



## 2018 Election Questionnaire

### Question One:

*Why is heritage important to you personally? Why do you believe that heritage is important to the city at large? In your role as Councillor, what steps would you take to ensure heritage remains a key part of the discussion at the City and community?*

### Question Two:

*What do you think is the single most important thing that should be done to support our local heritage and why? How do you see your role impacting this initiative?*

### Question Three:

*Do you think it's important to recognize we are on the ancestral territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in some tangible way, such as flying their flag at City Hall? What other ways do you see us doing so?*

Councillor				
Ward 3	Name			
Councillor	Chris Fonseca	<p>I am a strong supporter of preserving and promoting our natural and cultural heritage, and heritage sites and buildings. This helps us feel personally connected to our neighbourhoods, community and City, provides us many opportunities to define our identity and work together to ensure that our heritage remains a vital part of the present and future Mississauga. Identified heritage places, whether buildings, neighbourhoods, parks, are an excellent local educational resource for people of all ages. Learning about the history of a place is a good way of bringing communities together through a shared understanding of the unique cultural identity heritage places give to an area. I personally walk, cycle and run 3-5 times per week on the Applewood and Etobicoke Creek Trails and through the Ward 3 park and watershed systems, and have come to appreciate how this natural heritage is tied to the history and heritage of aboriginal culture along the Etobicoke Creek and the "Mississauga Tract", as well as our agricultural heritage and transportation heritage and the history of "woods" in Ward 3 – Applewood; Dixie Woods, Fleetwood, Garnetwood, Rathwood – all neighbourhoods have incredible stories to tell and tied to the natural history, as well as the settlement of different immigrant populations. I do whatever I can to promote and encourage residents to explore the neighbourhoods that they live in. This, in turn, sparks conversation and ideas on how to celebrate our history and heritage. As a Councillor, I have been committed to protecting and preserving our natural heritage by sitting on the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), Partners in Project Green Water Stewardship Committee, and Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committees.</p> <p>I was the Councillor who proposed "Ward Community Bike Rides" that have grown into full-fledged community rides which take cyclists on routes through our natural heritage treasures. I have hosted a "Heritage In the Park" event in Fleetwood Park, and have had conversations with Riverwood Conservancy about a cycling event connecting Riverwood to Garnetwood Park with a natural heritage celebration at "each end" of the Burnhamthorpe Trail. I have a goal of hosting a "Festival of the Woods" to celebrate the incredible "Woods of Ward 3" and will work with various community organizations on this.</p> <p>I am also a strong believer that heritage sites and buildings can have a very positive influence on many aspects of the way a community develops. While the City of Mississauga is a relatively "young" City, we do have a number of heritage buildings and of course many heritage sites that we need to celebrate. Working with an organization like Heritage Mississauga is essential in making this happen. Fewer than 40% of Ontario municipalities have a volunteer and/or formal Heritage Committee. I would like to say "THANK YOU" to Heritage Mississauga for all that you do to educate, promote, protect, preserve heritage in our City!!! I am a Councillor who supported Heritage Mississauga being recognized as a pillar organization and will continue to do so. Protecting and preserving heritage buildings and sites contributes to the regeneration of communities through adaptive reuse of heritage buildings and sites – for example the Small Arms Building, opportunities for different housing types, education to the public on the significance of where they are living, working, playing, economic growth to Mississauga and, as mentioned above, community engagement. In Ward 3, we have a number of churches and cemeteries that I have worked with staff and different congregations to protect, preserve and develop programming with – St. John's Dixie and Cemetery, Dixie Union Chapel &amp; Cemetery the oldest in all of Peel, Dixie Presbyterian Church celebrating 140 years!