

Date: October 4, 2010

To: Dr. P. Correa
Concord West Seniors Club
Concord West Ratepayers Association

Subject: Concord West Debate Question Response

Thank you for your understanding and for giving me the time to write a proper response to your question posed at the Sept 28th debate.

I want to thank the Concord West Ratepayer Association and the Seniors Club for hosting the event and giving us a chance to meet the residents and let the residents know a bit more about the candidates and what they stand for.

As I indicated at the event I support your efforts to preserve and provide safe access to important green space; an important asset to your community. There are two issues coming out of your presentation; One, denied safe access to the Bartley Smith Greenway and the Glen Shields community, preferred route over the tracks and under the 407, and two; the transfer of the green space to the TRCA.

I want to address the access first. This is an important project that must not be delayed any longer. The latest streetscape project indicated that the City Council has not been interested in addressing this need due to the complicated negotiation with various levels of Gov't and the challenges of crossing the tracks safely and with full access to the physically challenged. If you have overwhelming support from the residents to provide for safe crossing of the tracks and the connection under 407 to Glenn Shields, then it must not be put on the back burner any longer. I will work to move this project forward through negotiations with the different levels of Gov't to help get it moving. I believe this must proceed ASAP and could be an important part of the future negotiations.

With regard to the transfer of the green space to the TRCA, you are lucky to have started this initiative very early on in the process and as a result, the chance of success is good. As well as protecting green space, important ecological habitat, promoting trails and bike paths through our natural spaces and encouraging access to these hidden gems in our communities, I also appreciate that we need to invest in important transportation infrastructure for the benefit of all residents of Vaughan. We need a balanced approach, something we have not seen recently in Vaughan.

I have previous experience in getting land transferred to the TRCA that was identified for important transportation infrastructure; however it does not happen overnight, nor without a strong case having been made to the right levels. Anyone can say they will support you in getting the land transferred, can make motions and can write letters, however without the strong case to back it up very little will happen. Very few have the

experience of having been through this process and can work with you to ensure you make the strongest case possible to have it happen.

I am committing to support you in trying to get the GO station and parking lot re-located. We need to get all information to make a strong case and lobby the different levels of government to have a balanced approach when considering the placement of transportation infrastructure. The EA process will be a good start.

I have had success doing something like this before, and you know from my past actions where my support has been, so I am the right person to help in trying to get a positive outcome for the residents, however it would be inappropriate to promise anything at this time. I need to get more information to understand all that will be necessary to positively influence the outcome.

Best wishes!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Schulte".

Deb Schulte
for Regional Councillor

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