



# Liberal Times

**The Official Newsletter of the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association**  
**P.O. Box 34026 Nepean, Ontario K2G 5B1 <http://www.ncfla.org>**

## NOMINATION!

With Stephen Harper and Pierre Poilievre frothing at the mouth for an expensive election that Canadians do not want, Liberals in Nepean-Carleton are getting ready to take Pierre down. Your friends in the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association remain hard at work making sure we have a fair and competitive nomination process.

Watch the NCFLA's riding website, at [ncfla.org](http://ncfla.org), for updates as to the time and place of the nomination meeting.

Several candidates have expressed interest in becoming the Liberal candidate, and the contest has boosted Liberal ranks in Nepean-Carleton, which is indicative of the confidence local constituents have that we can rid ourselves of Pierre Poilievre.

Your nomination candidates are Kaiser Ahmed and Ed Mahfouz. Learn more about these gentlemen at their websites:

- [www.voteforkaiser.ca](http://www.voteforkaiser.ca)
- [www.mahfouz.ca](http://www.mahfouz.ca)

While your Liberal riding executive is working hard to ensure a Liberal victory in the next election, we can't do it without you – the activist Liberal public. We need to expand our volunteer base to ensure we have the manpower to win the sign battle, man the phones, run our campaign office and do literature drop-offs and go door-to-door for our candidate.

Most importantly, we have to get out the word about the Liberal Party's policy platform and clearly communicate its exciting prospects for the residents of Nepean-Carleton.

We need you to volunteer! Come on out, join the fun, and feel free to invite a friend as well! We can easily tailor the work to your preferences, abilities and schedule. We appreciate any and all assistance.

If you would like to get on board as a volunteer to help win Nepean-Carleton back for the Liberal Party of Canada, please get in contact with Nardin Ghahary, our Volunteer Coordinator, at [nardin.ghahary@sympatico.ca](mailto:nardin.ghahary@sympatico.ca).

## A Proven Record

**The last Conservative government, the Mulroney nightmare, increased our national debt by over \$300 billion, leaving our economy on the brink of Third World status. This Harper Conservative government has continued this legacy and put us back on the road toward deficit financing.**

**In 1993, your *Liberal* government inherited a crippling \$42 billion annual deficit, turned it into a surplus in 4 years and paid down over \$60 billion of the Mulroney national debt. Sound economic policy made Canada strong, competitive and prosperous.**

For a richer, **greener**, fairer Canada, think...



# Liberal

**Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association**  
**Find out more or join us! [www.ncfla.org](http://www.ncfla.org)**

**Liberals in Nepean-Carleton recently finished an ad campaign in local media - Barrhaven This Week, Nepean This Week and the Ottawa South Weekender. The above ad appeared in the February 15 edition of the three newspapers.**

## QUOTES TO QUOTE

"I wonder if the Conservative party has thought of the impact such lack of respect [with their series of television attack ads on Liberal leader Stephane Dion] for a person has on our youth. How can we ask our youth to show respect for others when such ads appear on TV coming from the governing party of our country?"

~ Michèle Dextras, *Letter to the Editor, Ottawa Citizen, Sat 10 Nov 2007, pg B5*

"On torture in Afghanistan, the Canadian government has told many falsehoods. It sees, hears and knows nothing - even after its own diplomats and inspectors have written reams of reports."

~ *Globe and Mail, Saturday 17 Nov 2007*

"Harper runs a grim command-and-control regime that wouldn't be out of place in the Kremlin."

~ Randall Denley, *Ottawa Citizen columnist, Sun 24 Feb 2008*

"Before Stephen Harper inherited the big Liberal surpluses, you have to go back to 1912, the year the Titanic sunk, to find a single Conservative government that managed to balance the books."

Markham MP John McCallum, *CBC Radio interview, Sat 23 Feb 2008*

"Stephen Harper called Chuck Cadman 'a poor MP.'"

~ Garth Turner, *during a question in the daily Question Period*

"By and large, instead of being a leader who has tried to find common ground among Canadians, [Stephen Harper] has too often followed policies that can be divisive."

~ Former Conservative prime minister Joe Clark - *The Canadian Press, Thu 13 Mar 2008*

## LIBERALS ONLINE

One element of the NCFLA website you won't want to miss is the super discussion forum area. Have a beef with one of those destructive Conservative policies? Feel like offering alternatives and debating the pros and cons of Liberal platform planks? Sign on to [www.ncfla.org](http://www.ncfla.org) today and join the debate!