</p>	<p>It is extremely important to Mississauga, as we continue to grow in population, and with such diversity, that we support our simultaneous ability to preserve and invent our culture—that is, to conserve our history and heritage while developing new expressions for current times. Often, the concept of preservation is interpreted as meaning stagnation when, in fact, heritage and history can be the basis for innovation and advancement. Moreover, heritage and history are frequently essential sources of meaning that give a place character and resonance. In the City of Mississauga, with so much diversity and complexity, the histories of many communities are layered and contested. Groups settle and move away, each leaving some remnant of who they were and why they had come to that particular place. Sometimes they leave voluntarily. Sometimes they are forced to leave. Sometimes they do not leave at all. All of these groups—present and departed, rich and poor—have stories to tell, stories that can be collected, conserved, and celebrated. The articulation of those stories can significantly contribute to the planning process by preserving, celebrating, challenging, and inventing community identity.</p> <p>As a City Councillor, I feel that it is, in part, my responsibility, to continue to reach out to as many groups as possible, to connect them with others, to ensure that our heritage, past, present and future, is protected, preserved, celebrated.</p> <p>Everyone has things that they treasure; mementos and keepsakes that have been saved or passed down through generations as a way of remembering and honouring family, community, events or places.</p> <p>In many cases, these things don't need to be worth a lot of money to make them special, but rather, are priceless because of the ties they represent to an individual's or a group's historical background.</p> <p>Heritage values are the tangible and intangible associations a society collectively holds to a person, place or thing. These associations can be both physical and non-physical, including examples such as artifacts, documents, photographs, traditions, folklore, and rituals</p> <p>Areas where our heritage is understood and valued tend to be better looked after than those where heritage items have no link with the community. Such links help to foster civic responsibility and citizenship and contribute to everyone's quality of life.</p> <p>Everyone has things that they treasure; mementos and keepsakes that have been saved or passed down through generations as a way of remembering and honouring family, community, events or places.</p> <p>In many cases, these things don't need to be worth a lot of money to make them special, but rather, are priceless because of the ties they represent to an individual's or a group's historical background.</p> <p>Heritage values are the tangible and intangible associations a society collectively holds to a person, place or thing. These associations can be both physical and non-physical, including examples such as artifacts, documents, photographs, traditions, folklore, and rituals</p> <p>Areas where our heritage is understood and valued tend to be better looked after than those where heritage items have no link with the community. Such links help to foster civic responsibility and citizenship and contribute to everyone's quality of life.</p>	<p>Absolutely!!!! As I have noted above, it is our responsibility to continue to find ways to educate residents on the significance of the history and heritage of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, including the ancestral territory. Flying the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation at City Hall, identifying locations throughout the City where we can put plaques, inviting Elders, and whomever is the appropriate individuals to our civic, cultural, historic events to participate through smudging ceremonies, continuing to work with them to participate in Carassuaga, work through the Living Arts Centre on what might be appropriate grant funding to apply for, and perhaps providing funding through Heritage Mississauga to work with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation to create a video that can be streamed at Celebration Square, are some tangible ideas.</p>

