

# Liberal Times

The official newsletter of the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association  
P.O. Box 11315, Station H, Nepean, ON K2H 7V1 <http://www.ncfla.org>

## FOOD SAFETY FORUM DRAWS CROWD FROM ALL OVER RIDING

Successful event the second in a series of non-partisan community discussions

**O**n April 21, 2009, a grassroots town hall style discussion on Food Safety drew over 60 participants from across the region interested in food from business, family and personal perspectives.

Co-hosted by the Nepean-Carleton Federal and Provincial Liberal Associations in the Council Chambers at Ben Franklin Place, the event provided valuable information and insight about the three S's of Food: Food Safety; Food Security; and Food Sovereignty.

The event explored what governments are doing about it, and what consumers can do.

After a quick introduction from the President of Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association, Gordon Shields, College Ward City Councillor Rick Chiarelli emphasized the increasing importance of food safety in our global society.

The speakers' viewpoints ranged from a producer perspective from local farmer Merle Bowes, to Ms. Moe Garahan, the director of a local non-profit organization promoting a sustainable food system in Ottawa, to a local food retailer, the owner of Ross' Your Independent Grocer in Barrhaven, Ken Ross. Rounding out the panel was former Cabinet minister the Hon. Wayne Easter (P.C., M.P.), Official Opposition Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food and member of the parliamentary



Back row (left to right) Councillor Rick Chiarelli, Panelists Ken Ross, Moe Garahan, Merle Bowes and the Hon. Wayne Easter. Front left is Rabia D'Andrade, NCFLA Vice-President (Policy)

committee looking into the summer's deadly listeriosis outbreak.

Easter told the crowd that, in 1979, he contributed to a paper on issues in the agriculture area. The same issues then still remain today. On Parliament Hill, there is a federal Liberal Food Caucus that discusses such issues. Since 1979, Canada has lost nearly 80% of its farmers. We are losing approximately 3 600 farmers a year. However, there is a changing mood towards food sovereignty and food security. This needs to grow. We need a balanced comprehensive policy as a whole.

Merle Bowes argued that Canada does not have inferior meat, but we have an

insufficient number of processing plants. Slaughtered meat cannot go out of province, so we move our live cattle instead. Our entire food system in Canada is geared toward food export. Most of our issues are policy and system oriented. Systems need to be streamlined as regulations have become too complex. People need to get involved to make a positive difference.

Moe Garahan took a different approach, informing the crowd that there are many things about food safety that we are not aware of. Ignorance about the food supply in general is rife as well.

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## Remember Income Trusts?

The Conservatives would love for you to roll over and forget about this nagging little issue – that cost Canadians millions upon millions of their life savings. Twenty-five billion dollars of Canadian value was destroyed.

Here is commentary from Brent Fullard, president of the Canadian



Ignatieff addresses the convention

## Conservatives opposed to human rights for Canadians?

Tim Hudak, the new hard-right leader of the now-unprogressive Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, built his campaign on a pledge to abolish the Ontario Human Rights Commission. That stance infuriated Canadians who believe in the rights of all people, no matter their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. The policy proposal did, however, win the support of former premier Mike Harris.

The residents of Nepean-Carleton were disappointed and ashamed to see that local far-right-wing Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre (along with sidekick MPP Lisa MacLeod) has wholeheartedly endorsed Tim Hudak and his wrong-headed policy.

Liberal MP Bob Rae has pointed out the danger of Stephen Harper allowing his rogue MPs to support the abolition of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. Of course, in 1999, Mr. Harper himself said that human rights commissions are “an attack on our fundamental freedoms and the basic existence of a democratic society” and labelled their work “totalitarianism.”

Association of Income Trust Investors, that can serve as a reminder of this mean-spirited and treacherous Conservative broken promise.

“Harper proclaimed far and wide during the 2006 election that: “You know where the Liberals stand on raiding senior nest eggs, whether it is death taxes or taxing income trusts, a new Conservative government will never let this happen.””

“The argument employed by Harper to justify his policy reversal, causing the loss of \$35 billion in Canadians’ life savings, was the canard that “income trusts cause tax leakage,” the imperial “proof” of which took the form of 17 pages of blacked out documents.”

A promise made should be a promise kept, and, as Stephen Harper himself has pointed out, there is no greater fraud than a promise not kept.

We in the Liberal Party believe in the protection of minorities and minority rights, and we support legislation, commissions and tribunals that aim for those goals.

