

# 2023 Questionnaire Toronto Mayoral Candidates

**The Catholic Church** considers that elected democratic office is a position of immense responsibility, to be held in high trust and exercised with great humility, wisdom, and respect, in the interest of the common good. Our leaders are meant to help gather us in a spirit of mutual cooperation and support, setting for us an example of listening and collaboration as together all citizens seek common ground for authentic growth as human beings. This applies fully to municipal offices, including that of Mayor. Cities are homes to the majority of citizens, and are often the first recourse of new citizens for safety, housing, and well-being.

The 10 open-ended questions below are meant to allow you to share, in your own words, your plans for working toward the true welfare of all Torontonians.

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# YOUR VISION FOR SERVICE AS MAYOR

### **Your Political Vocation**

Q. 1. What draws you to the vocation of service as Mayor of Toronto, a city of nearly 3 million people?

\_ The reasons behind my dedication to this vocation can be summarized in two key areas: addressing pressing challenges such as climate change, accessible housing and safety and to leave behind a better Toronto for generations to come. Firstly, as Mayor, I am driven by the profound challenges that Toronto faces. Our city, like many others, confronts complex issues that require immediate attention and innovative solutions. Climate change is one of the most critical challenges of our time, posing threats to our environment, public health, and economic stability. The urgency to act and protect our beloved city from the impacts of climate change motivates me every day. Secondly, I am drawn to the vocation of serving as Mayor because of the tremendous potential of technology to create positive change in the lives of Torontonians. I firmly believe in the transformative power of technology and its ability to revolutionize the way we live, work, and interact with our city. By embracing technology and leveraging its advancements, we can streamline processes, enhance service delivery, and improve the overall well-being of our residents. The technological revolution started with the understanding of the



holy trinity. God providing the potential withing every atom, The holy spirit representing the idea of something and the son being the manifestation of the potential and idea given by God. Toronto needs a leader who is focused on leading Toronto towards its full potential through the use of technology. The position of Mayor of our great city would provide me with more tools and resources to make these goals happen. As a mayoral candidate, I am committed to leading Toronto towards its full potential through the strategic use of technology. The position of Mayor provides an opportunity to leverage the tools and resources necessary to realize our collective vision. I am ready to face these challenges head-on and work tirelessly to build a Toronto that embraces technology, addresses pressing issues such as climate change, accessible housing, and safety, and leaves behind a legacy that future generations can be proud of.

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Q. 2. What experience do you have that qualifies you to serve as Mayor? (Please feel free to point to an online or attached CV if desired)

The breadth of my experience uniquely positions me to lead our city towards a sustainable and prosperous future. I hold a degree in Political Science from York University, where I gained a deep understanding of governance, policy-making, and public administration. This academic foundation instilled in me the essential knowledge of political systems and the importance of effective leadership in driving positive change. Furthermore, I pursued three years of study in the Master of Architecture program at the University of Toronto. This experience provided me with a holistic perspective on urban design, community development, and sustainable infrastructure. The fusion of my political science background and architectural studies equips me with a comprehensive understanding of the built environment and its impact on the well-being of our city's residents. Since early childhood, I have been an avid technology enthusiast. My passion for computers and technology has accompanied me throughout my life, enabling me to acquire a deep understanding of their capabilities and applications. This familiarity with technology positions me as a leader who can optimize every aspect of city operations, leveraging digital tools to drive efficiency and innovation. Moreover, my profound understanding of machine learning, large language models, computer vision, and IoT systems further solidifies my proficiency in transforming our city into a more sustainable and prosperous metropolis. These technological advancements hold immense potential for optimizing city services, enhancing public safety, and accelerating our climate change adaptation efforts. With over 15 years of experience in climate change adaptation, I bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. I am proud to have played a pivotal role in helping safeguarding Lake Ontario from combined sewer overflows through the establishment of Toronto Downspout, a company specializing in downspout disconnections. This initiative contributed significantly to mitigating the impacts of severe weather events and protecting our environment. Building on this success, I have gained extensive insights into flood management strategies, infrastructure resilience, and community engagement. My passion for climate change adaptation and my understanding of its complexities uniquely position me to lead Toronto in strengthening our resilience and safeguarding our future against the impacts of climate



