



## 2014 LONDON CITY ELECTION - Survey Responses

The **Top Four Contenders for Mayor** – Matt Brown, Roger Caranci, Paul Cheng and Joe Swan were invited to answer two questions:

- **Identify the top three issues facing the City of London**
- **List the specific actions they would take to resolve these issues, should they be elected.**

They were advised that all responses would be compiled into a survey, without edit, to be distributed to the media and to partners within the Keep London Growing Coalition for distribution to their members and their employees. KLG partners are:

LIUNA Local 1059	London & District Building & Construction Trades Council
London & District Construction Assoc.	London & District Concrete Forming Contractors Assoc.
London Development Institute	London District Heavy Construction Association
London Home Builders' Association	London St. Thomas Association of Realtors

The Keep London Growing Coalition is a group of concerned construction workers, labour unions, contractors, home builders, business owners, land developers, real estate professionals, manufacturers and suppliers, who joined together in 2007 out of mutual concern for the lack of jobs in London. The KLG represents a workforce of over 30,000 Londoners.

### **BROWN, Matt**

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**Top three issues facing the City of London?**  
**What are the specific actions you would take to resolving these issues?**

#### **Issue #1: Job Creation**

Unemployment is still unacceptably high in London. As a community we need to do better. But we all know a simple yet inconvenient truth - City Hall can create jobs at City Hall, but it can't create jobs outside its own walls. You are the job creators in London. Anyone who tells you otherwise isn't telling it straight. But City Hall can and must be an important partner in job creation – if we play our part right, we can help you grow your business. If we don't, we do the opposite.

I am committed to pursuing several strategies to foster job growth:

- **Implement a Better Business Action plan**, which will focus on streamlining and simplifying process, ensuring better service and faster turnaround times for permit approvals, and implementing a new concierge-style business support program so City Staff are with a business that wants to open and grow every step of the way. For your industry specifically, I've heard the frustrations about Planning being on Dundas Street and Development Services being at City Hall. We need to make this easier, and I'm committed to exploring solutions.

- **Develop a City-wide Economic Development plan**, to ensure all of our city-funded economic development organizations are pulling in the same direction and are accountable for results. We have scarce economic development resources, so we've got to spend them on growing our strengths, and have the discipline to say no to things that don't.

- **Be an active partner in Regional economic development.** Jobs created in surrounding communities benefit London, just as jobs created in London benefit surrounding communities. We must leverage our collective strengths as a region, and we need mayors with the diplomacy and the drive to work together around the SouthWest Economic Alliance table to get things done, together – I'll be that kind of mayor.

### **Issue #2: Balanced Growth**

I live in a newer subdivision in Hyde Park because it fits my lifestyle; all Londoners deserve a choice in housing. That's why new subdivisions will and should continue to grow in London. But we must introduce a more balanced mix of infill and high density development that grows the city inwards and upwards as well. This is essential to maintaining quality services while easing pressure on taxes for residents and businesses.

I am committed to pursuing several strategies to encourage balanced growth:

- **Implement the London Plan.** The new official plan will guide our growth strategy, balancing the visions of our local developers with the building of a forward-looking, sustainable community. I understand that the London Plan represents a change to the traditional growth model in London, but I am very confident that your industry has the drive and creativity to innovate in the face of this change, and will find new opportunities to prosper.

- **Better Transit, Better Roads:** We need to reduce congestion and build safer, smoother roads. A livable city is one where you can travel to work and back efficiently and safely, without frustrating delays and in a variety of ways – whether by car, bike, or public transit. That means filling potholes and designing roads and intersections that are safe for all, but most importantly it's time for London to have a rapid transit system that will ease the traffic burden on our major roads. I commit breaking ground on Rapid Transit within 4 years so we can get this city moving again.

- **Take our Downtown to the Next Level:** Our downtown core is key to our city's economic engine. Though it makes up just 0.2% of our land in the city, it represents nearly 10% of our tax base. That means when downtown thrives, the tax burden is eased for all of us. That means every neighbourhood in the city benefits. We can have tax relief. We can have better roads. We can have cleaner parks. That's why it's time for more development and more people living in the core.

### **Issue #3: Better Government**

I don't have to remind you of the legacy this past four years has left. Londoners' confidence in local government has been eroded by a series of scandals and missteps, and the next mayor and council have a responsibility to earn back the trust of the public it serves.

I am committed to pursuing several strategies to foster better government:

- **Sensible budgeting to protect public services and your pocketbook.** As chair of the audit committee, through my leadership we found millions in savings, efficiencies and new revenues at City Hall and at local Boards and Commissions. I will take this to the next level by introducing multi-year, zero base budgeting, a process that will break down and rebuild sections of the budget each year and subject them to comprehensive review. This process will ease pressure on taxes and allow for investments in economic development and infrastructure.

- **Zero Tolerance for Poor Behaviour and Bad Ethics.** I will usher in a new era of transparency, publishing a weekly schedule of my meetings and events online. I will never participate in an "illegal closed" meeting, and the Ombudsman will have my respect and full cooperation if he is required to open an investigation. We'll run a clean and open shop, and a government that Londoners can be proud of.