While there is always room for improvement and reform, scrapping the entire human rights-focused system is irresponsible public policy based solely on political calculation. There is no need to throw away the baby with the bathwater.

Established in 1961, the Ontario Human Rights Commission protects Ontarians against discrimination in employment, accommodation, goods, services and facilities, and membership in vocational associations and trade unions.

Pierre Poilievre must come clean on whether he believes new Canadians, Aboriginals, Christians, Muslims, people of colour, pregnant mothers, disabled Canadians and others deserve human rights. Unfortunately, his actions leave us wondering what his views really are.

## Our Liberal Convention

Here are some interesting stats from the Vancouver biennial:

Total number of participants at the Liberal convention: 3, 143

Total number of volunteers: 216

Total number of former Prime Ministers in attendance at the Liberal convention: 3

Total number of former Conservative Prime Ministers still on speaking terms with Stephen Harper: 0

Total number of policy sessions open to members of the media: all of them

Total number of policy sessions open to members of the media at the 2008 Conservative convention: 0

Total number of policy resolutions debated at the Liberal convention: 32

Total number of supporters who signed Ignatieff’s nomination form: 3,516

Total number of Tweets on the Liberal convention website: 718

Total number of belly laughs during former Prime Minister Jean Chretien’s speech: countless

Total number of Conservative observers photographed applauding during Jean Chretien’s speech: 1

Total number of Liberal buttons handed out at the convention: 12,000

Total number of bottles of hand sanitizer distributed at the convention: 5,000

Number on the back of Michael Ignatieff’s Canucks jersey: 23 (number of next Prime Minister)

Total increase in contributions to the Liberal Party for the first quarter over last year: \$977,801.58

Total decrease in contributions to the Conservative Party for the first quarter over last year: \$592,222.22

## Food Safety ...continued

Canada needs to change its focus from the marketing-based food system – the globalized food system. We need to shift our focus to growing food locally.

Ken Ross emphasized that food is a collective responsibility for everyone. Every part of the food chain is needed. As a food retailer, Ken must be aware of the environment, the producers, the entire supply chain and most importantly the consumers. There is a lack of consumer education about all of these areas and this is an important missing element in good safety.

For their part, food retailers hire independent auditors for municipal, provincial and federal regulation compliance, and they have visits by municipal and provincial inspectors. They are there to help educate, while ensuring safe food practices. In his stores, he also regularly promotes educational seminars on food.

The event guests were treated to refreshments and excellent accommodations at Ben Franklin Place. The NCFLA would like to thank Vice-President (Policy) Rabia D'Andrade and the Policy Committee for putting this event together.

Thanks as well go out to the NCPLA for co-hosting and co-sponsoring this successful community discussion forum. Stay tuned for more discussion forums in the future – balanced views, intellectual stimulation and friendly company!

## N-C Young Liberals Up and Running

On Tuesday, May 19, the NC YLA held its first meeting of 2009. Below is the first executive of this exciting and dynamic Association. To find out more or to volunteer, please send an e-mail to [benbarken@gmail.com](mailto:benbarken@gmail.com) or visit [www.ncfla.org](http://www.ncfla.org). Please stay tuned for further details!

- **President** - Benjamin Barkin
- **VP Riding** - Rishi Patry
- **VP Treasury** - Michael Thornton
- **VP Secretary** - Delroy Dyer
- **Outreach Director** - Neha Shukla
- **Communications Director** - Jack Schroder
- **Membership Director** - Asha Hingorani



**Nepean-Carleton Young Liberals pose for the camera with federal riding president Gordon Shields**

### Statement by Michael Ignatieff to the House of Commons on the Equal Voice Challenge

June 19, 2009

Mr. Speaker, I rise in defence of a process of change and renewal that is as old as Parliament itself. With the passage of time, this House has come increasingly to encompass the breadth of our country's diversity - of language, gender, sexual orientation, race, creed, and culture.

But we must always desire to be more representative of the population.

And today, I stand before this House to act on part of that desire.

Today, on behalf of my party, I accept the Equal Voice Challenge.

The Liberal Party is committed to having more women in politics - in Parliament - and in government, after the next election.

Today, I pledge on behalf of my party, that in the next election, no fewer than one-third of our Liberal candidates will be women.

Thank you.