change. In conclusion, my qualifications as a candidate for Mayor of Toronto are rooted in a diverse range of experiences, academic pursuits, and a deep understanding of the challenges we face as a city. My educational background in Political Science and Architecture, coupled with my lifelong passion for technology and extensive expertise in climate change adaptation, make me an ideal candidate to guide our city towards a sustainable and prosperous future. I am committed to leveraging technology, optimizing city operations, and leading Toronto's efforts in climate change adaptation from day one to help transform Toronto into the worlds greatest city.


## Q.3. What are the most important things you hope to accomplish as Mayor?

If elected I will work tirelessly to achieve the following: Climate Change and Adaptation: The impacts of climate change are undeniable, affecting our environment, public health, and economic stability. It is crucial that we take immediate action to mitigate these effects and build a sustainable future. By collaborating with experts, stakeholders, and other levels of government, we can develop innovative solutions to address climate change. Together, we will prioritize sustainability, creating a city that is resilient and environmentally conscious for generations to come. Increasing Housing Supply with Building Automation and Off-Site Construction: One of the most pressing issues facing our city is housing accessibility. To tackle this challenge head-on, I propose harnessing the power of Building Automation and Off-Site Construction technologies. By partnering with the Daniels School of Architecture and Design at the University of Toronto, we can unlock incredible potential in enhancing construction efficiency and reducing costs. Embracing automation and off-site construction methods will streamline the building process, minimize waste, and create sustainable and affordable housing options for our residents. Revitalizing Lake Ontario: Lake Ontario holds a special place in the hearts of Torontonians, and it is our responsibility to protect and preserve its natural beauty. As your Mayor, I am committed to revitalizing the lake, making it swimmable once again. By investing in water quality improvement initiatives, preserving its biodiversity, and engaging the community, we can restore the health of Lake Ontario. Together, we will ensure this treasured resource remains a source of joy and inspiration for future generations. Tackling Gridlock: Traffic congestion and gridlock continue to be major challenges that impact our daily lives. As your mayoral candidate, I understand the frustration and inconvenience caused by these issues. That is why I am dedicated to investing in innovative transportation solutions and expanding our public transit network. By providing efficient and reliable transit options, we can alleviate congestion, improve commute times, and enhance the overall quality of life for all Torontonians. Ensuring Safety for Everyone: Creating a safe city is a fundamental priority. Building upon the strong foundation we have established, I will work tirelessly to enhance safety measures. Through collaborations with community organizations, law enforcement agencies, and social services, we will implement targeted strategies to prevent crime and support vulnerable individuals. Together, we will foster a sense of security that allows all residents to thrive. Enhancing Transit Options: A well-connected transit system is the lifeline of any vibrant city. As your Mayoral



candidate, I am committed to improving transit options, making them more accessible, reliable, and efficient. By investing in modern infrastructure, increasing frequency, and prioritizing affordability, we will create a transit network that meets the evolving needs of our growing population. Together, we will ensure that no Torontonian is left behind when it comes to transportation. Combating Drug-Related Issues: The opioid crisis has had a devastating impact on our community. As your Mayoral candidate, I remain committed to combating drug-related issues through a comprehensive approach. This approach includes prevention, harm reduction, and rehabilitation. By collaborating closely with healthcare professionals, addiction specialists, and community organizations, we can provide the necessary support to those struggling with addiction and make a lasting impact on the well-being of our city. Transitioning the CN Tower to Solar Power: The CN Tower symbolizes Toronto's innovative spirit, and it is only fitting that we lead by example in embracing clean energy solutions. As your Mayoral candidate, I am determined to transition the CN Tower to operate on solar power. By partnering with renewable energy experts, we will demonstrate our commitment to sustainable practices and inspire others to follow suit. Together, we can build a greener and more environmentally conscious city. Creating Job Opportunities with Flexible Remote Work Options: The world of work is evolving rapidly, and we must adapt accordingly. As your Mayoral candidate, I am dedicated to fostering job opportunities and supporting businesses by promoting flexible remote work options. By embracing technology and investing in digital infrastructure, we can attract talent, stimulate economic growth, and create a dynamic workforce that thrives in our ever-changing landscape.

