

TREB Hosts Toronto Mayoral Panel at REALTOR® Quest

TORONTO, May 3, 2010 - Amid recent polling results showing public support for the repeal of the Toronto Land Transfer Tax, Greater Toronto REALTORS® will hear from the leading candidates running to be the next Mayor of Toronto at the Toronto Real Estate Board's annual REALTOR® Quest conference May 5th at the Toronto Congress Centre.

Candidates **Rob Ford, Giorgio Mammoliti, Joe Pantalone, Rocco Rossi, George Smitherman,** and **Sarah Thomson** will take part in a debate moderated by TV Ontario's **Steve Paikin**.

"Greater Toronto REALTORS® care deeply about the communities in which they work and live and as such, they have a keen interest in municipal politics," said TREB President Tom Lebour. "We are eager to hear the Mayoral candidates' views on issues that are important to Greater Toronto REALTORS®, their clients, and real estate markets."

In particular, TREB Members are looking forward to giving the candidates an opportunity to discuss the Toronto Land Transfer Tax, and to hear whether they share the REALTOR® perspective that this unfair tax should be repealed.

A recent public opinion poll conducted by the Environics Research Group for the Toronto Real Estate Board shows that the public supports REALTORS'® views of the Toronto Land Transfer Tax, and that they want the Mayoral candidates to commit to taking action on this issue. A substantial majority, 60 per cent, of Torontonians wants the Toronto Land Transfer Tax repealed, and 36 per cent said that they would be more likely to vote for a Mayoral candidate that promised to do so.

The poll also showed that the public is more interested in hearing the candidates' views on the Toronto Land Transfer Tax than on some of the issues currently receiving attention. When asked what issue they would be most interested in hearing the candidates debate, land transfer tax was second only to public transit and ranked highest more often than, bike lanes, garbage collection, or the privatization of City assets.

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“REALTORS® believe that the public is highly engaged with respect to the Toronto Land Transfer Tax debate. They think this tax should be repealed and they want the Mayoral candidates to commit to action on this. Clearly, this is an issue that will influence how the public votes on October 25, 2010,” said Lebour.

The poll of 500 Toronto residents aged 18 years or over was conducted by telephone between April 22 and

April 28, 2010, and is considered accurate to within +/- 4.5%, 19 times out of 20.

The Mayoral debate is scheduled to commence at 11am, and is part of TREB’s Spring General Meeting, which begins at 10am on May 5th.

The two-day conference, which takes place May 5th and 6th, includes Canada’s largest real estate tradeshow, complimentary Continuing Education sessions for REALTORS® and non-stop entertainment on a centre stage.

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- 30 -

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