# FEATURE: The Long Gun Registry - Separating Truth from Fiction

## The experts agree: gun control saves lives - and the gun registry must be preserved

Over its three miserable years in office, the Conservative government has made several attempts to maim and kill the long gun registry, and yet they continue to fail. The debate over this issue continues, but Canadians in general realize the value of the registry – a crime-fighting, resource-rich database that the police do not want to lose.

Although it is widely accepted that the registry experienced massive cost overruns, now that the system is in place, what the detractors fail to recognize is that its present maintenance costs are very low – only \$3 million per year.

According to the *Edmonton Journal*, police across Canada use the registry almost 10,000 times each day in their fight against crime, and the gun registry has been called “a vital tool” in combating crime by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP). Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair implores that the government must not scrap it.

“The information that exists on the registry is made available to police officers so that when we go to somebody’s house, we have information about the presence of guns in that place,” said Blair. “That keeps police officers safe.”

For his part, Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan argues the registry must be scrapped because it has been proven “ineffective in fighting crime.”

However, those who actually fight crime – and therefore have a modicum of knowledge of the subject – do not agree. The CACP maintains that weakening any of our nation’s gun controls, including the long-gun registry, would “seriously compromise” safety.

“All guns are potentially dangerous, all gun owners need to be licensed, all guns need to be registered, and gun owners need to be accountable for their firearms,” said Steven Chabot, President of the CACP, in a letter written to Prime Minister Harper and opposition leaders

on behalf of the CACP urging them not to weaken gun control.

He continued, “Ending the registration of long guns such as rifles and shotguns (the weapons most often used in domestic homicides and suicides) would seriously compromise a system that is working to the betterment of personal, community and police officer safety.”

Other supporters of the gun registry include: the Canadian Professional Police Association; more than 40 national women’s associations; Centre of Suicide Prevention; Canadian Paediatric Society; and, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians.

“It would be irresponsible to suspend or abandon any element of this program now that it is starting to deliver the intended results.”

**CHARLES MOMY**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**CANADIAN POLICE ASSOCIATION**

All types of gun deaths – homicide, suicide and accidents – have declined since the registry was brought into force. More than 5,000 affidavits have been provided by the Canadian Firearms Registry to support the prosecution of firearms-related crime and court proceedings across the country. Approximately 15,965 firearms licenses have been refused or revoked since the Firearms Act came into force.

Without the long-gun registry, Canadian police would no longer be able to trace unrestricted firearms and would become dependent upon police in other jurisdictions to establish the source of firearms and lay the evidentiary trail needed for prosecutions.

This would undermine Canada’s compliance with international

agreements and facilitate the illegal importation of firearms.

“As a psychiatrist in a rural area where guns are prevalent, I have invoked the gun registry at times where it is necessary to either get someone’s guns removed or prevent them from getting guns because of mental illness,” says Dr. Barbara Kane of Prince George.

“Since 1995, when the gun control law was proclaimed, the rate of homicide with rifles and shotguns is down by 50%. Murders of women with guns have fallen by two-thirds. Licence screening has prevented 7,000 potentially dangerous people from owning guns.”

\$1 billion over 10 years (1995-2005) was spent licensing 2 million gun owners and registering 7 million guns, according to the Auditor General - NOT \$2 billion, as is frequently claimed by the Conservatives and right-wing media.

That the program went unacceptably over budget is clear, but instead of at least allowing our police to use the program to its full capacity, the Conservatives wish to eliminate it, which would make a complete and total waste of the \$1 billion invested in this successful program. Such short-sightedness would amount to an insult of the Canadian taxpayer.

“We ... consider the licensing of firearms owners and the registration of firearms to be a valuable public-safety tool for front-line police officers,” Canadian Police Association president Charles Momy has said.

“It would be irresponsible to suspend or abandon any element of this program now that it is starting to deliver the intended results.”

Would anyone think of destroying a bridge that cost ten times the initial estimate, even if a scandal were involved, to build another one at a lower cost? Of course not. Now that we have it, let us use it to its full potential.

The registry has been instrumental in removing guns from potentially dangerous people. Shortly after the Dawson College shooting, police found threats from another man. The registry confirmed that there were guns in his home and police removed them quickly.

“Sensible gun control does not demonize gun owners any more than having a license to drive and registering a car demonizes car owners,” said Wendy Cukier, President and Founder of the Coalition for Gun Control.