#### **Life & Human Dignity**

Q.4. Catholics believe that we are all lost children of God, and that the purpose of this life is to find our way home to God – most importantly, by ensuring that our neighbours are enabled and encouraged to search for truth as well. What is your understanding of the purpose of life, and how does that inform your proposed policies?

If elected I will work tirelessly to achieve the following: Climate Change and Adaptation: The impacts of climate change are undeniable, affecting our environment, public health, and economic stability. It is crucial that we take immediate action to mitigate these effects and build a sustainable future. By collaborating with experts, stakeholders, and other levels of government, we can develop innovative solutions to address climate change. Together, we will prioritize sustainability, creating a city that is resilient and environmentally conscious for generations to come. Increasing Housing Supply with Building Automation and Off-Site Construction: One of the most pressing issues facing our city is housing accessibility. To tackle this challenge head-on, I propose harnessing the power of Building Automation and Off-Site Construction technologies. By partnering with the Daniels School of Architecture and Design at the University of Toronto, we can unlock incredible potential in enhancing construction efficiency and reducing costs. Embracing automation and off-site construction methods will streamline the building process, minimize waste, and create sustainable and affordable housing



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Q.5. Many Torontonians are rightly concerned with making diversity, equity, and inclusion a reality within our city. True efforts in such direction will not neglect those challenged by mental or physical disabilties. What is your plan for making Toronto truly accessible to all?



Ensuring true accessibility for all residents of Toronto is a cornerstone of my commitment to building a city that leaves no one behind. I understand that accessibility goes beyond mere compliance with regulations; it is about creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that empowers individuals of all abilities to fully participate in our vibrant community. To achieve this vision, my plan encompasses a comprehensive range of initiatives: Infrastructure and Built Environment: I will continue investing in infrastructure that prioritizes accessibility. This includes retrofitting existing public spaces, buildings, and transportation systems to meet or exceed accessibility standards. By incorporating universal design principles, we can create spaces that are inclusive and accommodating for everyone. Public Transportation: Enhancing accessibility in our public transit system is of utmost importance. I am dedicated to investing in accessible vehicles, stations, and services. This means ensuring physical accessibility, deploying advanced technologies, and providing clear and readily available information for all residents, including those with disabilities. Affordable and Accessible Housing: Accessible housing options are crucial for individuals with disabilities. I will collaborate with developers, community organizations, and housing agencies to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing units throughout the city. By promoting inclusive design and universal accessibility features, we can ensure that everyone has access to suitable housing options. Employment and Economic Inclusion: Removing barriers to employment and fostering economic inclusion are essential. I will work closely with businesses and organizations to promote inclusive hiring practices, provide training opportunities, and support initiatives that create an environment where individuals with disabilities can fully participate in the workforce. Accessibility Awareness and Education: Raising awareness and fostering education about accessibility is key to creating an inclusive city. I will launch public campaigns, collaborate with community organizations, and provide resources to educate and empower Torontonians on accessibility issues. By fostering a culture of understanding and inclusivity, we can break down barriers and create a truly accessible city for all. I understand that achieving true accessibility requires ongoing collaboration and engagement with residents, community groups, and stakeholders. Together, we can remove barriers, promote inclusivity, and build a city where everyone can thrive and contribute their unique talents. I am committed to making accessibility a top priority as your Mayor. By working together, we can create a Toronto that is truly accessible, reflecting our shared values of inclusivity, equality, and respect for all. Let's continue our journey towards a city that leaves no one behind.

Q.6. Prominent current issues facing Toronto include homelessness and access to affordable housing. What can or should the City of Toronto do about housing? Are there others – other levels of government, charitable agencies, for example – that might be supported, called upon, and encouraged to help in such work? How should any such organizations cooperate?

I firmly believe that the City has a crucial role to play in addressing these challenges. We must prioritize initiatives that aim to reduce homelessness and increase access to affordable housing for all residents.