The web site is the place to be for:

- the latest NCFLA newsletters
  - Liberal news feeds, both from the local association and our party leader
  - info on the Nepean-Carleton riding
  - info about upcoming events
- and of course, much, much more!

Another exciting chance to add your voice to the Liberal debate is the brand-new *Forum Liberalis*.

Brought to you by the National Policy and Platform Committee of the Liberal Party of Canada, its purpose is to enable all Canadians to collaborate, exchange ideas, and to develop innovative, new approaches to the challenges facing Canadians.

The site also offers many useful tools such as Liberal News and a Document Library.

To check out the brand-new, state-of-the-art *Forum Liberalis*, point your browser to <http://forum.liberal.ca>.

# Your job at risk?

**Stephen Harper's record with public servants is clear.**

**You don't toe the *Conservative* Party line? You're out!**

**Dec 2006** - Not liking his agenda of defending our farmers, Harper **fires** Adrian Measner, president of the Canadian Wheat Board.

**Dec 2006** - Chief Electoral Officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley is "**forced out**" after making the Tories admit they violated election laws.

**March 2007** - Ethics Commissioner Bernard Shapiro is **forced out** of his post after investigating Stephen Harper's transgressions.

**July 2007** - Pierre Poilievre **criticizes** public servants for following Fisheries & Oceans regulations in the protection of a fish habitat.

**Aug 2007** - Longtime diplomat Christopher Westdal is **dumped** as ambassador to Ireland. Harper installs Tory bagman Pat Binns.

**Jan 2008** - Harper **fires** Linda Keen, the president of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, for protecting Canadians' safety.

**Feb 2008** - Harper is accused of a "reign of terror" as Canadian Wheat Board vice-president Deanna Allen is the latest to be **fired**.

**Are YOU next on the Harper/Poilievre chopping block?**

**Canada's public servants garner respect and admiration internationally for their professionalism. Why can't Pierre Poilievre's Conservative government deliver them the same respect and admiration?**

Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association  
Find out more or join us! [www.ncfla.org](http://www.ncfla.org)

The above advertisement appeared in local print media on February 22, 2008

# Liberals present solid plan to boost infrastructure

Canadians were pleased to see that, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, while speaking to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Liberal leader Stéphane Dion unveiled a key plank in the Party's platform outlining a long-term vision and commitment to Canada's infrastructure deficit. Continuing its commitment to fiscal prudence and responsibility, a future Liberal government will invest the entire amount of any future unanticipated surplus that exceeds a \$3-billion reserve into Canada's infrastructure that so desperately needs renewal.

Rather than directing all of this year's \$10 billion surplus toward paying down the national debt, a Liberal government will ensure that the federal budget has a contingency reserve of \$3 billion to help keep us out of deficit in times of economic challenges, and to ensure that the government has resources available in times of urgent need, such as when our country has faced floods, SARS or the ice storm. If, at the end of the fiscal year, that \$3-billion reserve is not used, a Liberal government will put all of it towards debt reduction. The remaining \$7 billion would be directed toward pressing sustainable, municipal infrastructure needs including public transit, roadways, water treatment, waste management and cleaning up contaminated sites.

According to Statistics Canada's report on the age of Canada's infrastructure, local governments need \$123 billion to eliminate the municipal infrastructure deficit. It supports the argument that relatively little money has been made available for maintenance of municipal infrastructure and that Canada's bridges and overpasses, as well as sewer and wastewater systems, are getting older. Canadians cannot afford to pass poor roads, insufficient

transit, leaky water pipes and crumbling bridges on to our children and future generations.

Canada's mayors immediately applauded Mr. Dion's initiative. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) President Gord Steeves called it "bold and it is visionary, with the potential to change the face of our country." By supporting municipalities rather than strangling them, a Liberal government would be leading us to a richer, greener, fairer Canada.

Infrastructure and the well being of Canadian municipalities have long been a priority of the Liberal Party. It was local Liberal MPs such as Beryl Gaffney and Mac Harb, who helped champion the issue of Canada's ailing infrastructure and make recommendations that would eventually contribute to the first long-term national infrastructure program started under a Liberal government.