“Gun control does not prevent firearm owners from hunting, target shooting or even collecting guns, but it does ensure accountability. Illegal guns begin as legal guns. Without knowing who owns what guns there can be no effective control.”

The Conservatives are doing what they can to inflict damage on the gun registry, and fulfill their unspoken campaign commitment to make Canada a more dangerous place. Do they want to cancel the firearms registry so that more crimes can be committed so that they can imprison more criminals?

Harper’s decision to waive gun registering and licensing is costing Canadian taxpayers \$20 million per year. What a waste of money – and this is to make Canada LESS safe! Pierre Poilievre’s Conservative ‘Results for You’, to be sure.

Registering one’s gun is hardly an inconvenience. It takes only a few minutes and the cost is free. A simple procedure that could save lives! What does the big-money gun lobby have to hide?

Police, women’s groups and gun violence victims’ advocates are pleading with the Conservatives not to squander this valuable resource – and not to jeopardize public safety just for the sake of revving up their right-wing base.

On Wednesday, April 22, 2009, the House again voted in favour of maintaining the long gun registry to defend public safety in Canada. Naturally, Pierre Poilievre couldn’t be

bothered to show up to vote – a testament to how little he cares about his constituents and about protecting Canadians from gun crime.

“The Prime Minister has the moral responsibility to respect the will of the House.” So said one Stephen Harper, then Leader of the Opposition, on April 13, 2005.

With our elected Parliament solidly in favour of the registry, the time has come for the government to start obeying the law of the land and listen to our police officers – those are actually out there fighting crime.

No one is talking about taking anyone’s guns away. The fact is that all firearms are potentially lethal. Gun control and registration is a necessary part of an integrated strategy to address violence.

The Liberal Party of Canada, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and others are proud of Canada’s international reputation as a country with effective gun control legislation and strenuously opposes any weakening of Canada’s current firearms control regime.

Lives depend on it.

## Meet the Executive Board of the NCFLA

<b>Gordon Shields</b>	President
<b>Salma Siddiqui</b>	Executive Vice-President and Fundraising Chair
<b>Rabia D’Andrade</b>	Vice-President (Policy)
<b>Keith Anderson</b>	Treasurer
<b>Mary Ellen Torobin</b>	Secretary
<b>Lawrence Wylie</b>	Membership Secretary
<b>Karen Sinclair</b>	N.W.L.A. President
<b>Jai Aggarwal</b>	N.C.P.L.A. President
<b>Ben Barkin</b>	N.C.Y.L.A. President
<b>Nardin Ghahary</b>	Volunteer Coordinator
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<b>Anne-Marie Hebert</b>	Director
<b>Ruben Benmergui</b>	Director
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<b>Peter Zankl</b>	Director
<b>Deborah Elson</b>	Director
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<b>Andrea Phoenix</b>	Director
<b>Kaiser Ahmed</b>	Director
<b>Gary Scherling</b>	Director
<b>Mark Sherboneau</b>	Director
<b>Ed Mahfouz</b>	Past Candidate

## Liberal Helpings in Nepean-Carleton

March 27 saw the second installment of Liberal Helpings, a memorable evening of great food, excellent wine, and fine company.

The tone was upbeat and everyone was excited about the future prospects for the Liberals in Nepean-Carleton and nationally. Discussions of everything from party policy, to election strategy, even to the NHL playoffs, was commonplace. A conference call with Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff topped off the evening.

The Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association is grateful to Vice-President (Policy) Rabia D'Andrade, who graciously opened up her home for her fellow Nepean-Carleton Liberals.



Nepean-Carleton Liberals gather to hear the words of Michael Ignatieff

### Ignatieff says that future Liberal governments will apply a “rural lens” to all policies

In a June 7 speech to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, leader Michael Ignatieff announced that a Liberal government would bridge the urban-rural divide with a new federal approach that will promote economic development evenly between cities and small communities.

“Rural communities are struggling. Industry towns are in trouble. We don’t want to live in a Canada where big cities have a monopoly on opportunity,” he said.

“And the recession we’re in is making the divide between urban and rural Canada wider than ever.”

“We’re seeing a full-blown crisis in each of the four pillars of the rural economy: forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and mining. Those industries account for more than half our national exports, and they’re hurting.”

“The Harper Conservatives have taken rural communities for granted. They’re risking a vital part of our economy, culture, and history. We can do better.”

Every policy being considered by a Liberal government will be examined through the lens of rural Canada.