This involves a multi-faceted approach that encompasses various stakeholders and organizations working in synergy. Firstly, the City of Toronto should continue to invest in affordable housing projects, working closely with developers, non-profit organizations, and community groups. We need to create more affordable housing units to meet the growing demand. This can be achieved through partnerships, where the City provides land or incentives for developers to include affordable housing in their projects. It is crucial to maintain a balance between market-rate housing and affordable options to ensure a diverse and inclusive city. Furthermore, collaboration with other levels of government is essential. The provincial and federal governments have significant resources and policy levers that can be utilized to address housing issues. I will continue advocating for increased funding and support from these higher levels of government to tackle homelessness and improve housing affordability in Toronto. Charitable agencies and community organizations also play a vital role in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness or facing housing challenges. The City should actively collaborate with these organizations, providing funding and resources to enhance their capacity to provide shelter, support services, and transitional housing. By working together, we can ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to addressing housing issues. Cooperation among these organizations is key. Regular communication, information sharing, and joint planning can help streamline efforts, avoid duplication of services, and maximize the impact of available resources. We should establish formal partnerships and task forces to facilitate this cooperation and ensure that everyone is working towards common goals. Addressing homelessness and improving access to affordable housing in Toronto requires a collective effort. The City of Toronto must take a lead role by investing in affordable housing, collaborating with other levels of government, and supporting charitable agencies. Through effective cooperation and coordination, we can make significant progress in tackling these pressing issues and building a more inclusive and equitable city for all.

Q.7. The news suggests that anxiety and mental health are also among the important issues facing Toronto – incidents, including violent attacks, on the TTC, for example. What can or should the City of Toronto do about to address mental health and safety on the sidewalk? Are there others – other levels of government, charitable agencies, for example – that might be supported, called upon, and encouraged to help in such work?

I want to shed light on the crucial issues of safety and mental health in our beloved city. Recent events, including incidents on the TTC, have underscored the importance of addressing these concerns. In this blog post, I will explore the strong correlation between sleep, personal time, affordability, and mental well-being. Together, let's delve into the multi-faceted approach that the City of Toronto can adopt to tackle these challenges. The Correlation: Sleep, Personal Time, Affordability, and Mental Health: Insufficient sleep and limited personal time resulting from demanding lifestyles, long commutes, and affordability challenges can significantly impact mental well-being. Research consistently highlights the profound connection between these factors and adverse mental health outcomes. Let's delve deeper into the impacts: Sleep and Mental Health: Numerous studies have demonstrated that inadequate



sleep duration and poor sleep quality increases the risk of mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression. Additionally, sleep deprivation impairs cognitive functions, decision-making abilities, and emotional regulation, thereby negatively affecting overall mental well-being. Personal Time and Mental Health: Personal time plays a crucial role in maintaining mental well-being. Limited personal time due to demanding lifestyles and long commutes often leads to chronic stress, which can contribute to the development of mental health disorders. Furthermore, insufficient personal time restricts engagement in self-care activities, including leisure, hobbies, exercise, and social interactions, which are vital for stress reduction and emotional regulation. Affordability and Mental Health: Affordability is a significant factor that influences mental health outcomes. The high cost of living, including housing expenses, can lead to financial strain, anxiety, and psychological distress. Housing insecurity resulting from limited affordability and inadequate options further amplifies stress levels and hampers mental well-being. Addressing Mental Health and Safety in Toronto: To address mental health and safety on our sidewalks, the City of Toronto must adopt a comprehensive approach that involves multiple stakeholders and strategies. Here's an overview of our proposed actions: Improving Transit Options and Reducing Gridlock: We recognize the importance of giving Torontonians their time back. By focusing on speeding up transit options, expanding public transportation networks, and implementing measures to reduce gridlock, we can alleviate long commutes and create a city that values personal time. This will have a positive impact on mental health by reducing stress levels associated with daily transportation. Affordable and Accessible Housing: Our commitment to affordable housing is vital for mental health outcomes. Collaborating with housing agencies, developers, and community organizations, we will increase the availability of affordable housing options. This will reduce financial stress, housing instability, and homelessness, enabling individuals to access safe and stable living conditions, ultimately promoting mental well-being. Accessible Mental Healthcare Services: Accessible mental healthcare services are a cornerstone of our strategy. We will prioritize funding for mental health programs, ensure an adequate number of mental health professionals, and establish community-based mental health clinics. Collaborating with other levels of government and charitable agencies, we aim to provide timely and quality support for mental health needs. The well-being of our residents is of utmost importance. By recognizing the correlation between sleep, personal time, affordability, and mental health, we can implement a comprehensive approach that addresses these interconnected challenges. Together, let's create a city that values the mental well-being of every Torontonian. Through improved transit, affordable housing options, and accessible mental healthcare services, we can foster a safe and thriving environment for all. Stay tuned for further

