. Good decisions require collaboration with peers and, most of all, the input of those affected. I am an "ideas person" who values open-mindedness.

### 2. What would be your personal top priority as an elected representative of your party?

**Our top priority will be on affordability and helping people in Simcoe North to have more of their own money** — so they can get ahead, not just get by. Under the Liberal government, spending grew vastly beyond what they promised, deficits grew and there is no likelihood this would change if they were elected again. We will balance the budget and ensure that programs and services of the government are within our means as a country, and do so without raising taxes.

**My top personal priority will be providing strong, inclusive, and effective representation in Ottawa** that Simcoe North currently lacks. The policy matters closest to my heart include more effective democracy through a ranked ballot, strong action on climate change and the environment, social and economic equity, affordable housing, smart community and rural economic development, supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, improving circumstances for seniors, better future pathways for young people, healthy people and communities, and providing great constituency service.

**To expand and defend the individual freedoms of Canadians.** I am concerned about the erosion of individual freedom and responsibility by government intrusion into all aspects of our lives. The government, the media it funds, and the education systems it controls, are telling the people how to think, behave and believe. For example, polls show that the majority of Canadians are concerned about immigration levels but instead of listening to citizens, there is mob condemnation and silencing of heterodox ideas.

### 3. What three federal issues do you feel are most important for constituents in Tiny Township?

**I believe residents of Tiny Township share concerns similar to all constituents across our riding.** Tax and financial policies that impact affordability; environmental policies, particularly in respect to climate change; and healthcare (though not directly a federal issue) top the list of public policy concerns. On each of these priorities, our party is forwarding concrete, practical measures that will address them and make a positive difference for Canadians on each front.

**Access to quality and affordable broadband Internet is an important concern** that requires much stronger advocacy from our local Member of Parliament. Climate change, and the state of our natural environment, which is important to our local economy and well-being, require vigilant protection, and we need to find sustainable alternatives for consumer packaging. Conservative cuts to services we depend upon, including withdrawal of support for a francophone university, is also an important concern.

**This question's wording is excellent. Top-of mind issues of many voters, such as health care, housing, regulation of industry, and education, are not primarily federal matters.** They are provincial, under our constitution. I offer three over-arching issues that cover most of the more specific issues on constituents' minds:

- the economy
- personal freedom
- Canadian values, culture and identity

### 4. What does your party see as the top health care issue facing Canadians, and what solution is the party proposing?

**The most common healthcare worry is the capacity of long-term care and related services of homecare.** Though the provincial governments have the lead role in these matters, the federal government provides vital funding with annual increases the provincial health ministries can depend on. A Conservative government led by Andrew Scheer will ensure these annual increases are at least 3%. We will maintain the federal government's role in health, social science and humanities research, as well as public health coordination that supports provincial counterparts.

**The Liberal government has taken a foundational step toward developing a much-needed universal pharmacare program** in Canada with the report *A Prescription for Canada: Achieving Pharmacare for All*. Pharmacare is a high priority among Canadians and one that I wholeheartedly support. The Liberals have a long track record of developing our health care system, and I believe that Canadians want a government that is seized with improving, updating and innovating this central tenet of our social safety net.

**The top health care issue is access to services, with quality a close second.** The People's Party will improve these by getting the federal government out of health care, which is squarely under provincial jurisdiction. We would end health transfers and their associated bureaucracy, but instead give up GST points to the provinces to manage directly. We would repeal or modify the *Canada Health Act* and join all 33 other OECD nations by ending the government monopoly on delivering healthcare.

### 5. If your party forms a government, what will you do in your first 100 days in office to address the growing climate crisis?

**Andrew Scheer's Action Plan contains 55 achievable steps to environmental protection.** We will focus on green technology, not taxes. A Green Homes Tax credit to provide a 20% refundable tax credit for home improvements that reduce GHG emissions. We'll reinstate funding for wetlands, watersheds, fisheries conservation, and to protect our waterways. We'll export green energy technologies and reduce plastic waste by harmonizing and improving recycling standards across the country. We will restore funding for the Lake Simcoe Clean-up Fund.

**I support the actions the Liberal government has taken in its first term to address climate change** but believe that much more needs to be done and must be done faster. As the new Member of Parliament for Simcoe North I would advocate for substantially greater action to reduce our carbon emissions and develop energy alternatives, thus creating new, sustainable economic opportunities. Canada has an important responsibility to do its share to address the climate crisis and show international leadership.

**The PPC considers climate an important matter, but not a "crisis" or "emergency".** We will eliminate the carbon tax because we consider it ineffective and believe that the government should not use punishment of citizens as a tool, no matter how noble the aim. We will support healthy scientific debate on how climate affects Canada and mitigate any adverse effects mostly through prudent investment in infrastructure. We will not forget pollution of land and water. Climate isn't the only concern.

### 6. What will you do to support a vibrant economy in our area?

**A vibrant local economy needs lower taxes, predictable and competitive regulations, as well as public investments in infrastructure, transport and communications.** We would continue investments to improve access to broadband and fibre-optic internet access in underserved pockets of our riding. We'll help farmers, producers and exporters get their products to Canadian markets by removing trade barriers between provinces. We'll bring stability to our trade relationship with the US while continuing to secure larger markets for exporters internationally.

**Our economy has experienced substantial transformation and continues to change, and we need a new Member of Parliament who understands these changes** and how they can be harnessed to benefit local businesses and workers. With over \$300 million in new funding for Ontario regional development agencies, and a \$1.7 billion rural broadband fund, our Liberal Government has a strong track record of supporting vibrant communities across the country. I look forward to leveraging these investments in Simcoe North.

**The PPC will stimulate the economy by getting government off everybody's back.** We would stick to the basics and get them right. By simplifying and reducing income taxes, eliminating the carbon and capital gains taxes, lowering business taxes to 10% and simplifying or eliminating regulations wherever possible, we will create space for Canada's entrepreneurs and workers to flourish. They know better what they need to do than any government possibly can. When government is pushed back, you can move forward.

### 7. Why should more indigenous people participate in federal elections, and what are you doing to increase their participation in this election?

**On Simcoe North's two First Nations reserves, voter turn-out in 2015 was 66%, just below the 68.5% national average.** It is heartening that indigenous people in our area are as engaged as their non-Indigenous counterparts. I've chosen to use events, such as our recent BBQ Meet & Greet on Christian Island, to meet community members and discuss their concerns on federal issues. I regularly attend community gatherings and I am always pleased to accept meeting invitations with Chiefs & Councils.

**The Liberal government has taken more action than any previous government to resolve inequities and honour the rights of Indigenous peoples.** I am proud of this record, but much more work remains. I feel that improving the relationships between Indigenous peoples and Canada is the single most important thing that can be done to encourage greater participation in federal elections. I am very committed to contributing to this effort as the new Member of Parliament for Simcoe North.

**Indigenous people ought to be particularly interested in federal elections because the federal government has more responsibilities toward First Nations than to other Canadians.** Its role for First Nations includes matters normally covered by provincial or municipal governments. I expect Indigenous people can be apathetic or feel disconnected from the political process for exactly the same reasons as other Canadians. I will bring the People's Party message of freedom and strength to all who are open to hearing it.