



October 3, 2011

Dear Society of Energy Professionals member,

As you are no doubt aware, this Thursday October 6 is election day in the province of Ontario. By all accounts, this is shaping up to be an incredibly close race, and the outcome of this election will have major impacts on each of us, our families and the communities in which we live.

As the president of a union representing members who work in Ontario's electricity sector I have followed the campaign closely, as the future of the electricity sector and the future of collective bargaining rights for our members have both found their way prominently into party platforms, debates and media commentary.

First and foremost, I encourage each and every one of you to make your voice heard and get out and vote on Thursday. It is easy to become cynical and jaded about the current state of our politics, but seeing the daily life and death struggle of citizens from many countries around the world for voting rights should remind us never to take our democracy for granted.

In addition, I encourage everyone to become as informed as possible about each of the parties and their platforms. Knowledge truly is power.

Historically, the Society has never made a partisan endorsement of any party, nor will we do so in the current election. We have, however, made efforts to ensure that our members have access to party positions on relevant issues, as provided by the parties themselves. To that end, as we have in years past, The Society has asked each party to answer a list of standardized questions that we believe will be of interest to our members. You will find those questions appended to this letter.

We have received responses from both the Liberal Party of Ontario and the Ontario New Democratic Party, which we have provided for you in full and unedited form. Unfortunately, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario declined to respond to us at all after many attempts to contact party representatives and provide them with our questions. I leave it to you to make of that what you will.

Finally, each of the major parties has posted their full platforms online and they are all well worth reading and considering.

Sincerely,

Rod Sheppard
President, The Society of Energy Professionals

The Society of Energy Professionals: Questions for the Parties

1. The recent Ministry of Energy Long Term Energy Plan calls for ten nuclear units at Darlington and Bruce to be refurbished, as well as an additional two units of new nuclear at Darlington, resulting in approximately 50% of electricity supply derived from nuclear. If your party forms government, would this plan for refurbishment (10 units) and new build (2 units) be maintained?
2. What is your party's position with respect to continued operations at Pickering Nuclear GS and the conversion of Nanticoke GS and Lambton GS from coal to natural gas-fired operation?
3. The recent Long Term Energy Plan projects a 2030 supply mix with the following composition:

| Source 2030 | Nuclear | Hydro | Conservation | Wind/ Solar/ Biomass | Gas |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|--------------|----------------------------|-----|
| LTEP Projection | 46% | 20% | 14% | 12.8% | 7% |
| Party X Projection | | | | | |

If your party forms government, would long term supply mix projections be altered? Please fill out the blank row in the table with your party's projected supply mix. If you are unable to provide exact numbers, please indicate the directionality and approximate magnitude of any change.

4. Ontario's transmission infrastructure is rapidly aging, and in fact much of it is currently past nominal end of life. If your party forms government how would you balance the demands of renewal and replacement of existing transmission infrastructure with the desire for new transmission to enable renewables and other embedded generation?
5. By regulation, Ontario Power Generation is prevented from building and operating non-hydro renewable generating facilities. If your party forms government would you change the regulation to allow OPG to participate in renewable generation?
6. Since the breakup of Ontario Hydro system planning, procurement, rate setting, grid management and dispatch, generation and transmission functions have been devolved to a large number of entities including the OPA, the IESO, the OEB, OPG and Hydro One, among others. If your party forms government would you amend the roles of these agencies or alter the relationship between them? If so, please explain how.
7. If your party forms government would you explore privatization, in part or in whole, of any part of the electricity system that is currently publicly owned?

8. If your party forms government would you enact legislation which would alter/amend the Rand formula or otherwise alter the relationship between unions and their members?
9. Arbitration of collective bargaining disputes is seen by many as a useful alternative to strikes/lockouts. If your party forms government would you make any alterations to the current arbitration regime? If so, what form would this take?
10. How will your party protect Ontarian's pension income/earnings if a company goes into receivership or bankruptcy?
11. Will your party amend the Ontario Pension Benefit Act to require indexation and ensure that all pension plan members, including pensioners, get access to pension plan status??
12. What is your party's position to more quickly correct pension plans that fall into deficit beyond what current regulations allow (currently it is 5 years). What would you do to ensure pensions are fully funded throughout a business cycle?
13. What, if any, initiatives or programs is your Party planning to develop a Universal Child Care Program for Ontario?
14. What, if any, initiatives or programs is your Party planning to eliminate the Gender Wage Gap?
15. What, if any, initiatives or programs is your Party planning to support victims of domestic violence and to end domestic violence?
16. What will your Party do to improve accessibility to Health Care across the province? For example reducing wait times in: hospitals; medical treatments and testing; access to specialists; access to home care; affordable long term care facilities; etc.