The effects of such recommendations can be seen locally with the construction

of what is now known as Veteran's Memorial Highway.

Mr. Dion's infrastructure plan would help address the worsening traffic jams on Merivale Rd., Woodroffe Ave. and the 417. While a previous Liberal government had pledged funds for light-rail transit, this type of visionary planning has fallen by the wayside under the watch of the current Conservative government. Residents of Nepean-Carleton need new infrastructure to deal with the increasing traffic volumes that will come with developments such as the RCMP move to Barrhaven. Without action, our commute times will lengthen and local pollution will increase.

The Liberal Party infrastructure plan coupled with fiscal prudence is an essential step toward building sustainable cities and communities for the future – a key part of building a richer, greener, fairer Canada.

*Gordon Shields  
President, Nepean-Carleton F.L.A.*



**The latest get-together of the ChequeMate club was held at the home of nomination candidate Kaiser Ahmed. As you can see, it was a great time!**

# Liberals demand answers on Baird/O'Brien scandal

We all knew that these Conservatives have an abnormal and dangerous preoccupation with the acquisition, maintenance and centralization of power to abuse for their own ends. However, the Liberal Opposition has uncovered a new priority they have: getting their friends in power.

The Liberals are demanding to know whether the Conservative government played any role in influencing the Ontario Provincial Police's (OPP) decision to not hand over files to the RCMP in the case of an investigation into alleged bribery and influence-peddling on the part of Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien.

"This government is beset by scandal, and seems to be intent on covering up its actions, but Canadians deserve to know the truth," said Liberal MP Mark

Holland. "We already know that staff from Environment Minister John Baird's office intervened in the OPP probe, which itself is highly questionable given Mr. Baird's potential involvement in this whole seedy affair. But we need to know if that intervention was sanctioned – or compounded – by members of the Prime Minister's staff."

Just hours after Mayor O'Brien was charged for allegedly offering a fellow mayoral candidate a federal appointment if he dropped out of the race, OPP Supt. Dave Truax told the media the OPP would be forwarding its files to the RCMP so it could examine what role, if any, federal officials played in the matter.

However, the next day the OPP issued a press release stating that the OPP "has no plan to share its file on this matter

with the RCMP." Mr. Baird's staff later admitted that they called the OPP the day before the release to intervene in the matter.

Anyone can see that this raises some troubling questions about what actually took place between the OPP and Minister Baird's office.

"Given the potential direct involvement of the Minister and other members of his government in this case, there is not one single scenario that exists where a call to the OPP by him, his staff, by PMO or by any other member of this government or the Conservative Party would have been appropriate. Was there pressure put on the OPP to not hand over their files to the RCMP in order to save this government from scandal? That is what I have asked the Commission to look into," Holland said.

## Meet the Executive Board of the NCFLA

<b>Gordon Shields</b>	President
<b>Salma Siddiqui</b>	Vice-President
<b>Keith Anderson</b>	Treasurer
<b>Julie O'Brien</b>	Secretary
<b>Kanwal Azad</b>	Membership Secretary
<b>Michael Gaffney</b>	Past Candidate
<b>Patricia Pepper</b>	N.W.L.A. President
<b>Mark Johnson</b>	Director & Communications Chair
<b>Rabia D'Andrade</b>	Director & Policy Chair
<b>Nardin Ghahary</b>	Director & Volunteer Coordinator
<b>Don Dransfield</b>	Director & Fundraising Chair
<b>Josh Drache</b>	Director & Election Readiness Chair
<b>Joseph Alexander</b>	Director
<b>Anwer Ansari</b>	Director
<b>Alice Basarke</b>	Director
<b>Darcy Ross</b>	Director
<b>Molly O'Connor</b>	Director
<b>Mary-Ellen Torobin</b>	Director
<b>Karine Cousineau</b>	Director
<b>Raj Bakshi</b>	Director
<b>Alan Toulin</b>	Director
<b>Karen Harrison</b>	Director
<b>Goldy Singh</b>	Director

## CHEQUEMATE CLUB

Don't miss out on enjoying all the great benefits of your Liberal membership! Events such as our recent gathering with Liberal Party caucus Whip and Kitchener Centre Member of Parliament Karen Redman, are a real opportunity to welcome members such as yourself and to enjoy a relaxed evening of great food and wine!