#### **Care for the Environment**

Q.8. The City of Toronto has long been engaged with care for the environment. Yet it can do more, particularly as awareness grows of the urgent nature of climate crises. Catholic teaching recognizes that what happens with the environment affects every aspect of our lives, everywhere on the planet. Pope Francis, like many faith leaders before him, has called on us to "work together" to ensure God's



creation is protected for future generations. How do you intend to promote collaborative and effective approaches to municipal climate change commitments, such as the TransformTO Net Zero strategy, to ensure care for the environment is consistently and urgently prioritized?

To kickstart our journey towards a net-zero future, we will transform the iconic CN Tower into a symbol of sustainability by powering it entirely with solar energy. This milestone will inspire residents and businesses to embrace renewable energy and demonstrate our commitment to a clean and sustainable Toronto. We recognize the importance of transitioning our buildings to sustainable heating and cooling systems. By adopting heat pumps, heat circulation/recovery systems, and improving insulation, we can significantly reduce our carbon footprint and promote energy efficiency throughout the city. In a ground-breaking move, Toronto will become the first city to pre-approve Fusion Power Generation, a revolutionary clean energy technology. This will revolutionize our energy landscape and help us achieve our net-zero goals. We are also committed to making Lake Ontario swimmable by 2030 by investing in improved water quality and shoreline revitalization efforts. Additionally, we will establish an elevated bike lane network, providing more transportation options and promoting active and sustainable commuting. To support remote work, we will support 5G work options such as compact remote controlled delivery vehicles on the elevated bike lane. We will also invest in quiet battery electric construction through offering 24 hour permitting to all quiet construction projects in the city which include excavating and crane operation. To optimize resource allocation, we will reevaluate existing budget allocations and reallocate funds to prioritize sustainability initiatives. Sustainability will become a fundamental principle across all city departments, ensuring consistent and effective action. Leveraging the power of artificial intelligence (AI), we will manage data and processing capabilities more efficiently. AI will enable us to make more informed decisions faster, identify efficiencies, and predict future needs, making Toronto smarter, more sustainable, and resilient. We will prioritize consistency and reliability in TTC services and elevate existing bike lanes with the B-line, creating a safer and more efficient travel network for cyclists and pedestrians. Our commitment to clean energy is unwavering. We will not support the expansion of the Portlands gas plant but will promote solar power, heat pumps and other sustainable technology adoption in buildings. We will also collaborate with upper levels of government to implement a large-scale geothermal plant, providing a reliable and sustainable energy source for Toronto. To enhance climate resilience, we will prioritize equitable and inclusive climate adaptation strategies and invest in critical infrastructure upgrades to mitigate the risks of extreme weather events. To improve waste management, we will implement Waste Reduction Benchmarking for residents and introduce an enhanced blue bin system. We will partner with local businesses to collect e-waste and old furniture, promoting the circular economy and reducing landfill waste. We will streamline access to climate-positive funding and grants through our novel Document AutoFill program, which simplifies application processes. We will also actively promote eco-conscious consumption and electric cooking equipment. Integrating urban farms along the B-Line will merge sustainable transportation with local food production, strengthening food security and building a resilient city. This will also be coupled with planting apple trees at every school, library and recreation centre to help improve food accessibility in our city. Together, we will propel Toronto towards a sustainable and prosperous future. By embracing clean energy, promoting



sustainable transportation, improving waste management, and fostering community resilience	we will,
become a global model for sustainable urban development.	


