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## Chemical Institute of Canada (CIC) Toronto Section

*Proudly Serving the Chemistry Community in the Greater Toronto Area*

Below are questions that the Government Liaisons have sent to the candidates for City Councillor of Ward 11, University-Rosedale. Unfortunately, due to the confusion surrounding the ward division in Toronto, *we could not offer the candidates very much time to answer the questions*. We received response from **Marc Cormier**, **Joyce Rowlands**, and **Mike Layton**. The Nicki Ward campaign was contacted (by email and phone) but gave no response.

**Rowlands** gave a general response to our questions:

“I have reviewed the questions, and certainly support many of the goals and environmental initiatives of your organization – and certainly, efforts to bring jobs to Toronto. However, as a first time candidate for City Council, I do not have sufficient background information on each of these questions to fully commit to every item on your list. As City Councillor for University-Rosedale, I will work with CIC to advance its goals wherever there is an alignment with the best interests of the City of Toronto.”

**Layton** gave a general response to our questions and hopes to answer them all ASAP:

“Mike is supportive of initiatives to expand recycling programming within municipalities and will fight loudly to prevent cuts from the program. Mike is also a member of the National Zero Waste Council which looks to reduce the use of harmful one time use products, and ensure more companies and organizations look to reduce and reuse.”

### **Questions and answers:**

1. Do you have any new policy initiatives for recycling?

**Cormier:** I don't have a specific policy but would be interested in hearing from the experts on this issue: the industry, CIC, the City Waste Managers etc.

2. Currently, Toronto facilities can't recycle black plastic, do you want to change this?

**Cormier:** Absolutely. Black plastic is contaminating recycling lots and costing us close to 1 million \$. We need to either find solutions within the current costing or ban the use of such plastics within the city.

3. Do you support waste reduction initiatives, such as a ban on single use plastics (e.g. plastic bags, drinking straws)? Will you encourage their replacement with compostable alternatives?

**Cormier:** I am currently not ready to ban single use plastics. The case of the drinking straw has generated a lot of discussion on the overreaching impact of bad statistics : the current ant-straw is based on one 9-year-old's suspect statistics. We (all levels of government, industry) need to invest heavily into R&D for better biodegradable single use compounds.

4. Do you have any policy initiatives to expand STEM training and engagement in high school?

**Cormier:** Education is a provincial domain. As an educator, I absolutely abhor the idea of an integrated approach to educating where content is dissolved into a trans-disciplinary approach. Our approach in North America is obsessed with a practical approach to education, basically turning high schools into colleges geared to producing ideal students for industry and the general economy. This is a one dimensional approach to education that dismisses the chaotic, accidental nature of discovery within the intellectual framework of pure mathematics and fundamental research.

5. Do you have any plans to support/expand science outreach in the Toronto Libraries?

**Cormier:** No. We need to support and expand science outreach within the educational system first and foremost. Too many pedagogues, educational experts are not well versed in the true nature of science and mathematics and keep imposing an outsider's approach to these subject matters, damaging the curriculum and its delivery.

6. Do you support initiatives for renewable energy? Energy conservation (building insulation)?

**Cormier:** Certainly. I support giving Homeowners Property Tax Rebates to setup renewable energy solutions to homes (solar) and better insulation.

7. Do you support the expansion of bike lanes and bike rental programs?

**Cormier:** Yes.

8. Transform TO Climate Action Strategy is “aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improve our health, grow economy and improve social equity.” It involves various short-term strategies. Do you have any plan to increase transparency of the implementation of Transform TO?

**Cormier:** Yes.

9. This year, the new provincial government (PC) announced changes to previous initiatives. How will these changes impact initiatives related to technology, science and innovation?

**Cormier:** We need to oppose such changes at the municipal level and maintain our objectives free from political meddling from other levels of government.

10. Do you have any plans to encourage companies that develop or produce new chemical products to move into the Toronto area and offer jobs for chemists, chemical engineers or chemical technicians?

**Cormier:** Not specifically but are interested in proposals from your association.

CIC Executive Team, ***Government Liaison***

*Please note that CIC Toronto section does not endorse any candidate, and that the inclusion or absence of responses from candidates does not reflect any bias of the CIC.*