

ISARC 2017 budget campaign
Visit to Arthur Potts, MPP
3 p.m., January 13, 2017

NOTES (by R. Wardlaw)

Delegation: Ron Tweedie and (Rev.) Robin Wardlaw, Glen Rhodes United Church;
Murray Lumley and (Rev.) Tim Reimer, Danforth Mennonite Church.

Mr. Potts asked his assistant, Yasmine, to sit in.

He was grateful for the background document in advance, and offered that if he had a copy in electronic form he would forward it to others in the Toronto Liberal caucus.

Mr. Potts is very sympathetic to an increase in social assistance rates. He identified several allies in caucus, including Peter Milcyn, Mitzy Hunter, Tracy _____, and Sue Wong (?). (The names came somewhat quickly, and I wasn't able to capture them all in my notes.)

Yasmine explained, when asked, that most of the concerns of low income people who come to the constituency office are about transportation (needing tokens to get to appointments, for example), and housing (affordability).

He was interested to hear about ISARC, and that we were visiting all Liberal MPPs. He suggested that a question for Brad Duguid was, What is the effect of a 1% raise in the corporate tax rate?

He was unconvinced about finding \$1B in uncollected taxes.

When asked directly about the \$1B ask, Mr. Potts hesitated and said that he could not support it. Instead he supports indexing social assistance rates to keep them more realistic. He said the priority for this time is balancing the budget.

R. Wardlaw

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