



central east association for smoking elimination

348 Rossland Rd East, Oshawa ON L1G 2X1 Tel: 905-436-9945 ext.129

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**Re: Provincial Election 2011**

With Ontario's election only weeks away, CEASE strongly encourages all health care providers to speak out on the health needs of our communities! This document is intended to inform you on the more pressing issues related to tobacco control and tobacco-related illness. Please take a moment to review each political platform by visiting <http://www.electionalmanac.com/canada/ontario/parties.php>, engage your candidates in conversation about these issues and vote on **Thursday, October 6, 2011!** We would also appreciate if you would share this information with your colleagues. Thank you for your diligence in this regard.

Tobacco-related illness costs over 7 billion dollars per year in Ontario. Considering Ontario's current deficit, what plans do candidates have for reducing the financial burden of tobacco-use on our health care system?

Some Ideas:

- Mandate and fund addictions facilities to address tobacco dependence
- Create accountability measures that ensure that all smokers are advised and offered assistance to quit; via accreditation for LHINs, hospitals, primary care providers, home care agencies, etc..
- Support early detection of lung disease via routine screening of high-risk patients
- Support the development of care plans that integrate cessation as a component of disease management and rehabilitation to reduce related morbidity and mortality

Given that access to contraband tobacco affords youth and those earning less income in Ontario access to cheap cigarettes, what plans do candidates have to address the flow of contraband to our communities?

Some Ideas:

- Establish a joint operation groups involving our police and non-police officials to enforce contraband controls in high-risk areas
- Collaborate with First Nations leadership to develop and implement strategies that address the production, distribution and sale of contraband tobacco
- Continue to de-normalize smoking in society by ensuring smoke-free movies for youth and tobacco-free outdoor public places
- Impose stricter penalties for those in violation of contraband laws



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What steps will candidates take to protect individuals, especially children, from exposure to second-hand and third-hand smoke in shared housing complexes?

Some Ideas:

- Amend the Residential Tenancy Act 2006 to include a disclosure requirement to landlords to prospective tenants, declaring a smoke-free policy a term of the lease
- Offer a provincial tax credit to those who develop 100% smoke-free, affordable housing

What steps will candidates take to ensure that all Ontarians who want to quit smoking have access to behavioral counseling and medication options that will help them do so?

Some Ideas:

- Modify OHIP billing practices to promote cessation counseling and follow up by all HCPs
- Address labeling issues that limit the effective use of medications to achieve smoking cessation (dose, duration and combinations of therapy)
- Make OTC cessation medications readily available where cigarettes are sold

Sincerely,

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