

First Name of Candidate: Elizabeth
Last Name of Candidate: Whitmer
Riding: Kitchener-Waterloo
Campaign Email Address: elizabeth@elizabethwhitmer.com
Campaign Telephone Number: 519-208-6680
Party Affiliation (if applicable): PC

- 1. As Ontarians continue to recover from the economic recession, public libraries offer easy and free access to essential information and services (e.g. computers, the Internet, training workshops) to those searching for employment or wanting to upgrade their skills.** Strongly Agree
- 2. Public libraries provide a vast array of valuable materials and programs for young children, which encourage an interest in literacy and learning. As such, public libraries should be considered as major players and resource centres in program delivery for early literacy and family literacy development.** Strongly Agree
- 3. Public libraries serve as important service providers and referral centres for newcomers to Canada, through settlement support, language acquisition including ESL programs, accreditation and employment support and maintaining cultural connections.** Strongly Agree
- 4. Public libraries' business services help Ontario's entrepreneurs and small business owners create jobs and build strong local economies.** Strongly Agree
- 5. Provincial government ministries such as Education, Children & Youth Services, Citizenship & Immigration, Training Colleges & Universities, Community & Social Services, Research & Innovation, Health Promotion & Support, and Municipal Affairs & Housing should pursue stronger partnerships with the public library sector in order for those ministries to more effectively meet their goals and avoid the creation of parallel structures.** Strongly Agree
- 6. To support a knowledge based economy and the new generation of library users who require the latest communication technology so they can connect virtually to the library, each other, their community and a world of databases and cultural resources, the provincial government's strategies for infrastructure enhancement must take into account the significant ongoing need to upgrade public library facilities.** Strongly Agree
- 7. The Public Libraries Act is important because it ensures equal access to all Ontarians regardless of where they reside.** Strongly Agree

8. Are you aware that the provincial government's contribution to the operating budgets of public libraries represents, on average, only 5% of the total and is now among the lowest of all provinces on a per capita basis? No
9. Are you aware that provincial operating grants to Ontario public libraries have been static for the past 13 years when they were cut by 40%, with no adjustments since for even inflation or population growth? No
10. If elected, will you work actively to increase the provincial funding of public libraries, thereby strengthening the effectiveness of the Public Libraries Act? Yes
11. Are you aware that the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries has submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Tourism & Culture to increase the funding envelope for provincial operating grants to public libraries from its current \$18.7 million to \$43.9 million by 2013? No
12. If elected, will you actively work to support the Federation's proposal? Yes
13. Do you have a public library card? Yes
14. How often in the past year have you visited your local public library? 6-10 times
15. What was the last thing you borrowed from an Ontario public library? Summer reading, usually mystery books.
16. Have you ever been a member of a public library board or a Friends of the Library group? If so, which one(s) No.