

Hastings, Lennox and Addington Candidate Quotes

Our Open Letter to Candidates

To: Candidate for Hastings Lennox & Addington Riding

Re: Richmond Landfill in the Town of Greater Napanee

Residents of the Town of Greater Napanee, Tyendinaga Township, Deseronto and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ) have been concerned for many years about the threat of a **dangerous mega-landfill in Napanee**. *(Attached to this letter is a summary of key developments and the associated timeline.)*

To inform us on your position on the issue we kindly request your response to the following questions:

1. Given that the Richmond landfill (located in the Town of Greater Napanee) expansion was rejected in 2006 for technical and environmental reasons, do you agree that **a proposed new dump should be prohibited** on this site? (Yes or No)
2. If you agree, will you press the next provincial government (whether it is your party in power or not) to **block this proposal?** (Yes or No)
3. Do you agree that mega-landfills in Ontario should be **sited on the safest and most suitable locations** and banned from locations on fractured bedrock where neighbours rely on groundwater for domestic and agricultural needs? (Yes or No)
4. If you agree, will you press the next provincial government (whether it is your party in power or not) to **pass legislation to prohibit such proposals?** (Yes or No)

We intend to use your response (or lack of) to this letter to advise our membership, members of the directly impacted communities and voters in this riding as to which candidate to support to best address this longstanding issue.

Please respond by the method you find most convenient . Considerable background information can be found at: www.leakyland.com . Should you have any additional questions we would be more than happy to respond.

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Sari Watson, Green Party

“My name is Sari Watson and I am the official Green Party candidate for the Hastings Lennox and Addington riding. I have received your email concerning the Richmond Landfill site, and I must say, I am horrified to be made aware of the tragedy of your situation. I have yet to study the details on the matter and reflect on the Green Party's official stance, and I will look into this and be in touch with you in the very near future, but I can say (unofficially/personally), that the situation you are facing is 100% wrong, unjust, and abusive. No one should be forced to live in continual uncertainty about whether their land is going to be destroyed further. Especially after an Environmental Assessment was already performed. There is no point to spend more tax-payers' dollars and perform assessment upon assessment until the polluters have bribed enough hands to pass their catastrophic business plans.

Of course a new dump should be prohibited on the site!

Of course I would press the government to block this and further proposals!

Of course mega-landfills should be blocked from areas where they can seem into and pollute the ground water as well as agricultural land!

Please allow me a week to inform myself on this topic as I was just made aware of this issue last night. I am heart-broken to see the business world neglecting the interconnectedness of the water, land, and people, and feel as though the Earth is theirs to consume and pollute as they see fit, regardless of who happens to be affected by their actions.

The Green party wants to put the health of the environment and the health of our citizens first, without letting corporations run wild with their environmentally destructive ways. Please have patience with me while I come up to speed on the Official Party Stance, but I assure you it is along these same lines.

I'd be happy to arrange to have a meeting with you and anyone else who might be interested in this issue. We can confer on the matter and I can present official Green Party policy. I will update you in a few days when I have learned more.

Thank you so much for reaching out and I'm truly sorry that you are having to face such turmoil. That isn't right. It isn't fair. These are the things that must be changed.

I wanted to write to you gentlemen, "unofficially", to let you know that I have received your letter and your voices have been heard. I will be in touch with more particulars very soon.”

Lonnie Herrington, Trillium Party

“Thank you for reaching out with your concerns regarding the Richmond Land fill site expansion.

As a certified OBC Section 8 Septic System installer, I am well aware of the problems which occur when contaminants are entered into our soils and groundwater system. Fractured bedrock only increases the dangers of contamination into our drinking water and local waterways.

Allow me to begin by stating unequivocally that I do not support ANY ground fed/buried waste management program for any local in Ontario. The Richmond site most certainly falls into this category.

There are numerous reasons for my stance on this issue:

1. Buried waste contaminates soils not only in their designated areas but also leach into neighboring land areas.
2. Waste management landfill locations reduce property values of nearby properties.
3. Landfill sites take away from, in many cases, valuable agricultural lands that would better serve for the production of healthy foods for our region.
4. Buried waste, organic or other, during decomposition are washed and rinsed by rain and snow run off. The resulting mixture then enters our water table. In turn contaminating local water sources for agricultural use, heard and livestock needs and polluting our own drinking water supply. Resulting in costly expenses to property owners and municipalities to clean the water for consumption.
5. Buried waste, organic or other, when decomposing creates methane gas. Methane gas is one the most concerning issues which contribute to green house climate change issues. We must learn to be more diligent to ensure that we reduce our effects on our environment.

The Trillium Party of Ontario believes that we must protect our environment at all costs for now and for future generations. We believe in Simple, Attainable and Sustainable solutions for now and for our future.

We believe that the future of Ontario waste management needs to be dealt with now!

Our solution to the ever increasing problem around waste management is:

Construction of regional CleanTek incinerators/hydro electric generators for all municipalities in Ontario. Durham region currently has plant in operation.

These facilities would provide for the waste management needs of communities, reduce landfill sites, allow communities and municipalities to reclaim our existing locations and return these lands to productive, valuable and environmentally safe lands.

Incinerators would reduce our carbon footprint, reduce our waste management costs and provide cheap electricity to Ontario families and businesses. The after burn coking could be directed to our cement and concrete companies to reduce their overhead costs, and reducing their carbon footprint, while strengthening and advancing our infrastructure needs.

The abundance of cheap electricity generated from these locations would allow our local businesses to expand and grow but also allow our Ontario families reduced hydro costs for their homes. Excess power would be sold off to other states and provinces for a profit for the province and in turn allow Ontario to better finance other programs such as our health care system.

Another advantage that incinerators would have would be to allow us the opportunity to partner with local agricultural experts to develop and maintain 4 season facilities for the production of year round fruits and vegetable growth so that Ontario families would be able to enjoy safe, healthy foods. This could be through the generation aspect of the facility or through an additional water heating element that could also be used to heat homes, businesses and local government buildings . Again reducing costs on the taxpayers and the residents of Ontario as well as reducing our fossil fuel needs and reducing our carbon output.

As I have previously stated, the Trillium Party of Ontario is for Simple, Attainable and Sustainable solutions to the needs of Ontario. We believe that a little for sight into out future is needed in every solution. Solutions needs to be expanded to not only cover the immediate issue but also to assist in solutions for other Ontario needs and issues.

To answer your remaining questions posed in your letter.

Yes. I will press to block the landfill site expansion of Richmond landfill. Megan land fill sites needs to be banned and better solutions brought forth that ensure that we meet the needs of Ontario communities.

I hope that I have answered your questions to your satisfaction. If you would like further discussions regarding this issue or others please do not hesitate to contact me.

As MPP for Hastings Lennox and Addington I will be taking OUR issues to Toronto. Not bringing Toronto's issues to Hastings Lennox and Addington.”

Nate Smelle, NDP

Nate called Chairman Ian Munro to express his strong support for all questions.

Tim Rigby, Liberal

“I absolutely can answer in the affirmative to all of the questions in your survey. It seems obvious to me that the dump, and any proposed dumps are in wrong place.”

Tim also said he just finished reading Fighting Dirty.

Daryl Cramp, Progressive Conservative

“Ian, As per our brief discussion at the Napanee office I generally do not fill in any questionnaire that is a simple yes or no as there may be other legislative bodies that we may be accountable to. Given what I know now I am comfortable with the above. Daryl.” (Note: this handwritten note was included on the hard copy letter with “yes” circled after each of the four questions – in other words Daryl is supportive of CCCTE positions on these issues.)