Our prestigious ChequeMate club is a growing list of area Liberals offering their support through small monthly donations and who at the same time enjoy a variety of social events with fellow Liberals, MPs and other special guests throughout the year.

Donating to the Liberal cause helps make the NCFLA and the Liberal Party stronger and donations are tax deductible!

Further, as a ChequeMate member, you will never have to worry about renewing your membership; that's all taken care of for you. Your renewal is automatic and at absolutely no cost to you.

Get in on it today! Join ChequeMate!

## FOOT IN YOUR MOUTH?

It's funny how when Stephen Harper declares his intention to sue Liberal leader Stéphane Dion for having the nerve to publicize the truth regarding the Chuck Cadman bribery scandal, it leaps to the headlines of newspapers and news programs across the country. However, when it is the Conservative party being sued, it's quietly shuffled off into the background.

Tucked into a corner of the February 29, 2008 edition of the *Ottawa Citizen* was a short article about the Stephen Harper Conservative government's illegal use of the song, For the Love of Money – something they should know a lot about. The Conservatives created a video to attack our plans to invest funding in infrastructure renewal, ridiculing our commitment to protecting the environment, boosting public transit and maintaining bridges and roads for Canadians.

In a letter sent to the Tories in late February, Warner/Chappell Canada warned the Tories that they were the legal owner of the song used in the video. What is particularly pathetic is that it was Industry Minister Jim Prentice – the minister responsible for bringing forth copyright reform legislation – who presented the video. The copyright minister committing copyright infringement. Such is how amateur and immature this government is.

The Tories initially denied the violation, but soon realized that their dishonesty had been exposed. Eager to avoid yet another public embarrassment that would only serve to further highlight their utter incompetence, they chose to settle with Warner/Chappell Canada and cover up the issue. According to a Google search, other than the tiny *Citizen* story, the media opted not to report on this settlement. The Harperites refuse to give details of how the settlement was reached or how much was paid to cover up this Conservative blunder. Canadians await the truth from this deceptive Conservative government.

## Cadman affair just keeps on growing

On March 3, the Liberal Opposition called for an immediate RCMP inquiry into allegations that members of the Conservative Party tried to bribe former British Columbia Member of Parliament Chuck Cadman with a \$1-million insurance policy in exchange for his vote.

In 2005, when the future of the Liberal minority government of Paul Martin hung in the balance, former Conservative MP Chuck Cadman decided to follow the wishes of his constituents (and not those of the Conservatives) when he voted not to topple the government and plunge us into an unnecessarily early election. Apparently there was behind-the-scenes work on the part of the desperate Conservatives to attempt to convince Mr. Cadman to vote to topple the Liberals.

“Prime Minister Stephen Harper is on tape discussing financial considerations for Mr. Cadman. Will the Prime Minister call in the RCMP to investigate immediately?” demanded Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion during Question Period in the House of Commons.

In a taped conversation between journalist Tom Zytaruk and Stephen Harper, reported by the media late last week, Mr. Harper is clearly heard making comments which imply he was aware Conservative officials tried to offer financial compensation to Mr. Cadman.

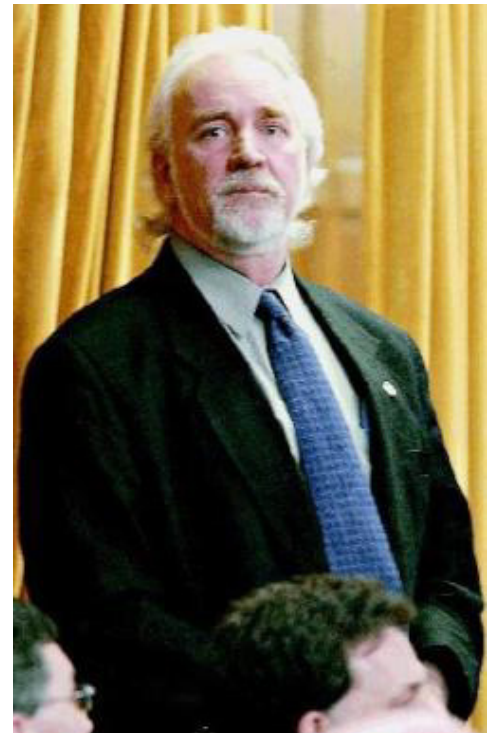
Mr. Dion asked the Prime Minister why he would make such comments if, as he is now claiming, he had no knowledge that such an offer was being made by officials representing the Conservative Party of Canada.