This year, St Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, to name a few. All of these communities have incredible knowledge of the history and heritage significance of their sites, and finding ways to celebrate is extremely important.

In some cases, where there may not be a heritage building, it is very important to understand and know the history of a community and work with different cultural groups that have settled over time in that community to find ways to continue to educate residents on the historical significance of a neighbourhood. For example, in ward 3, Saturnia, Ivernia, Sylvania, Queen Frederica streets all reference ships that carried European immigrants over to Canada and many of the first residents on these streets knew/know this fact, however new families moving in to the neighbourhood do not. Working with these cultural groups, and/or through a BIA or Homeowners Organization, plaques or some identification through the Culture Master Plan would help to educate the residents. Another recent example is that I am working with the Vietnamese community to have a memorial of the Vietnamese Boat People installed at Dixie and Burnhamthorpe on the library property. This is significant because many of the Vietnamese Boat People settled in this community in ward 3 when they first arrived.

The historic environment is also a proven source of benefit to local economies, particularly through tourism. Statistics show that 25% of Ontarians travel for arts or cultural experience, 27% participate in a cultural experience as part of trip, and the time is now for our great City of Mississauga to showcase all that we have to offer! I have been a supporter of the Mississauga Culture and Tourism Master Plans and we also now have the Hotel Tax that we can apply to promoting tourism, culture and heritage in our City. I have also supported and focused on the importance of protecting and preserving our heritage along the Dundas Corridor in the Dundas Master Plan.

**Trustee**  
Ward 3

Trustee - EPS	Sue Lawton	<p>they believed was important, and through the generations each of us has been the beneficiaries of the solid foundation of our heritage on which to draw upon when forming our actions and beliefs.</p> <p>As heritage is important personally, so it is to the City. In order to move forward we must know and honour what and who has come before. The preservation of our heritage is our duty to our children and beyond. I joined the he Britannia Farm Committee at the Peel District School Board when I was elected 8 years ago, and continue to serve on it. I have followed the Board's efforts to generate income without impacting the rich resources and heritage of the Farm for many years, and I feel an obligation to contribute to this committee for the sake of all the children in Peel, for whom the Peel District School Board holds the Farm In Trust. I am proud to say we have been able to establish the following guiding principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• student focused environmental and agricultural program</li> <li>• the establishment of landscape zones</li> <li>• a development parcel (32 acres)</li> <li>• phased public access in partnership with the City of Mississauga</li> </ul>	<p>I believe the school boards are in a unique position to provide guidance and education, including heritage of our Region of Peel, to our students. The role of a trustee is to develop policy and support operations with a strong, clear foundation of governance. The way in which I believe a trustee can best support our local heritage is to incorporate our local history within our broader curriculum, physically through our Outdoor Education Centres, and by inviting people from our communities into our schools to share their stories and those of the area.</p>	<p>I absolutely do, and am proud to say the Peel District School Board Trustees unanimously voted to include an acknowledgement that we are on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in our opening ceremonies at every Board meeting, all public meetings, and in every school every morning. We also raised the Indigenous flag this past school year for the month of June as it is the designated month, and we will do so at every school and Board site going forward. We celebrate in our schools as well with Orange Shirt Day in September, along with guest speakers to give our students insight of true life experiences. We have also included many new books in our libraries that speak authentically about the lives of our predecessors on our lands.</p>
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Trustee - EP	Naila Mahmood	<p>Heritage is an important part of our identity and who we are. Our heritage helps shape who we are and who we will become. As a trustee, I will take all necessary steps to maintain our city's heritage. As a trustee, I believe that to education is the key to preserving our heritage. I will encourage and help promote our city's heritage at the board level through learning initiatives, to help the safeguard our heritage.</p>	<p>There isn't one single thing, there are so many! Learning about our city's history is one of many important things that can be done to promote heritage. Education about our history is a good way of bringing our community together. I want to integrate learning about Mississauga's heritage in the school curriculum since Mississauga has a deep and rich history. It's important to know how our city became what it is today. I can see that the school trustee position can help support and promote heritage through different policies that can be implemented at the board level.</p>	<p>We MUST acknowledge and respect that we are on the territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit. This recognition and respect are very important in preserving our city's heritage, it is essential in all aspects of life. We should not just stop at recognition, we must build a strong relationship with the first nations community. These relationships are key to reconciliation, a process to which the Board should be committed to. Here are some ways to help reconcile and create stronger relationships with the community:</p>
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- Before O Canada all schools should adopt a statement of recognition that we are on the land of the Mississauga's New Credit First Nations. Some schools have started this, but it should be done in all schools around the board. "Before we start, we would like to acknowledge that (school name) is situated upon traditional territories," the Mississauga's New Credit First Nations.
  - We should provide more opportunities to Indigenous students and community members to harness a stronger relationship.
  - We should create, celebrate and promote the Indigenous peoples/ the Mississaugas' of the New Credit First Nation by implementing a heritage month.
- These were just some ways we can respect and create a stronger relationship with the Mississaugas' of the New Credit First Nation, there is so much we can do if we work together.