# **An Economy to Serve People**

Q.9. Among the greatest challenges faced by Toronto is affordable, accessible, and timely public transportation, particularly as an alternative to the use of personal vehicles. Vehicle congestion aggravates not only health concerns, but difficulties faced by Torontonians in maintaining diginified and fulfilling work. What are your plans for effectively addressing this problem? What approach would you take to expanding public transit, improved access for pedestrians and cyclists, and rejuvenation of infrastructure to make it easier for people in Toronto to access all the opportunities Toronto has to offer?

#### As particular examples:

- How do you propose to address highway congestion, including for example on the 401,427, Gardiner, and DVP highways?
- In view of its success, do you support rapid expansion of the King Street Pilot Project to other streetcar lines?
- Do you support expansion of the streetcar system?
- Do you support expansion of the bike lanes system?
- Do you support installation of overhead electrical charging for the electric buses the TTC proposes to buy?

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To address highway congestion, including on the 401, 427, Gardiner, and DVP highways, one of the key initiatives we propose is the implementation of adaptive cruise control (ACC) in all new cars sold within the city by 2027. This ground-breaking measure will significantly improve traffic flow and alleviate gridlock. ACC technology allows vehicles to maintain a safe and consistent distance from other vehicles, resulting in smoother traffic patterns, reduced emissions, and improved road safety. By embracing this technology, we can enhance our road infrastructure, reduce environmental impact, and boost economic productivity by ensuring efficient mobility for our citizens. In addition, we are implementing a Road and Highway Pylon Management Program aimed at optimizing pothole filling and the placement of traffic pylons during road and highway construction activities. This proactive approach replaces the traditional system of random pylon placement by construction personnel, which often results in suboptimal traffic flow and safety concerns. By strategically managing these elements, we can enhance traffic flow, improve safety, and minimize congestion on our highways. Another critical aspect of our strategy is addressing the issue of slow drivers, who significantly contribute to congestion. Through the utilization of data and enforcement resources, we will identify slow drivers and, when necessary, enforce penalties to ensure compliance with appropriate speed limits.



Furthermore, we recognize the importance of providing comprehensive driver training courses that focus on managing high volume traffic. These courses will equip drivers with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate congested roadways effectively, ultimately improving overall traffic flow and reducing congestion. It is essential to address risk perception as well. Studies have shown that higher traffic volumes can heighten drivers' perception of risk, leading to more cautious driving behaviors and reduced speed. This risk-averse behavior contributes to the overall slowdown of traffic. To mitigate this, we will work towards improving visibility and providing accurate information to drivers, enabling them to make informed decisions and reducing the impact of risk perception on traffic flow. By implementing these measures, we aim to enhance road safety, reduce congestion, minimize environmental impact through smoother traffic flow and fewer emissions, and boost economic productivity and mental health by reducing time spent in traffic. Our comprehensive approach recognizes the importance of advanced vehicle technologies like ACC, optimized construction practices, targeted enforcement, and improved driver training. Together, these initiatives will contribute to a more efficient and sustainable transportation system for the residents of Toronto. As particular examples: How do you propose to address highway congestion, including for example on the 401,427, Gardiner, and DVP highways? In view of its success, do you support rapid expansion of the King Street Pilot Project to other streetcar lines? The King Street Pilot Project has been a significant step towards improving transit reliability and enhancing the overall experience for commuters, residents, and businesses along the King Street corridor. By prioritizing streetcar movement and creating a dedicated transit lane, the project has resulted in faster and more reliable streetcar service, reduced congestion, and improved pedestrian safety. It has also revitalized the street, making it more vibrant and inviting for pedestrians and businesses alike. The pilot project has demonstrated the potential for innovative transportation solutions in our city, and I am committed to carefully evaluating its outcomes and exploring opportunities to expand similar initiatives to other areas in Toronto. Do you support expansion of the streetcar system? Yes, I support the expansion of the streetcar system in Toronto. Streetcars are an integral part of our city's public transportation network, providing reliable and accessible service to residents and visitors alike. Expanding the streetcar system will enhance connectivity, reduce congestion, and contribute to a more sustainable and efficient transportation network. By investing in the expansion of the streetcar system, we can ensure that Toronto continues to thrive as a vibrant and accessible city for all. Do you support expansion of the bike lanes system? The centerpiece of my vision for a greener and more resilient Toronto is the implementation of the B-Line bicycle lane—an elevated system that will revolutionize transportation in our city. This innovative infrastructure will provide a safe and efficient route for cyclists, while also accommodating autonomous and remote-controlled robots. By elevating the bike lanes, we create a dedicated space separate from vehicular traffic, ensuring the safety of all users and encouraging more people to embrace cycling. This transformative initiative embraces the future of mobility and sets a new standard for sustainable urban transportation, where cyclists and robots can navigate side by side, contributing to a greener and more interconnected city. Do you support installation of overhead electrical charging for the electric buses the TTC proposes to buy? Yes, I wholeheartedly support the implementation of overhead electrical charging stations for transit vehicles. These charging stations provide a safe and convenient option for charging our public transportation fleet. By utilizing overhead electrical charging, we can ensure the efficient and reliable operation of our transit vehicles while minimizing



