



CAMPAIGN PLATFORM

1. Relieving and Managing Traffic Congestion

I. Stop The Approval of “Rogue” Development Applications

We need to be mindful of “rogue” development applications that do not have supporting road infrastructure. “Rogue” development is not responsible development but rather it is development that is not accounted for in the Vaughan Official Plan (VOP) and usually results in creating and contributing to traffic congestion.

II. Extending The Yonge Subway Line Into York Region

Our first experience with the extension of the subway to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre has been a great success. It is now time to move forward without delay on the 7.5 kilometre Yonge subway extension from Finch to Highway 7. The Region of York, City of Toronto, City of Vaughan, City of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill need to work together in order to realize traffic relief, environmental benefits and the economic growth that will result from this project. I am looking forward and committed to working with all levels of government to make this happen.

III. East / West Traffic Corridor Connectivity

Many, if not all drivers / commuters in Vaughan experience east / west connectivity issues specifically at;

Teston Road at Keele Street
Kirby Road at Dufferin Street
Langstaff at the railway yards

These roads abruptly end forcing drivers and public transit to take north / south routes.

Connectivity on Teston Road and Kirby Road is a must and should be done in a manner that is least damaging to mature trees and green space. Due to the expense, we also need to seriously start engaging the Provincial and Federal government in planning for a Langstaff overpass at the CN MacMillan Rail Yard.

Eliminating these types of connectivity issues would relieve traffic congestion and improve traffic flow on surrounding east / west and north / south road corridors.

IV. “Complete Streets” Strategy

As we review and redesign our road systems we need to adopt a “complete street” strategy where every road corridor provides for an array of options for transportation. Our road network should always be designed to accommodate options such as traditional lanes for cars, high occupancy lanes, dedicated bus lanes, cycling lanes and pedestrian walk ways. Our current road network is not very well suited to accommodating and providing these options to our residents. A more comprehensive approach to the design of our can help alleviate traffic congestion.

V. Smart Signaling to Improve Traffic Flow

Municipalities around the world are installing “smart signalling” strategies as a way of easing traffic congestion during peak times. Smart signaling incorporates the use traffic lights or intelligent traffic lights in combination with traditional traffic signals with an array of road sensors and data collection to intelligently route vehicle traffic.

It’s time that we look at and expand upon the use of technology to help reduce traffic congestion. My background as an information technology professional is well suited to understanding and developing a “smart signalling” strategy on City of Vaughan roads and York Region roads, beginning with our most congested intersections.

2. **Economic Development** / Creating High Quality Local Jobs For Vaughan Residents

We must diversify our economy and attract businesses that create high quality jobs for our residents living in Vaughan and for our newest generation of graduates.

By using tax incentives, leveraging off of our growing Vaughan Metropolitan Centre we can attract business from the high tech and engineering sectors to create high quality jobs for Vaughan residents.

The extended 427 highway up to Major Mackenzie will create developable land that would be perfect to entice organizations in advanced manufacturing to create above average paying jobs for Vaughan residents.

3. Protecting Our **Green Space** and Rebuilding Our Tree Canopy and Responsible Development

Over the years we have witnessed the steady erosion of our environmentally sensitive green space in Vaughan. As a result Vaughan has the unenviable distinction of having the lowest tree canopy in York Region at 17%, well below the York Region average of 31% and well below the City of Toronto tree canopy of 27%.

Vaughan's open / green spaces and our tree canopy are often threatened by "rogue" development applications, which are not planned for or accounted for in our Vaughan Official Plan 2010. Rogue development is not responsible development and does not respect our green spaces.

I have attended council meetings where a majority of our Members of Council have approved "rogue" development or have not taken steps to discourage this type of development, resulting in a tremendous loss of green space and a falling tree canopy.

When these types of development applications come before council, I have firmly voiced my concerns and stated my objections to these applications in support of local residents to preserve and protect the affected green spaces.

Should I have the privilege of serving on Council, **I will continue to support the protection of our green spaces through local legislation and bring forward meaningful initiatives to protect and restore our tree canopy.**

4. **Caring** for Our Most Vulnerable Senior Residents, Youth and Those With Disabilities

The increasing cost of living is making it harder for seniors and disabled residents to cope on fixed incomes. As a City we can do more to help our most vulnerable citizens.

As your Local and Regional Councillor, I am committed to expanding the City of Vaughan property tax rebate program, enabling more seniors and persons with disabilities to qualify for the rebate and making housing more affordable.

