

Report on Paywand Social and Cultural Network's Civic Engagement and Volunteer Participation in the 2026 Toronto Mayoral Election

1. Introduction: Civic Engagement, Citizenship, and the Promotion of Democracy

Civic engagement and informed participation in democratic processes are fundamental pillars of free, inclusive, and democratic societies. Democracy extends beyond the holding of elections; it requires the active involvement of citizens in public affairs, awareness of their civic rights and responsibilities, careful consideration of candidates' policies and platforms, and the informed selection of representatives who can work in the public interest and contribute to improving the quality of life within their communities.



Municipal elections, in particular, provide citizens with an important opportunity to influence decisions affecting their daily lives. These decisions include property taxation, affordable housing, public transportation, municipal services, community safety, and sustainable urban development. Consequently, responsible participation in municipal elections is not only a democratic right but also an expression of civic responsibility and commitment to the collective well-being of society.

Within this context, Paywand Social and Cultural Network (PSCN) recognizes the importance of civic participation, social cohesion, and community engagement. As a social and cultural organization committed to strengthening community connections, promoting civic awareness, and encouraging volunteerism, PSCN believes that successful integration into Canadian society involves not only preserving cultural heritage and fostering social relationships but also understanding democratic institutions, exercising civic rights, and participating actively in decisions that shape the present and future of the community.

In preparation for the 2026 Toronto mayoral election, PSCN therefore undertook an initiative to encourage its members, their families, and other community members to participate actively and responsibly in the electoral process. Through direct communication, awareness-raising conversations, and volunteer engagement, the Network sought to promote informed participation and strengthen citizens' understanding of the importance of municipal elections.

The primary objective of this initiative was to encourage an informed, responsible, and democratic electoral process in which citizens could examine candidates' platforms, consider local priorities, and make independent decisions based on their own judgment and understanding.

2. Meeting with Mayoral Candidate Chris Alexander

As part of this civic engagement initiative, Paywand Social and Cultural Network arranged a meeting with Mr. Chris Alexander, a candidate in the 2026 Toronto mayoral election.

The meeting took place on **October 1st, 2026**, and was attended by ten PSCN members and members of Mr. Alexander's campaign team. It provided an opportunity to introduce the Network, explain its mission and activities, and exchange views on important municipal issues, community needs, and the candidate's proposed policies and priorities.



During the meeting, PSCN representatives presented the organization's objectives, social and cultural activities, and commitment to community development, civic responsibility, and volunteer engagement. The discussion also provided an opportunity to highlight issues of concern to residents and to learn more about the candidate's proposed approaches to addressing challenges facing the City of Toronto.

Mr. Alexander shared his perspectives and proposed approaches regarding several municipal priorities, including reducing the burden of property taxes, addressing the shortage of affordable housing, and responding to other urban challenges affecting residents.

The meeting served as a constructive opportunity for dialogue between community representatives and the candidate's team. It also helped PSCN members gain a better understanding of the issues being discussed in the mayoral campaign and the approaches being proposed to address the city's priorities.

3. Volunteer Cooperation and Distribution of Election Materials

Following the discussion, PSCN members expressed their willingness to contribute voluntarily to public awareness activities associated with the election campaign. In particular, members offered to assist with distributing election campaign materials among residents.

In support of this commitment, a substantial quantity of campaign leaflets was provided to the participating volunteers for distribution within the community.

This activity represented a practical form of volunteer engagement and provided members with an opportunity to contribute their time and efforts to community-level outreach. It also demonstrated the willingness of PSCN members to participate in public affairs and engage with residents on issues relevant to the city's future.

The initiative highlighted the potential role of community-based organizations in facilitating communication, encouraging civic participation, and creating opportunities for residents to become more engaged in democratic processes.

4. Civic Significance and Community Impact

PSCN's participation in the 2026 Toronto mayoral election initiative represents a contribution to strengthening civic awareness, encouraging responsible participation, and promoting constructive engagement between community members and electoral candidates.

