

# Michael Skinner - Conservative Party

Peterborough-Kawartha Riding

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**Q1 Taxation** Would you encourage your party to appoint a royal commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the Canadian tax system guided by the principles of tax competitiveness, simplicity and fairness? **Yes**

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**Q2 Regulation** Would you encourage your party to implement a 2-for-1 rule to require the elimination of two regulations for every new one introduced over the next five years? **Yes**

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**Q3 Small Business** How would you ensure federal programs and interactions with business align with and respect small business realities?

I support our Conservative Party's creation of a small business secretariat and rural secretariat for small business outside of urban areas. My commitment locally is to create a small business advisory panel to meet quarterly and report back to me so that I can bring local concerns and solutions on matters like red tape, competitiveness and other issues to the Minister responsible for small business and economic development.

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**Q4 Connected Canada** How will you continue to improve access to high-speed networks in underserved communities? (municipalities as a whole and business)

Our Conservative position is to ensure that high speed, reliable connectivity ( cell phone and internet) is a priority in our under-serviced rural areas. I have a background in technology. I know how important connectivity is to rural businesses and residents. I will fight to ensure connectivity solutions are implemented immediately after taking office.

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**Q5 Skills** What is your plan to help with retraining and upskilling of workers?

The Conservative party has a mandate to increase labor mobility and to better integrate provincial colleges of trades to relieve labor shortages and build up our workforce with the skills and knowledge of trades that are needed in today's modern workplace. I have already been working on a cross community round table that includes a number of our local employers as well as Junior Achievement, School Boards and the Fleming College School of Trades to better understand the barriers to our young people entering the trades.

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**Q6 Trade**What is your position on breaking down interprovincial trade barriers?

Unimpeded trade among Canadian Provinces and territories and an inter-provincial work force is absolutely necessary to ensure our competitiveness in the global marketplace. We fully support working with the provinces to reduce inter-provincial trade barriers and improve the flow of goods and services across Canada. Buying foreign goods and services rather than supporting Canadian business makes us less competitive.

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**Q7 Trade**How do you view international trade agreements? What role do you see them playing in economy?

International trade agreements are critically important to broad sectors of the Canadian economy including agriculture, agri-food, energy, lumber, mining and more. We are deeply concerned about the deteriorating relationships between Canada and our major trading partners including but not limited to the US, India and China.

Our previous Conservative government took market access very seriously. We signed 53 trade deals in less than ten years in office. We also created the Market Access Secretariat which focused on gaining expanded access for our farmers to foreign markets. An Andrew Scheer government would continue this proud tradition which will include taking a more aggressive approach to removing non-tariff trade barriers.

Having built and operated international companies. I too understand the importance of good trade relations and will be sharing that knowledge with my Conservative colleagues when I am elected.

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