“Any infrastructure plan must fund rural and small-town infrastructure – like broadband and water treatment and community centres. Any plan for new jobs will promote rural economic development. Any strategy for early learning and childcare will include finding innovative childcare models for rural areas.”

“The Harper Conservatives have taken rural communities for granted. They’re risking a vital part of our economy, culture, and history. We can do better.”

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF

“And any improvements to Employment Insurance will account for limited internet access and on-the-ground resources in rural Canada,” he said.

Right now, half of unemployed Canadians can’t qualify for EI because of where they live. Mr. Ignatieff questioned the fairness of a system with 58 different regional standards of EI eligibility, which is why he has proposed a single national standard.

“The quickest, most effective way to get stimulus flowing into the communities that have been hit the hardest by this recession – no matter where in the country they are – is to put money in the pockets of Canadians who have lost their jobs and are struggling to make ends meet. That’s why we need a fair national standard of EI eligibility, for as long as this crisis lasts,” he said.

He added that it’s only when the federal government works with all communities – big and small, urban and rural – that Canada can truly succeed.

“Urban and rural, East and West, French and English, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, rich and poor – we are one country, and we need policies that unite us, not divide us,” he said. “And in a recession, we need to get help to the people who need it most.”

## A summer update from the Nepean Women's Liberal Association

This past year has certainly been an interesting and exciting one for the Nepean Women's Liberal Association, one of the most active Liberal women's clubs in the country.

In the federal election held last October, we unfortunately lost some very talented women MPs. Challenging economic conditions call for a variety of perspectives and creativity in solving problems. Fewer Liberal women in Parliament is, I believe, to the detriment of the country as a whole.

At the local level, NWLA members (as always) were front and centre in helping candidates in our area, financially and as volunteers.

On January 24, 2009, the NWLA held a very successful fundraising breakfast, at which approximately 50 guests had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Melissa Haussman, political science professor at Carleton University, talk about her experiences working on Hillary Clinton's campaign and the challenges and opportunities faced by women who wish to seek elected office.

LPC instituted membership rule changes, effective April 1, 2009. There will no longer be separate membership fees to join any of the Commission clubs. For example, any woman who

takes out a riding association membership is automatically entitled to become a member of a local women's club in her area.

The NWLA and the Ottawa-Vanier Women's Club held a very successful campaign college on April 25. It was attended by approximately 40 women who were treated to listening to the Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Claudette Boyer, Marlene Catterall, Megan Cornell, Helene Dorion, Lee Farnworth, Sheila Gervais and Isabel Metcalfe share the steps they took in seeking the nomination as a candidate. They were quite frank in talking about the roadblocks, perils, and prejudices they encountered. However, there were many examples of the excitement, opportunities, and successes they also enjoyed. Another workshop is slated for the fall, with the working title, "You've won the nomination – now what?"

I was not able to attend the biennial convention in Vancouver, but the NWLA was able to send two delegates. Among resolutions passed at the Convention, leaders of the Party will now be chosen using the one-member, one-vote system and will have to obtain the support of over half all Liberal members in a preferential ballot. Information about the other resolutions can be found on the LPC website.

However, I am immensely proud to say that two resolutions which originated with the NWLA were included in the Ontario Women's Liberal Commission's "Top Ten" presented for consideration in Vancouver, and both were adopted by the Party. The wording may have been modified or blended with other resolutions along the way, but the substance and intent of them started with us. I would like to say a big "Thank You" to NWLA director Lynn Carson, who chaired the session on Housing and Al Loney for chairing the one on Aging.

As noted previously, as a country we are dealing with difficult times. Many women will bear the brunt of the hardship, especially those who are seniors or single mothers. There is still a 29% pay gap between men and women. Stephen Harper's Tories have stripped pay equity from its status as part of the right to protection from discrimination. It is the thin edge of the wedge. The best way to keep Canada moving forward is to elect more Liberals. The NWLA will continue to work with local riding associations and candidates to ensure that this occurs.

*Karen Sinclair  
President*

*Nepean Women's Liberal Association*



Members of the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association socialize before the beginning of the Annual General Meeting, which took place on Wednesday, June 25 at Barrhaven's Walter Baker Centre

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*Questions / Comments? Please feel free to contact Mark Johnson, Editor, at  
Nepean.Carleton@gmail.com. He welcomes all feedback!*