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2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Municipality

Date:

Richard Norcross

New Tecumseth

September 13, 2022

Please return the completed questionnaire to the sender as soon as possible, but no later than September 15, 2022. The answers will then be posted on the AWARE Simcoe website.

N.B: As this is a Word document, you can take as much space as you wish to respond.

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1. AWARE Simcoe considers the preservation of farmland, the protection of water resources and natural heritage, and providing transparency and accountability in government decision making to be the primary issues of this election.

Our goal is to elect representatives who support those objectives. Do you agree with this?

- Resource and agricultural preservation are absolutely important issues for any community, particularly one with such a rich history of farming like New Tecumseth does. Governments of all levels should collaborate with communities and partners to find opportunities to support important resources and ecological spaces.

2. Do you feel there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities in your municipality?

If so, how will you achieve this?

- New Tecumseth is home and adjacent to many important waterways and wetlands that support a variety of ecosystems, including the Nottawasaga River and Minesing Wetlands. These areas should be protected from being disrupted. By working to redirect projects and find suitable, safe areas to perform required activities, we can protect our valued wildlife areas.

3. Ancient deposits under the Simcoe Uplands in Simcoe County's Tiny, Springwater, Oro-Medonte and Tay townships contain pristine groundwater.

This water is the purest water known to science, and is the gold standard for water worldwide, a national and global treasure.

Ongoing gravel pit extractions on French's Hill, the water recharge area, now threaten to destroy this precious water. Will you work to protect this important local resource?

- Will always work hard to protect water.

4. Do you support/oppose expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County? In either case, please explain why.

- Our community knows our land and needs best, and as such we should be responsible for making decisions about the local area in which we live. New Tecumseth is experiencing growing pains and we must ensure we are meeting the needs of our growing community while also being responsible about where and how this happens.

5. What are your plans to combat climate change in your municipality?

- Support the creation of a comprehensive strategy to address litter and waste
- Strengthening litter by-laws
- Improve access to waste and recycling receptacles in public spaces
- Consult with provincial partners on environmental legislation and strategies

6. Every municipality in Ontario is faced with row-on-row sprawl-style development, and surrounding farmland is being destructively gobbled up with little regard for future agricultural needs. Ontario is losing 319 acres of farmland every day, it needs to be protected before it's too late. We need to ensure we have the land to grow food for today and future generations. Once it's paved over, it's gone forever!

How will you protect agricultural lands within your municipality?

- Growth is a part of every community, including New Tecumseth. However, farming and agriculture are the backbone of our past and present. Working together with our Town council and the public will allow us to ensure any growth is responsible, sustainable and supports the needs of the community.

7. Simcoe County Council chose a county forest in Springwater Twp – zoned Agricultural, as the site for a (much needed) waste handling facility, the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC). Many residents in Simcoe County objected to this location,

pointing out that this is an industrial use and there are suitable properties zoned Industrial where the facility should be built. What is your view?

8. If elected, what are your top three priorities?

1. Champion the healthcare we need

- Support the revitalization of our hospital and local health services
- Attract and maintain healthcare professionals such as family doctors and nurses

2. Our homes, our voices, our town

- Improve access to housing for all of our residents and support those who are facing homelessness
- Ensure reasonable and responsible growth that compliments our community

3. Making every dollar matter

- Support and promote the diverse needs of our growing community
- Accountable, financially responsible and business-minded spending

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.