· **Focus on Priorities.** I will focus on London's strengths, and resist being distracted by issues that don't effectively leverage those strengths and move our community forward. For example, arts and culture is a strength in London – but the current proposal for a Performing Arts Centre isn't sustainable and affordable, it doesn't include all of the arts, and the construction and ongoing operation would be overly reliant on the taxpayer - in short, it doesn't leverage our strengths like it should. As mayor I'd make sure that when we're investing in the arts, we're getting the best result for our investment, which the current proposal fails to do.

I have a comprehensive platform on the campaign website, [votemattbrown.ca](http://votemattbrown.ca), that addresses other issues, and I encourage you to read more about my plans.

## **CARANCI, Roger**

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**Jobs** – Doesn't matter what ward you are in, this is always the number one issue. With a record high unemployment rate every family in London has been touched by either youth unemployment or a family member who has lost their job. Some say this is not a Municipal issue; but it is indeed a London issue and therefore a Municipal issue.

The past 4 years has been horrible, it has showcased us across Canada and internationally as being a City that has lost pride and respect for its businesses and has certainly earned the title "Closed for Business".

The City CEO and the Mayor must lead by example, how does it look when the City Manager doesn't live in the community they are supposed to run? Why has council allowed this to happen? Shouldn't the City manager be in the community talking to the businesses and Londoners daily, gosh he doesn't pay property taxes in London.

"Let's Get London Working"

1. Hire to work directly with the Mayor a Small Business manager, reporting to the Mayor. This person is the first line for contact, that will usher in and deal with all the problems faced by business.
2. Deal with the increasing restriction and "red tape" imposed by this and former councils. By making business easier in London, some jobs should follow.
3. Quarterly Kitchen tables with all business leaders in London to ensure the line of communication between that sector and the Mayor's office is constant.
4. Continue to liaise with senior levels of government to ensure that we work in partnership for job creation.
5. Continue to acquire Industrial Land that is shovel ready.
6. Top down evaluation of staffing at City Hall. Are we getting a return on our large investment, where are the efficiencies and duplication.

If elected Mayor I will in my Inaugural Address with set the stage for a change in attitude, we will as a Council create welcoming environment for Business. As a Council we must recognize that our competition is not Hamilton, Vaughan or Kitchener it is our immediate neighbours that are giving business lower rates and better service. We must become the "Getting to Yes" city of the region.

## **Taxes**

Everyone knows that we want it all but don't want to pay for it, but we do. Keeping taxes as low as possible must be the goal of every candidate in this election. You can't expect business to locate in an area that is reckless with its spending. I have run a business and also sat on Council so I will be ready to lead and tackle this issue.

1. A top down management and staff review of City Hall
2. Find efficiencies in our boards and agencies.
3. Work with council to stop the deferring, referring and requesting report all thi requires vast amount of staff time and removes them from doing the business of running the city. Minutiae costs money.
4. Look at tendering out, this council has run away from this difficult decision and it should be examined in detail for cost saving and investment from the private sector.
5. Seek value added investments from our agencies that apply for funding. What value do you bring with this investment of taxpayers' money?
6. Respect the Taxpayer.

## **Honest Integrity Leadership and Accountability**

1. All candidates should have a police check before running, we are the only level of government not to have that done. I have mine available on my website [www.rogercaranci.ca](http://www.rogercaranci.ca)
2. I have always worked with integrity, when running my own business if you don't have integrity you will be out of business quickly. I have also served on council so I know that you must have two different sets of skills to ensure we move this city forward. The ability to work with business and community, bringing the two together will show leadership and accountability.
3. Have a clear expense policy that will be published on the city website monthly.
4. What you see is what you get, I have always dealt with everyone honestly, whether you like the answer or not.

I have built my campaign on sensible solutions for Londoners. I will continue to do so. I will not promise voters the world, but continue to announce common sense initiatives that a new council could put into action. Together we will "Get London Working".

## **CHENG, Paul**

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### **Top three issues**

- #1 Rebuild London for today and future generations. Making London prosperous again.
- #2 Cost Control, responsive, accountable City Hall.
- #3 Planning Department that has clear guidelines. Equal treatment for all.

I invite your members to check our website [PaulChengforMayor.com](http://PaulChengforMayor.com). Blog #6 describes my experience in Corporate Management almost 20 years ago. Management skills are transferable between companies; between industries and between business and council. The blogs will give you a very good idea how your candidate thinks and functions in the real world. By inference, how he will perform as Mayor in the near future. There's no guarantee that your Mayor will perform brilliant. But if the past is prologue to future, my past experience in managing world class projects has demonstrated that this candidate for Mayor has proven heavy industry track record and have done them well.

## Specific Steps

#1 To be announced - As The Coalition can appreciate London did not fall on hard times overnight. It took years to drive away business. Eventually business heard the message and left in droves. To regain confidence and a sterling reputation as a City that welcomes business, we have to prove ourselves to the world, regain confidence of business. That means turning City Hall and attitude around. There are dedicated City Hall employees who want to serve and help make London modern, cosmopolitan and prosperous but the bureaucracy is choking innovation. I have specific ideas but to be announced on our timing. Once disclosed, the three will say 'me too'.