“In that recording, when the author of the book asks the Prime Minister: ‘do you know anything about the insurance policy for a million dollars?’, anybody who didn't know what was going on would have said: ‘what are you talking

about?’” said Mr. Dion. “But Mr. Harper said: ‘I don't know the details.’”

Mr. Dion said Mr. Harper has tried everything to avoid answering questions about his party's alleged \$1-million bribe, including resorting to threats of legal action.

“It's going to take much more than threats of lawsuits from stopping us from getting to the truth,” said Mr. Dion.



**Chuck Cadman stands to vote for the Liberal budget in May 2005**

The Liberal Party of Canada believes it is the duty of the Official Opposition to hold the Harper government to account and get the answers the Canadian public deserves.

Liberals will continue to demand truth and honesty from this government and we will never apologize for doing so.

In spite of Conservative attempts to deny committee attempts at investigation, we will press on to deliver answers to Canadians on this dark and dangerous issue.

## EDITOR'S DESK

We all knew that Pierre Poilievre was the king of immaturity, self-promotion, and cynicism. But now, he has earned a fourth title: the king of hypocrisy.

We all know that the Tories have trouble keeping their word. From income trust to the environment, from the Atlantic Accord to the Afghan detainees, this government has attempted to deceive Canadians while neglecting our economy and prosperity.

So imagine my surprise when I read in the *News EMC*, February 21 edition, that Pierre Poilievre has demanded that Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty keep an election promise regarding the fitness tax credit. That's right, only a couple months after the Liberals crushed John Tory's Tories, Pierre has decided that all their election promises should already have been delivered.

Funny considering although the Conservatives pledged to reduce the GST immediately upon taking office, they didn't wind up getting around to it until many months afterwards. I didn't see Pierre bawling out Stephen Harper for sitting on his ass while we poor Canadians suffered with a 7% GST.

When it comes up to standing up for Nepean-Carleton, Poilievre is consistently missing in action.

When LRT was being destroyed by John Baird, Pierre hid.

When Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance and Ontario MP, announced that he felt Ontario was a bad place to invest, a comment that may lose our province thousands of jobs, Pierre hid.

When Stephen Harper reneged on the universal child care agreements to help create quality, affordable child care for Barrhaven parents, Pierre hid.

When the prime minister brought in an Accountability Act that, according to the Information Commissioner, *reduces* accountability, Pierre hid.

# A Proven Record

For 13 years, your **Liberal** government made decisions in the best interest of Canadians, striking a balance between creating a red-hot economy and maintaining a strong social safety net to rescue Canada from the Mulroney disaster.

In 2 years, Harper's Conservatives have slashed away at the National Council for the Status of Women, child care, literacy groups, climate change programs, artists and more, all while mismanaging our economy to the point of near-deficit financing.

For a richer, **greener**, fairer Canada, think...



**Liberal**

Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association  
Find out more or join us! [www.ncfla.org](http://www.ncfla.org)

The above advertisement appeared in local print media on February 8, 2008

When the prime minister gave out hard-earned taxpayer money to Conservative bagmen and made a litany of patronage appointments to give power to his friends, Pierre hid.

When the Minister of Finance destroyed the savings of millions of Canadians with the Conservative broken promise on income trusts, Pierre hid.

When that same Finance Minister raised income taxes for Canadians, Pierre hid.

When the Prime Minister self-servingly prorogued Parliament last year, derailing legislation that would have imposed mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes and raised the age of sexual consent, Pierre hid.

Ok, I'd better stop before you're brought to tears. You get the idea. He's a bad MP, needing to be replaced. The reputation of the good people of Nepean-Carleton is in danger with Poilievre at the helm. We deserve a Member of Parliament who stands up for our riding, who works with the other parties instead of insulting them, and keeps his promises. An election could come at any time: let's get us a real MP.

**Mark Johnson**

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*Questions / Comments? Please feel free to contact Mark Johnson, Editor, at [mark.brian.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:mark.brian.johnson@gmail.com). He welcomes all feedback!*