



Questions for Candidates – Federal Election 2008

Monday, September 22, 2008

Political candidates and parties have a diverse understanding and appreciation of the value of tourism. In collaboration with its national affiliate, the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, COTA has prepared a list of questions for candidates relating to tourism industry priorities. Please use this as a reference at all-candidates' forums, with the general public, in the media, and in individual meetings with candidates.

Enhancing Access and Reducing Aviation Costs

What specific steps is your party prepared to take to enhance the ability of tourists to access Canada by air? What steps will your party take to reduce the current high costs of aviation, thereby incenting domestic and international visitation within Canada?

Border Infrastructure & Travel Facilitation

What are your party's top three priorities for expediting the seamless movement of visitors across our shared land border with the United States?

Marketing Investment for the promotion of Canada overseas

Is your party willing to increase the funds allocated to the Canadian Tourism Commission for the purposes of marketing Canada as a tourist destination in overseas markets and, if so, by how much?

Crime and Public Disorder Affecting Tourists

Canada's reputation as a safe and welcoming destination is in jeopardy, due to increases in property crime, homelessness, and general public disorder associated with drug addiction and mental health issues. Will your party support the provincial and local governments of B.C. in the provision of increased, targeted, and sustained mental health services, as well as drug treatment & prevention options.

Establishing a GST rebate for individual foreign visitors

Does your party support establishing an effective and accountable GST rebate for non-resident visitors to Canada on their purchases of accommodations and goods? Will your party re-affirm tourism's status as an export industry and introduce a rebate program for individual travelers to Canada on assuming office?