As youth develop into adults we need to expand our youth programs to help them develop into strong young men and women. Our community centres need to be more accessible for youth and seniors alike.

I would like to see our community centres open on holidays so that youth and seniors never have to feel alone and have a place to go and be with people.

5. Accountable Government and Respecting Our Hard-Earned **Tax Dollars**

Over the past 12 years, through my own private audits of the City's finances, I have exposed several cases of waste and mismanagement of our tax dollars.

My most recent audit revealed the use of approximately 300 credit cards where abusive spending on food and trips to places such as Las Vegas was exposed. This is unacceptable and I am determined to bring this under control.

With a growing list of spending abuses and questionable tendering practices, something must be done to protect the taxpayer.

I will request that Council appoint an Auditor General with full investigative powers in all matters relating to public finances. This position should report to the Auditor General of Ontario to ensure that it is truly independent of Vaughan Council and City Management.

To protect those who come forward with information and evidence, I want to establish a "Whistle Blower" protection program under the office of the new Auditor General. In addition, I would like to establish an anonymous 1-800 number to report fraud and waste.

6. **Transparent Government** Making Vaughan Residents Aware of How Their Tax Dollars Are Spent

Members of Council should have to declare all assets and business interests to the Integrity Commissioner upon taking office. This a common practice in other levels of government.

Freedom of Information requests is an excellent method to make government transparent. As an option for Vaughan residents, I will request that Freedom of Information requests to be done online, that are easy and inexpensive. Other institutions provide for online Freedom of information requests and there is no reason why we should not have the same option.

I will request that that Members of Council expenses and Management expenses including images of detailed receipts be published online for all to see.

For greater transparency of public finances, I will request that any credit card purchases be published online including detailed images of all receipts.

Council votes should be recorded and published on a “How Did They Vote Website” so that residents can always go back and check on how any Member of Council voted on any given matter.

7. **Responsible Fiscal Management**....It's Time To Get York Region's Debt Under Control

York Region has become the highest per capita indebted municipality. Due to the rising debt, Standard and Poors downgraded our debt in 2014 and yet our debt has continued to rise to approximately \$3.7 billion in long term debt at the end of 2017.

I intend to make this a priority beginning with fixing our broken infrastructure and development financing model which is no longer equitable for taxpayers.

We cannot continue to mortgage our children's future.

8. **Communication and Information** That Effectively Engages and Ensures That Vaughan Resident's Voices Are Heard and Counted

Vaughan Council must communicate better with its residents. To facilitate this I would like to see more consultation meetings on matters pertaining to finance and growth planning.

I am also proposing to establish a City "Residents Advisory Panel" which would be made of individuals who would act as a sounding board for council and a forum where residents can be heard on common issues. This panel would meet regularly, rotating in each ward. Better decisions are made through discussion and consultation.

As a Member of Council my policy is an open door policy of communication.

9. Ensuring that City of Vaughan **Employees Are Respected** and Work In A Safe Environment Free of Any Type of Harassment

Recent events over the last term of Council regarding employee harassment have prompted City employees to be concerned about their safety in the workplace. I want to ensure that our employees feel respected and safe within the workplace.

I will request a full review of the City's workplace harassment policies including regular anonymous workplace survey feedback from City employees.

10. Promoting and Respecting **Diversity** In Our City

We have grown as City through diverse cultures where each of us becomes enriched by experiencing each other's traditions. As a Member of Council, I intend to actively promote inclusion and respect for diversity through City policy.

Promoting and respecting diversity starts at City Hall. I want to bring in a Fair and Equal Treatment Policy where everyone is treated fairly and with respect. Where everyone has equal opportunity for city employment and city contracts.

Inclusiveness in our city fosters prosperity, strength and peace.

11. Responsibly Managing The Sale of **Cannabis**

The sale of cannabis within our municipality has posed some unique challenges for our city. While the sale of cannabis is legislated by higher levels of government, the City of Vaughan has a role to play through its bylaws and our police enforcement.

York Regional Police must have all of the resources needed to ensure public safety while ensuring the rights of residents.

To ensure driver and pedestrian safety YRP front line officers must have access to cannabis detection devices similar to alcohol breathalysers.

12. Bringing Our **Water Bills** Under Control

Our water rates have increased between 8% - 10% in each of the last 8 years, well over and above the rate of inflation. Water bills now rival our hydro bills and Vaughan residents are at a loss to understand why.

Many residents are at a loss to understand why and they deserve a full explanation of why water rates have spiralled out of control.

As a priority, an external audit of York Region's water rate increases is needed and justified.