Through the meeting and subsequent volunteer activities, the Network sought to advance several important objectives:

- **Promoting civic awareness:** Encouraging community members to understand the importance of municipal elections and the influence of municipal decisions on everyday life.
- **Strengthening democratic participation:** Encouraging residents to become informed about candidates, policies, and local priorities before making their electoral choices.
- **Encouraging volunteerism:** Providing opportunities for PSCN members to contribute their time and skills to community outreach activities.
- **Facilitating dialogue:** Creating opportunities for communication between community representatives and candidates regarding issues affecting residents.
- **Supporting social integration:** Encouraging newcomers and other community members to become more familiar with Canadian democratic institutions and civic responsibilities.
- **Strengthening community connections:** Promoting a culture of cooperation, shared responsibility, and constructive participation in public affairs.



These activities reflect PSCN's broader commitment to building an informed, connected, and inclusive community. They also reinforce the understanding that meaningful democratic participation depends on continuous civic awareness, access to information, respect for differing perspectives, and the ability of citizens to make their own informed choices.



5. Conclusion

Paywand Social and Cultural Network's engagement in the 2026 Toronto mayoral election reflects its commitment to civic responsibility, community participation, volunteerism, and the strengthening of democratic values in Canada.

The meeting with mayoral candidate Chris Alexander on October 2, 2026, provided an opportunity to introduce PSCN's mission and activities, discuss key municipal challenges, and exchange perspectives on issues affecting Toronto residents. The subsequent willingness of Network members to assist with

distributing election campaign materials further demonstrated their readiness to contribute voluntarily to community outreach and civic engagement.

Through this initiative, PSCN reaffirmed its belief that building an informed, cohesive, and inclusive society requires the active participation of citizens, the constructive involvement of community organizations, and respect for democratic principles and individual choice.

The Network recognizes that the strength of democracy depends not only on elections themselves but also on the awareness, participation, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by citizens throughout the electoral process. Accordingly, PSCN will continue to encourage civic education, responsible community engagement, and constructive participation in public affairs as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting newcomers, strengthening community relationships, and contributing positively to Canadian society.



VOTE
CHRIS
ALEXANDER
FOR MAYOR OF TORONTO
EXPERIENCE. LEADERSHIP. RESULTS

A STRONGER
SAFER
BRIGHTER
TORONTO

His background and experience speaks for itself.
A global perspective. A proven track record.
A lifelong commitment to public service.
Chris Alexander has the experience, judgement and leadership to move Toronto forward.
He's the best for the job.

DIPLOMATIC CAREER (1991 – 2009)
GLOBAL EXPERIENCE. REAL-WORLD LEADERSHIP.

- 18 years in the Canadian Foreign Service, with a focus on Russia and South Asia.
- Served 6 years at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, eventually as Deputy Head of Mission, during the early years of Vladimir Putin's presidency.
- Appointed Canada's first resident Ambassador to Afghanistan at just 34 years old (2003 – 2005).
- From 2005 – 2009, served as the UN Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan, managing political affairs, governance and rule-of-law initiatives.

FEDERAL POLITICS (2011 – 2015)
DELIVERING RESULTS FOR CANADIANS

- Elected as the Conservative MP for Ajax — Pickering in 2011.
- Appointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (2013 – 2015).
- Launched the Express Entry online immigration system, modernizing how Canada welcomes talent.

PRIVATE SECTOR & THINK TANKS (2016 – PRESENT)
STRATEGY. POLICY. A STRONGER CANADA.

- Worked in corporate strategy, helping open the Toronto office for global advisory firm Haskiuyt & Company.
- Continues to serve as a Distinguished Fellow at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and the Canadian International Council, focusing on foreign policy, election integrity, and geopolitics.

FIVE PRIORITIES FOR A STRONGER TORONTO

- Re-start Toronto's economic engine**
JOBS. OPPORTUNITY. GROWTH.
- Get Torontonians moving faster**
BETTER TRANSIT. LESS GRIDLOCK.
- Put housing in reach**
MORE HOMES. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.
- Strengthen neighbourhoods**
SAFER. CLEANER. STRONGER TOGETHER.
- Be ambitious for Toronto**
A WORLD-CLASS CITY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE.

*For a Better City.
One that Works.*

CHRIS ALEXANDER FOR MAYOR | CHRISALEXANDER.CA