environmental impact. This innovative technology aligns with our commitment to sustainability and positions Toronto as a leader in clean and efficient transportation solutions. With overhead electrical charging stations, we can further enhance our public transit system and create a greener, more accessible city for everyone.


# **Order & Public Safety**

Q.10. As noted above, anxiety and mental health issues arising from the pandemic seem to be the cause of an alarming number of violent assaults in Toronto, including on the TTC, with many people - including those suffering mental illness - becoming victims. Street racing remains a hazardous and potentially lethal pastime among young Torontonians. What steps would you take to both reduce the threat of these and other hazards, and to address their underlying causes?

Addressing the alarming increase in violent assaults and street racing incidents in Toronto, particularly on the TTC, is of utmost importance. It is evident that anxiety and mental health issues stemming from the pandemic have played a role in these occurrences, making it crucial to address both the immediate threats and their underlying causes. To begin, I am committed to implementing a major safety overhaul of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) through our new initiative, "TTC the TTC" - Time To Change the TTC. This initiative will introduce Safe Waiting Spaces and booths at every bus and subway station. These secure, well-lit areas will provide riders with a safe environment while they wait for transit, reducing the risk of becoming victims of assault or other crimes. Ensuring the safety and well-being of our commuters is paramount. In addition to creating Safe Waiting Spaces, we will enhance passenger safety by equipping TTC vehicles with live video feeds accessible to the Toronto Police. This measure will enable rapid response to incidents, ensuring a swift and effective intervention when necessary. By leveraging technology and collaboration between the TTC and law enforcement, we can deter and address acts of violence more effectively. Furthermore, The frustration of being stuck in traffic may lead some individuals to engage in dangerous behaviors such as street racing. To address this, we will not only focus on traffic management programs to alleviate congestion but also explore the possibility of designated racing areas supported by the city. By providing controlled environments for racing enthusiasts, we can channel their passion into safer settings, minimizing the risks associated with illegal street racing. It is essential to adopt a multi-faceted approach that combines improved safety measures, traffic management initiatives, and targeted support for mental health and well-being. By addressing the root causes of these issues, we can create a safer and more harmonious Toronto. Additionally, as part of our commitment to enhancing transportation accessibility and safety, we will work towards expanding the reach of the Presto pass into the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). This will ensure a seamless and convenient transit experience for residents across the region, promoting the use of public transportation and reducing the reliance on personal vehicles. Through "TTC the TTC" and our comprehensive approach to safety, we aim to transform the TTC into a safer and more reliable part of daily life in Toronto. By investing in infrastructure, implementing safety measures, addressing mental health concerns, and exploring innovative solutions, we can create a city where everyone feels secure and can enjoy the benefits of efficient and accessible public transportation.

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