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## 2022 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name:

Tony Mintoff

Municipality

Tiny Township

Date:

September 10, 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?

ANSWER- Quite simply, yes! An immediate moratorium is needed to protect the natural filtration system that is provided by French’s Hill until the scientific study being arranged by Dr. John Cherry and his team of scientists has been conducted and its results analyzed and understood. There is no shortage of available aggregate throughout the province, in areas that are not environmentally sensitive. Farmland in Tiny does not seem to be threatened at this point, due to the Provincial Policy Statement and Official Plans that, for the most part, have restricted future development to settlement areas only. Continued support for the Greenbelt Coalition is vital in both protecting and expanding the Greenbelt in Simcoe County.

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?

ANSWER Yes there is a need. A unified and determined township Council could apply much greater pressure on the provincial government by gathering all stakeholders, as was the case with Site 41, to demonstrate peacefully at the site, or at Queen’s Park again, in large numbers, and by engaging the media to bring national awareness of the destruction that is taking place on French’s hill. Engaging opposition leaders to push the issue in the

legislature would help to bring more attention and focus to this issue as well. A moratorium on all operations at this site is attainable if there is enough public sentiment and push-back to say that we don't want it to continue, at least until the study is complete.

Tiny was one of the first municipalities in Canada to achieve the Blue Community designation for its efforts to preserve water source quality and we need to continue to take every available opportunity to preserve water quality for generations to come.

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?

ANSWER Yes, I have, and I will continue to do so, as I stated in response to question 2

I will push for a unified position on Council to pressure our MPP and seek federal assistance as well to highlight the importance of stopping the destruction of the natural filtration system and the potential contamination of our drinking water.

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

ANSWER I support the further expansion of Greenbelt in Simcoe county simply because our natural heritage and resources need to be protected from the developers who have profit, not the environment top of mind. A large part of the role of all levels of government is to protect our natural resources and heritage for the generations to come.

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

ANSWER With the adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan, Tiny set a number of goals and objectives to significantly reduce greenhouse gases and our carbon footprint. As a result of COVID and the resulting increase in the number of people who now work from home or cottage, Tiny's population has increased considerably. As such, the emissions reduction targets need to be revisited and monitored to ensure that all target goals are updated and achieved, wherever possible.

Because of Tiny's large geographical area, about 75% of our greenhouse gas emissions were attributed to our fleet of vehicles and equipment. Hybrid vehicles have been purchased in recent years and research has been conducted on electric vehicles as well.

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?

ANSWER Tiny's Official Plan does not permit development in areas such as farmland, as future development is restricted to settlement areas only.

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?

ANSWER This particular issue is not one that directly impacts Tiny residents but the principle of putting things where they don't belong, especially when they become a threat to the environment, is always problematic. If there is an alternate location that is zoned appropriately, suitable for the purpose, and available, it seems obvious that it should have been dedicated to this project.

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

ANSWER

1. Moratorium on all operations at French's Hill pending the outcome of the scientific study

2. Prohibition on all STR hotels in residential zones

3. Open up the Council chambers and reinstate town hall meetings immediately

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire.