

Liberal Times

The Official Newsletter of the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association

P.O. Box 11315, Station H, Nepean, Ontario K2H 7V1 <http://www.ncfla.org>

NOMINATION!

Although the threat of a spring election evaporated rather quickly when it became clear to Stephen Harper that he still could not win his prized majority, the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association remains hard at work making sure we have a fair and competitive nomination process, and we will be ready whenever the nomination should be called.

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.

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! Invite a friend as well! We can easily tailor the work to your preferences, abilities and schedule. We appreciate any and all assistance.

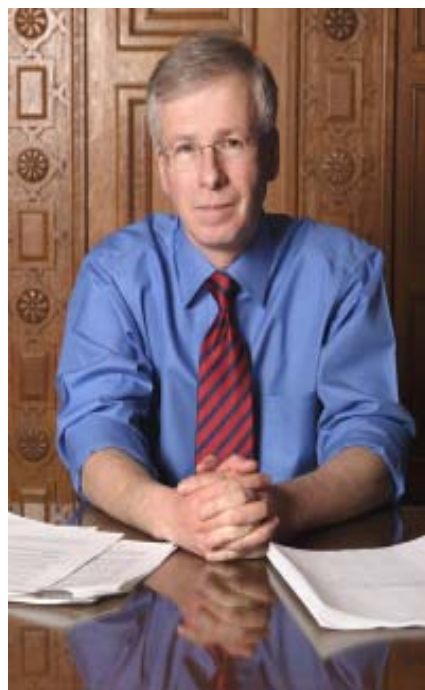
If you would like to get on board as a volunteer to help paint Nepean-Carleton Liberal red, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at nardin.ghadary@sympatico.ca.

COMING EVENTS

The fact that summer holidays are now in full swing has not stopped the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association from planning some exciting and interesting events for our valued and dedicated membership.

To thank our volunteer force, we would like to invite you to a special gathering to take place at the home of Nardin Ghadary, Volunteer Coordinator, on Saturday, September 8 from 4-7 P.M. A special guest, to be announced shortly, will also be in attendance. Come on out to enjoy the fruits of your labour with your fellow Liberals!

Keeping in mind that we could be facing an election at any time, we are also planning a major fundraiser, tentatively scheduled for October 22. Stay tuned for further details!



EDITOR'S DESK

The prime minister managed to embarrass Canada on the international stage at the recent G-8 meetings, whining that because Canada is "special," we need not be bound to uphold our international commitments with respect to the Kyoto Protocol.

In Stephen Harper's "special" Canada, promises mean nothing. Signed contracts are worthless and verbal pledges are meaningless.

The much-hyped Clean Air Act (Bill C-30), once the cherished achievement of the Conservatives' brand new environmental movement, seems destined to die. After MPs from across the political spectrum worked together in committee to give the bill some real teeth, the government suddenly doesn't seem interested in passing its own legislation. How ridiculous!

The Conservatives – and Pierre Poilievre – need to realize that they are not a majority government. Canadians elected a minority to force more cooperation amongst the parties of the House. Unfortunately, cooperation evidently is not found in the Conservatives' electoral playbook.

All they seem to care about is holding up any proceedings that they deem unfavourable to conservatism, as was demonstrated by the now-infamous handbook, distributed to all Conservative committee chairs, on how to disrupt or stall committee functions if they don't happen to like what a witness may be saying or if they face defeat on any pro-Conservative motion. Guidelines have been established on

how to ensure only Conservative-friendly witnesses get to appear – now there's democracy at work!

Evidently Conservative whip Jay Hill has lavished praise on the chairs who caused disruptions and admonished those who prefer to lead through consensus – a strong indication of the attitude of this unspeakably arrogant Conservative government.

When the budget came up for a vote, only one Conservative out of 125 had the guts to stand up for their constituents, and against the budget bill – that was Bill Casey, from Nova Scotia. In contrast, all Liberal MPs stood up for the best interests of their voters and against this absolutely terrible budget from the Harper government.

In May, Conservative Foreign Affairs minister Peter MacKay pledged to the House, “We will not throw a member out of caucus for voting his conscience. There will be no whipping, flipping, hiring or firing on budget votes...”

My, how times have changed over a month! In June, right on cue, Mr. Casey voted his conscience and was booted out of caucus. Unfortunately, with the support of the Tories' beloved ally, the Bloc Québécois, the budget passed.

It's no surprise that our MP voted in favour of a promise-breaking budget that not only violates the Atlantic Accord, but upholds the Conservative broken promise on income trusts – and their income tax hikes. It was a vote against the people of Nepean-Carleton. Election commitments out the window.

On issue after issue, Pierre has failed to muster the courage to stand up for the hardworking people of this riding. He should be ashamed of himself, and I look forward to the impending election of a Liberal MP to give Nepean-Carleton some real grassroots representation. We deserve better than to have a robotic MP who knows only how to toe the Conservative party line.

Mark Johnson

TORY WATCH

According to the *Toronto Star*, environment minister John Baird said that the “new” Conservative government's environmental plan **will make Canada an international leader in emissions reductions** over the next 13 years.

Wake up call! In fact, the environment ministers of the European Union have committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions to 20 per cent below their 1990 levels by 2020, while the Conservative plan's target for the same year is 5 per cent above 1990 levels.