#2 London Plan and Fanshawe is perfect example

What did London Plan cost to assemble? It was a two year plus project. Glen Pearson, councillors and City Hall staff claims over 9000 citizens were involved in this decision process. Who are these people? Who are the authors? Does council approve or disapprove of the 20 year plan? Have they read it?

This 'Plan' was pumped as the future, salvation to our high unemployment, salvation to all the problems of London - if only we had a better plan, London will be prosperous. I read 'Plan' from YYZ to FRA to BAH to Saudi Arabia and back. It is the most painful book of fantasy that I've ever read. This is the caliber / result after two years of consultation?

I look forward to dissecting this book with your membership line by line, page by page. Is this 'Plan' the best that City management can produce? It is a clear indication of leadership deficiency.

Fanshawe. Enclose my speech in part at our Fiesta Campaign Kick Off at London Music Club - Whoever is leading these debates are channelling our attention to exacting local issues where they talk FOR Fanshawe, AGAINST Fanshawe without ever talking substance. What is the assessed value of the property? Was there ever any other buyer? What was the competing price? Was there ever an appraisal like regular commercial transactions that we, the public are accustomed to. If there is an appraisal, why was it not disclosed. If there's no appraisal, why not? Why is it a secret? It's a private transaction you say. Well...if we as taxpayers have to fork over 20, 30 million or more, we sure as heck are entitled to know.

How did you arrive at this \$70 million figure. Was there public tender. Where is the preliminary engineering study? Surely, there must be one? What's the cost break down? Tell us. And when does council ever move so fast? Our firemen have no contract for 3, 4 years? And yet these councillors will consider Fanshawe's request for \$10 million overnight.

By channelling our attention, deliberate or otherwise, to what these three want to talk about, they are hoping to draw your attention away from their performance record for the past 4, 8 to 12 years on council. They have the experience in council, but what has that gotten us?

The 'Plan' and Fanshawe are microcosm examples of dysfunction within City Hall management. Enclose radio advertisement that highlights this exact issue.

#3 Planning Department does not operate with clear guidelines. Applicants are accepted and rejected ad hoc with no consistency. We have management in City Hall that is desperate for cash and they are willing to extract that from anyone i.e development levies. That money disappears into general revenue (as far as I can discover from annual reports).

For London to be modern and cosmopolitan, we have to have industry and business. That generates real wealth. When was the last office tower completed in London? Over 20 years ago! One London Place. Why has there been no new office towers? Because real life market place dictates supply and demand. There is no demand for office space in London. So no office towers are built.

I want London to have world class, unique buildings. I want London to have skyscrapers that attract tourism (Turning Torso, Malmo); Unique landscapes (Cinque Terre, Liguria); World Class hotels (Marina Bay w/Infinity Pool, Singapore). Existing city by laws are not capable of handling world class projects. That must change.

## SWAN, Joe

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### Top three issues facing the City of London and specific actions to be taken:

**London needs a Mayor with experience and skills to make London once again be the best managed city in Canada. My top three priorities are:**

**1. Improving our economy and creating jobs with the private sector** - In the last four years I have demonstrated my commitment to this purpose, encouraging and supporting residential and commercial growth across the City. I led the effort to invest in industrial land, supported the major expansion of the Southwest Area plan and introduced a new planning concept called an enterprise zone to enable quicker approvals in the planning process. I led the charge to reduce the exorbitant increase in development charges to more reasonable levels. Additional actions include supporting no more taxes or fees on industrial land or the costs of expansion of industrial property. London must not just say we are open for business our OP, Zoning and approvals process must be streamlined to make it a reality. I will appoint a Deputy City Manager Economic Prosperity and Civic Partnerships who will be accountable and responsible for partnering the City with the private sector to ensure planning, development and engineering approvals are done on time and with great service.

**2. Keep a tight Rein on Taxes** - In 2010 I was elected to work with the Mayor and Council to maintain tax increases at zero as the people's stated goal. I successfully worked with others to hold the line at 1% on average for four years, an unprecedented feat in London's local government with no loss of essential services. As we look to the next four years beware of Mayor candidates who are promising a return to tax and spend policies including a \$100 million dollar pledge over the next four years for buses and transit. That kind of promise will cripple our economy, increase business costs and tax residential properties out of the reach of local families and seniors. The costs will limit the ability of young families to purchase their first home. I will freeze the salaries of the Mayor, City Council and senior management and I will freeze departmental budgets at current levels until the economy turns around. I will place a 1% cap on taxes to control our current levels of government spending. We will not spend any more local tax dollars on schools.

**3, Deliver efficient and effective essential services** - The City has a vast array of services to provide including police, fire, social services and libraries. This is in addition to roads, transit and community programs. Each year the budget will outline the specific costs and deliverables in new Project Tracking software that will track costs, timelines and results and this will be reported to Council Committees each quarter. Integration of programs will be a priority to avoid duplication and overlap of services. I will serve on the Police Services Board to assist in collective bargaining that is affordable and sustainable. Fire settlements also need to be reached immediately and avoid prolonged arbitration hearings. These steps will reduce costs of your government significantly.

