

ACTIVIST ARIS BABIKIAN CANDIDATE FOR ONTARIO PARLIAMENT

Posted on May 28, 2018 by Keghart



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Long time community activist, former Citizenship Judge Aris Babikian is a candidate for a seat in the Ontario Provincial Parliament. Keghart.com conducted an on-line interview with Mr. Babikian on May 10th, 2018. For more information, how to support and volunteer for the candidate click on [Aris Babikian](#).



Keghart.com- Mr. Babikian, why did you decide to run for a political office?

Aris Babikian: For over 35 years I have been actively involved in Canadian political life and civil society as a community activist. I have been residing in the Scarborough-Agincourt riding for 28 years, and my life's calling has been to help our most vulnerable and care for the needy.

It hurts me to see the state of affairs in our province and riding. The Liberal government under the leadership of Kathleen Wynne turned Ontario to a have-not province. The middle class is in despair. Scarborough-Agincourt families are working harder, paying more, and getting less. I believe it's time for a change.

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Now I want to carry this commitment to a higher level. I want to be part of the decision-making process when it comes to the future of our neighbours. That is why I'm running as the Ontario PC candidate for Scarborough-Agincourt. I am running to help our residents get relief and to bring more effective representation for our community at Queen's Park.

K – What makes you qualified to be an effective MPP?

A: For the past 40 years I was actively involved in Canadian civil society and multicultural

communities. My contribution included political, social, neighborhood, multi-faith, human rights, social services, educational, immigration and other spheres.

Currently, I serve as World Vision Canada Multicultural Council ambassador. I am also a member of the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada. I had the honor of serving as citizenship judge for six years. In addition, I acted as the secretary of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council (CEC), founding and board member of Wishing Well Community Association (WWCA), founding and board member of Willowdale Legal Aid Service. I had the pleasure to act as a Wolf Cub and Boy Scouts leader, soccer coach, and youth adviser. Many of the young people I coached have become leaders in their communities, organizations, and are successful members of our civil society.

I have been a Toronto municipal elections candidate (Councillor) for Scarborough –Agincourt. I have been Adviser to various ethnic communities on social services, citizenship, immigration, and racism.

Finally, I have been the President of the Armenian National Federation of Canada and government relations officer for the Armenian National Committee of Canada.

As you see, I have been on both sides of the aisle. I have acted on behalf of stakeholders and worked with various levels of the government. I strongly believe in public service, from youth to seniors to newcomers, I have been focused on protecting society's most vulnerable and helping Ontario families get ahead.

With my experience and skills, I am able to work with colleagues at Toronto City Hall and in Ottawa to improve the quality of life of our seniors, protect the future of our children, and strengthen the economic power of the middle class.

K - I see that you have contributed immensely to Canada and the Canadian people. How did the Canadian public and government perceive your contribution?

A. In recognition of my volunteer contribution to Canadian civil society, the Canadian government awarded me with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and Canada's 125th Confederation Commemorative Medal. Furthermore, the government of Ontario awarded me with the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for 20 years of service.



K- In which riding are you a candidate and what are its boundaries?

A. I am the Progressive Conservative Party Candidate in Scarborough-Agincourt. [The boundaries are Highway 401 on the south; Victoria Park Avenue in the west; Midland Avenue in the east, and the northerly limits of Toronto at Steeles Avenue.](#) Our riding is one of the most ethnically diverse ridings.

K- Can you tell us about the election and voting process?

A. The province-wide general election is on Thursday, June the 7th. Advance Polls are from

Saturday May 26th to Friday June 1st. Everyone who is a Canadian citizen and is 18 year of age and older living in the electoral district, has the right to vote. Very soon Elections Ontario will mail the voting cards with the poll locations. For advance poll locations or any other information please call our office at 416 748 8638.

K - What are your priorities and issues of concern to you?

A.-As the Scarborough-Agincourt MPP, I promise to bring the same vigor and commitment which I have brought to our community for years. I want Scarborough families to pay less and get ahead.

Together we will help Scarborough get first-class health care services, especially for our seniors. As you know health care has suffered numerous cuts under the Liberals. I will also work hard to make the extension of the Sheppard subway line a reality. I will work on improving our education system and connect our students to good-paying jobs.

I will work with the PC Team to reduce the cost of hydro to bring relief and ease the burden of families and small businesses and get the genuine hydro relief they deserve--not the shell game which Premier Wynne has promised.

With our leader Doug Ford and the rest of the PC team, we remain committed to scrapping the current sex-ed curriculum and replace it with one that is age-appropriate after real consultation with parents.

K- How can your supporters and the public help?

A. There are a variety of activities which people can participate in during the election period. We need lots of volunteers to sensitize our supporters and residents to support me. They can make telephone calls and do door-to-door canvassing to residents to identify our supporters, drop literature in the mail boxes, install campaign signs, and try to get out our vote on June 7.

As you know, any campaign needs financial support. Accordingly, as friends and supporters, they can donate money to cover the campaign expenses. Any resident of Ontario can donate money to any candidate. The maximum per-year donation limit is \$1,200. Only individuals can donate.

For additional details, they can call our campaign office at 416 748 8638.

K- Where is your Campaign office located?

A. We are located at 2190 Warden Avenue, Unit G10. It is at the northwest corner of Warden and Sheppard.

K- Would you like to add anything else?

A. The people of Scarborough-Agincourt are ready for change. The response of our riding residents is overwhelmingly supportive of the PC party. After 15 years, our residents are tired of the corrupt Kathleen Wynne government, her scandal-laden government and her Liberal insiders. Liberals are

only in it for themselves and their friends. The entitlement never ends.

With the help of our residents, we will clean up government and restore the public's trust in government. We will bring accountability and fiscal responsibility to Queen's Park.

Scarborough-Agincourt residents need a strong and passionate voice to defend their interests. For too long our region has been taken for granted by Kathleen Wynne, Soo Wong, and the Liberal Government. I am that VOICE.

Keghart.com Thank you Mr. Babikian; good luck in your quest. We wish the community will strongly support you and elect you as a member of the Ontario provincial parliament.



