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# SPEAK YOUR MIND

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0 THU OCTOBER 6, 2011

## CANDIDATES Q&A: ECONOMY

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BY CHRIS LEPAN | BLOGGER

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**THE MARK**

Candidates in Mississauga-Brampton South expressed their views on the economy, running the gamut in approach from activist to Laissez-Faire. I received responses from Liberal candidate Amrit Mangat, Libertarian candidate Christin Milloy and Independent candidates Masood Khan and Walter Widla. (NDP candidate Karanjit Pandher declined, and PC candidate Amarjeet Gill and Green Party candidate Keith Foster could not be reached.)

**Q:** *What is the most misunderstood aspect of the economy?*

**Walter Widla, Independent, Mississauga-Brampton South:** The most misunderstood aspect of our economy is that government can create jobs. Too often we look to government for job creation but it's the business sector that does the bulk of the hiring. Give businesses the opportunity to make a profit and jobs will be created.

**Amrit Mangat, Liberal Party, Mississauga-Brampton South:** There has been a lot of misunderstanding surrounding Ontario Liberals' focus toward reforming our energy sector to make it more clean and green. We will continue to rebuild our electricity system to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and invest in the infrastructure to prepare Ontario for electric vehicles. In order to ease this transition, we will take 10 per cent off the electricity bills of families, farmers and small businesses through the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit.

**Christin Malloy, Libertarian Party, Mississauga-Brampton South:** The most misunderstood aspect of the economy is the role of government spending. Contrary to popular belief, government spending is not a recipe for prosperity, but rather a dead weight on the economy. The more money the government spends, the less money everyone else has. It drags the economy down like an anchor.

**Q:** *Explain why current income tax levels are fair or unfair?*

**Masood Khan, Independent, Mississauga-Brampton South:** Our Income Tax System sucks. It invites tax payers to abuse the system. The income tax is promptly paid by the people whose deductions are taken at source, and business people who earn a lot more money pay less tax. I would like to see everyone pay a flat rate of 10 per cent on their income, no receipt required. I guarantee you that the Government will be able to collect a lot more tax with this process and business people will appreciate this too.

**Walter Widla, Independent, Mississauga-Brampton South:** Current income tax levels have been destroying the middle class. By having such high levels of taxation, we have greatly reduced the buying power of the middle class and have stagnated economic activity.

**Amrit Mangat, Liberal Party, Mississauga-Brampton South:** Our tax reform package has cut personal

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income taxes for nine out of 10 Ontario families, taken ten per cent off your hydro bill, and created new tax credits for children's activities and seniors. The reforms have made Ontario businesses more competitive, freeing up more dollars for investment in equipment and technology, and creating thousands more jobs.

**Christin Malloy, Libertarian Party, Mississauga-Brampton South:** Income tax is the compulsory taking of your earnings by the government, against your will. Canadians suffer some of the most severe income tax rates, yet we are witnessing our social services failing us. We must harness the power of private competition to bring choice to all Ontarians; reduce government responsibility down to that which is reasonably achievable at much lower income tax rates.

**Q:** *What kind of responsibility does government have to help the weakest members of society?*

**Walter Widla, Independent, Mississauga Brampton South:** It is to provide an environment, where they have the opportunity to improve their personal situation. We want to greatly discourage the concept of entitlement and encourage personal growth through having access to meaningful work.

**Amrit Mangat, Liberal Party, Mississauga-Brampton South:** It is to help them get ahead. Ontario Liberals raised the minimum wage seven times, strengthened employment standards and introduced the Ontario Child Benefit. As a result, child poverty actually fell between 2008 and 2009 – despite the recession. We'll build on that success by increasing the Ontario Child Benefit from \$1,100 to \$1,310 in 2013.

**Christin Milloy, Libertarian Party, Mississauga-Brampton South:** A free economy will create many jobs for those who are able to take them, and lower taxes across the board will free more private money to go toward charitable interests, which address the requirements of the needy in a much more efficient manner than social programs ever could.

Whether it's about the issues, the Leaders or the voting process, Speak Your Mind to get the conversation started.



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