Canada under the Conservatives is becoming not a leader, but a distant follower, left behind in the environmental technology race of 21st century. A study by the Pembina Institute found that **the Harper government plan would reduce emissions of large emitters by as little as 27 megatonnes in 2010-12, compared to 180 megatonnes under the Liberal plan** scrapped by the Tories. Canadians can see clearly which party is prepared to take action to protect our natural environment.



Lots of friendly Liberal faces came out to the February 12 NCFLA fundraiser to thank MP Bill Graham for his excellent service as interim Opposition leader

The Tories have demonstrated on more than one occasion that they feel able to take the votes of rural Canadians for granted and, in turn, refuse to provide much needed support.

Huron County librarian Beth Ross says she's concerned that **free access to the Internet at libraries across the country could become a thing of the past.**

Ross says the Community Access Program has been funded by the federal government and in the past when the funding ran out the program was renewed.

She says the funding ran out in March and there was no new funding in the recent federal budget.

Ross points out that free Internet access has become a common service at libraries across Canada and around the world and, for many people, it was their only access to the Internet.

Provincial funding will allow libraries in Huron to continue the service but it won't have the national scope that it has in the past. Again, the Liberals have stood up for rural Canadians, a segment

of the population ignored day after day by the Conservative government in Ottawa.

Pierre's **nationally famous foul mouth has made it into the pages of the *Globe and Mail!*** In Jane Taber's Hot or Not column, she recently had this to say:

"Not Hot: Pierre Poilievre. The 27-year-old Tory MP, who Liberal House Leader Ralph Goodale sarcastically suggested needs potty training, has a potty mouth. **He is not well-behaved in the Commons, using profane language and gestures against his opposition colleagues.** The Liberals jokingly refer to him as Alex Keaton – the smart-mouthed Republican teenager character played by Canadian Michael J. Fox in the sitcom, *Family Ties*. It fits!"



Conservatives make their infamous obscene gestures in Parliament

While discussing the functioning of Parliament with the *Hill Times*, Pierre said, "**The Liberal Party does not believe in ministerial responsibility.**"

Perhaps our crass and juvenile MP needs to be reminded, once again, which party it was that had long advocated Senate elections then, after an election win, **appointed a Conservative backroomer to the Senate** to represent Montréal to make up for the fact that the Tories couldn't win a single seat in the city. So much for the Conservative election promise to choose elected senators!

After the promise went up in smoke, Harper promptly made Senator Michael Fortier, his partisan appointee, his Minister of Public Works and Government Services. Over the 17-month tenure of this "new" government, **not ONCE has this**

minister been accountable to Parliament and, to make matters worse, he's also dodging accountability in the Senate. Rarely does he make an appearance to answer questions.

We would like to know where Pierre stands on this issue, and why he believes it is the Liberals who are against ministerial responsibility, when we never once made such a cynical, anti-democratic move over our period in office from 1993 until 2006.

NCFLA WEBSITE

Don't forget that a fascinating new way to keep in the loop with regard to what's happening within the Nepean-Carleton Liberal sphere is to check out our fabulous new website, reachable at <http://www.ncfla.org>.

From past newsletters, to discussion forums, to Liberal news feeds, to contact information, this dynamic website has it all. It's a great way to refer people to join, as information on membership is available right on the website. Donating through this medium is possible as well – what an easy way to help re-take Nepean-Carleton for the Liberal Party of Canada!

Don't miss out! Navigate to the NCFLA site today!

NDP WATCH

Although the New Democratic Party is uncompetitive in most ridings across the country, and barely a blip on the radar screen in Nepean-Carleton, the group continues to mystify Canadians with its pie-in-the-sky promises and the self-promoting attitude of their leader, "Happy Jack" Layton.

The NDP have continued their erratic,

unpredictable course that has them running from the political left to the right, then back to the left. They opposed the Conservative budget, saying that it increased the "prosperity gap" between various classes of

Canadians (as determined by NDP socialist standards), but shocked Canadians from coast to coast when they **stood alongside their Conservative allies to defeat a Liberal motion to establish some**

clarity on the Afghanistan mission and make clear that Canada's combat operations in Kandahar is in fact to end in February 2009, as approved by the House of Commons on May 17, 2006.

No one can figure out the position of the NDP, who has called for an immediate withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan but **voted against a motion ensuring our withdrawal** on schedule.

Jack Layton has berated the Liberals and the Greens over their noble agreement **not to run candidates against the other party's leader**. Layton, who was likely sore that he missed the boat (he earlier had rejected potential NDP/Green cooperation), is forgetting part of his party's history when he criticizes the Liberals for not running a candidate against Elizabeth May in Central Nova.

In 1942, the Liberals and the CCF agreed that **the Liberals would not run a candidate and support the CCF** in the York South by-election. Newly elected PC leader Arthur Meighen was seeking a seat in the House of Commons, but lost in York South to CCF candidate Joseph Noseworthy.

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Questions / Comments? Please feel free to contact Mark Johnson, Editor, at mark.brian.johnson@gmail.com. He welcomes all feedback!

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"WE NOW HAVE THE MOST CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT EVER."

**POLITICAL SCIENTIST REG WHITAKER
(TORONTO STAR, JULY 16, 2007)**