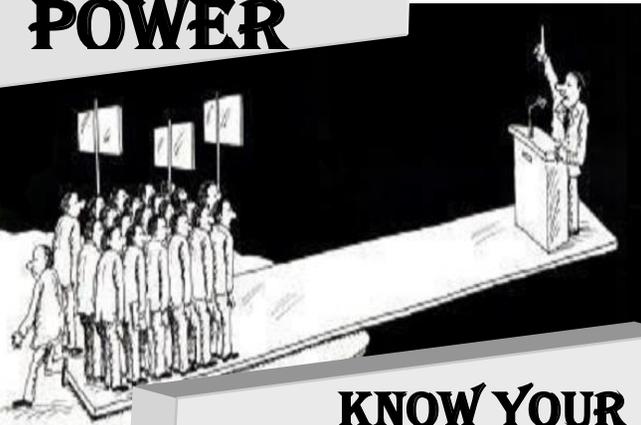


THORNCLIFFE REACH-OUT, TEACH-IN

Presents...

**KNOW YOUR
POWER**



**KNOW YOUR
POLITICIANS**

CONTACT TRT

reachout.teachin@gmail.com
647 786 4021

www.thorncliffert.org
www.facebook.com/ThorncliffeRT

ELECTIONS

On Monday, October 27th, Thorncliffe residents will be voting for a city Mayor and Ward 26 Councilor. Thorncliffe Reach-Out Teach-In (TRT) did some research to find out about the candidates who want to represent us in city council. Please note TRT is not endorsing any candidate.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Ward Inequality – Everyone knows that ward 26 is really two different wards. The first is Leaside and Bennington Heights, largely white areas where wealthy home owners and their children live in comfort. The second is Thorncliffe Park, Wynford and Flemingdon, neighbourhoods where racialized (non-white) immigrants rent apartments and struggle to make ends meet.

Policing- Toronto Police has a well-known record of harassing young brown and black men. While police presence in streets and schools is welcomed by some, it has often made these spaces unsafe for others who are treated like criminals because of how they look and dress.

Recreation- Unlike Leaside, children in Thorncliffe are desperately in need

of better and more sports facilities in their community. The quality of childhood should not depend on the race or income levels of a community.

Housing- For too long, Thorncliffe and Flemingdon tenants have had to suffer from exploitative and abusive landlords. When landlords raise rents and invent new fees, nobody stops them. When they don't repair and upgrade apartments according to law, they are not punished.

Unemployment & Poverty- Unemployment and underemployment is a major reason for poverty in Thorncliffe. Even immigrants who are educated do not get treated fairly, as they are expected to get 'Canadian Experience' in order to get jobs in their fields. According to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, this requirement is a form of discrimination.

WHAT CANDIDATES ARE SAYING...

John Parker

- Lives in Leaside and is the current councilor of Ward 26.
- Ignored multiple requests for an interview with TRT.

- Says his record speaks for itself, but he has done nothing for Thorncliffe in his two terms as Councillor and does not seem interested in doing more if he is elected again.
- Has gone to the media and blamed tenants for not keeping their apartments clean, instead of forcing landlords to make repairs and renovations as the law requires.

Ishrath Velshi

- Lives in the Bayview & Eglinton area and is the former executive assistant of John Parker
- Has been very vocal about inequalities in the ward and the neglect of some communities by the local politicians.
- Believes unemployment and poverty can be fixed by connecting new immigrants to business-focused English classes
- Insists that landlords are investing a lot of money into maintaining the buildings, and says that even though tenants like to complain, the changes in the buildings are mostly according to the law.

David Sparrow

- Currently lives in Leaside.
- Thinks Costco coming into the community will hurt local businesses, and even if it gives jobs

to Thorncliffe residents, they will be minimum-wage and part-time.

- Believes the Canadian Experience requirement is racist and unnecessary.
- Wants more police presence in community events and meetings but is against carding (police street-checks).
- Thinks Thorncliffe should have its own recreation centre.

Jon Burnside

- Lives in Leaside and is being endorsed by John Tory.
- Thinks people in Thorncliffe accept a lot of problems in their community and don't push for change as much as Leasiders do.
- Wants police to be more involved in the everyday lives of residents, and believes this will help fix tenants' issues.
- Not convinced that the Canadian Experience requirement is a form of discrimination.
- Thinks Thorncliffe families shouldn't have to fundraise for a skating rink - instead, they should be accessing the rink in Leaside.

Wasim Vania

- Thinks the biggest issue tenants face is language barriers in

communicating with their landlords.

- Wants to set up a committee to teach immigrants how to dress for interviews because he thinks this is the main reason they are not getting employment.

Dimitre Papov

- Did not respond to requests for an interview with TRT.
- Is critical of landlords and corporations.
- Does not think Thorncliffe should be naïve in thinking that Costco will give jobs to local residents.

GET INVOLVED

Community Event: Know Your Politicians

Where: TNO Youth Centre
108 – 45 Overlea Boulevard
When: October 25th 4-6pm

Tutoring Program:

Where: Jenner Jean-Marie
Community Centre (Thorncliffe
Library)
When: Every Sunday, 12 - 3pm