

# MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2010

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY!

**CITIES PLAY A** major role in our society, delivering most of the direct public services that people use every day. For decades, union activists have worked to ensure that these services are accessible, affordable, and responsive to our community needs. As well, we organized to make sure that cities and school boards provide good, stable jobs to thousands of front line workers.

The coming October municipal elections will determine the politics of Canada's largest urban centre for the next four years and help shape the character of our city for the rest of

this century. There are powerful forces that want to use this election to privatize services, sell public assets and weaken Toronto's role as an environmental leader. Their agenda includes undermining workers' rights, and discrediting public services and those who deliver them.

We all need to be thinking about the kind of city we want and asking candidates the tough questions about where they stand on key issues such as those listed below. These are the values upon which the labour movement believes we can build a healthy, prosperous city for the enjoyment of all residents for the 21st Century and beyond:

- ✓ A foundation of quality, accessible public services
- ✓ Environmental sustainability, including an expanded public transit system
- ✓ Good jobs with decent incomes and benefits for everyone in a strong, diversified economy
- ✓ Equity and full social inclusion
- ✓ Ethical purchasing, including 'buy local' policies
- ✓ Quality physical and social infrastructure for all residents
- ✓ Safeguarding and utilizing all public assets for the public good
- ✓ Civic engagement and democratic processes for all decision-making
- ✓ Fiscal sustainability - based on fair sharing of program costs and tax revenue from Queen's Park and Ottawa
- ✓ Integral role of schools and education in healthy neighbourhoods

A real commitment to learning is best described by the slogan: *Give Our Students What They Need to Succeed!* That can only happen when we have a school system that:

- ✓ Provides excellent and accessible programs for all its diverse communities and age groups
- ✓ Is committed to an equity agenda in programs, curriculum and staffing
- ✓ Is properly and publicly funded to support both programs which have proved their value to our diverse communities and to meet new needs
- ✓ Engages the participation of parents, community, students and its own front-line employees in planning and achieving its goals
- ✓ Encourages the use of schools as vital community hubs in co-operation with the city and other agencies

**Thank-you for considering these values and issues as you choose which candidates to support in the coming election.**