

Liberal Times

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

LIBERAL PARTY AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario) will be held at the Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario from Friday, November 16 - Sunday, November 18, 2007. As a result, the NCFLA will be holding a Delegate Selection Meeting to choose who will represent our association at the AGM, for which you may have received a notice in the mail.

Our meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, at 6 PM, at St. Leonard's Catholic School (Library), 5344 Long Island Road in Manotick.

If payment is received before October 31, you can enjoy the early bird rates of \$195 for a regular delegate, \$120 for a senior or youth or \$275 for an observer. Late fees are \$50 for regular, \$30 for a senior or youth and \$25 for an observer.

The NCFLA can send up to 18 delegates to the LPC(O) AGM. 4 must be men over 25, 4 must be women over 25 and 4 must be youth (aged 14-25).

Rooms are available from \$99 a night, and more information about the resort can be found at its website, www.deerhurstresort.com.

To make sure you're able to vote at the DSM, please double-check to verify your membership is up-to-date. Membership dues for the NCFLA are \$10 individual, \$20 for a family or \$5 for a senior or youth.

If you would like to attend or require further information, please contact riding president Gordon Shields at gshields@magma.ca.



Liberal Party of Canada President Marie P. Poulin addresses the crowd at the NCFLA Volunteer Appreciate Event on September 8. For more info, see page 3

NCFLA WEBSITE

We all lead busy lives, and you may not be able to get out to every last event of the Liberal Party. Fortunately, we have our fabulous and updated website to keep area Liberals in the loop on all the latest developments in our exciting and growing party. Steer your browser to www.ncfla.org today!

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
 - discussion forums
 - info about upcoming events
- and of course, much, much more!

The website is 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!



CONTACT US!



Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association
P.O. Box 34026
Nepean, Ontario
K2J 5B1

NEW ADDRESS!

Tories caught violating campaign finance laws

Nepean-Carleton “Member of Parliament” Pierre Poilievre continues to break new ground in terms of embarrassing the good people of our riding. After nearly two years in office, some might call it astonishing that the Alliance Conservative Party has been able to conceal, up until now, that they may have lied and cheated their way into power!

Remember the 2006 Conservative election platform? It stated, “People who work hard, pay their taxes, and play by the rules want accountability from their political leaders. We don’t expect politicians to be perfect. But we do want to know that our tax dollars – money we’ve worked for – are being spent properly and wisely. Above all, we want and expect our dollars to be spent legally.”

What a pretty line, eh? It has outraged Canadians that they parroted such rhetoric, all while they were breaking laws to evade election campaign spending limits!

The way things work is that the national party has a campaign spending limit, and each individual riding association has a different limit. Basically, what apparently happened was that top dogs at the Conservative Party HQ funnelled vast sums of money to various local riding associations, most of which had little to no chance of winning and thereby didn’t have much to gain by massive advertising spends that they likely couldn’t afford anyway.

Because national and/or various strong riding associations had hit their spending limits, why not have other, weaker riding associations spend dirty money to promote the national party’s agenda or bolster a candidate’s chances in a winnable riding?

Liberal MP Dominic LeBlanc pointed out that in one case, funds from a riding in Northern Ontario were used to buy ads in Toronto. Mr. LeBlanc argued that the money was siphoned from the left-

leaning region to benefit campaigns in the suburban GTA, where Conservative candidates were in a better position to win.

The ads were identical to national ads except for a tiny line at the end stating that they were financed by local campaigns. What reason could there be for sending money from HQ to a local riding association to buy radio and TV ads viewable only to citizens living thousands of kilometres from the riding purchasing the ads? The only plausible explanation would seem to be an intent to violate Canadian election law.

The *National Post* reported that the Tories were able to spend \$1.2 million above the legal limit on campaign ads, allowing Tory candidates to receive an additional \$780,000 in taxpayer-funded expense rebates to which they should not have been entitled.

Canadians expect better from their political parties than sleazy financial shuffling and theft from the taxpayer.

What’s even more horrible for us is that our MP, Pierre Poilievre, is the designate to defend Conservative misdeeds. Wads of cash slipped sinfully from Tory bigwig to Tory bigwig with no questions asked. Shoveling money

from the taxpayer into Conservative party coffers! How our can our MP defend such shenanigans?

Thankfully, LeBlanc has made Canadians aware that the monetary antics indeed violated the law and Conservative officials could spend time behind bars as a result. If the allegations, which are under intense investigation, are proven to be true, number one on the list of those to be jailed should be the only MP disposable enough to be used to defend criminality – Pierre Poilievre!

Elections Canada has revealed that Tory money transfers were not spent on local advertising for the benefit of the candidates in the ridings. It has therefore refused to reimburse the individual candidates involved for the money spent on the controversial ads. In response, the Conservatives sued Elections Canada! We’re talking about thousands of taxpayer dollars, which the Conservatives were trying to steal without anybody noticing. Thankfully, the powers that be seem ready to put the kibosh on Conservative sleaze.

When the Throne Speech vote takes place this fall, there is now the chance that the Tory caucus may be 17 MPs shorter, as they may be stripped of voting rights in light of the investigation. The list includes high-profile figures such as Stockwell Day, Maxime Bernier and Lawrence Cannon.

Even Tory insiders are admitting the party’s guilt. In the Québec riding of Richmond-Arthabasca, Conservative candidate and former Tory MP Jean Landry said the party deposited \$26,000 in his campaign account and then used it to buy advertising that was not specifically related to his campaign. “It wasn’t for me,” he said. Landry lost to the Bloc Québécois candidate.

With a possible election this autumn, Canadians will be watching in case the Conservative Party once again attempts



to break the law in their desperate effort to cling to power.

On September 14, the *Globe and Mail* reported that Tory MPs used procedural tactics to derail efforts by a parliamentary committee to open a probe into Conservative lawbreaking. Harper then conveniently prorogued Parliament, which he hopes will delay the investigation until after the early election he so desperately desires.

In Conservative circles, it's power ahead of principle. Tough on crime unless the perpetrator is a Conservative. Accountability for most, but special rules for Tories and their friends.

Canadians will not stand for it any longer. We will not be cheated and robbed by the likes of Pierre Poilievre and his backroom crooks. They will – they must – be held accountable.

VOLUNTEER EVENT

The Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association is grateful for its loyal and hardworking volunteers, and wanted to demonstrate its appreciation and gratitude for the effort you all put in. On Saturday, September 8, a “Chili n Chips” party was held in the backyard of Volunteer Coordinator Nardin Ghahary.

A great time was had by all, with face-painting for the kids, fantastic chili made by Josh Drache, chef for party leader Stéphane Dion, and an inspirational speech from new Liberal Party of Canada president Marie P. Poulin. More than 70 area Liberals took time from their weekend to enjoy the fresh country air and good company of this volunteer appreciation event.

Another highlight was the Volunteer Appreciation Award, which the NCFLA board presented to longtime Liberals Manjit Sandhu & Lawrence Wiley.

Guests included Jai Aggarwal, provincial Liberal candidate for Nepean-Carleton, as well as federal nomination candidates Michael Dark, Kaiser Ahmed and Ed Mahfouz.

Open Letter to All Liberals

The past few weeks have been turbulent within the Liberal Party of Canada—not an easy time for those of us who believe strongly in the history and values of our party.

To those colleagues, party officials, and most importantly rank and file Liberals who feel agitated about the current state of affairs, I remind you that the only constant in politics is its unpredictability. This should be a warning to Stephen Harper's strategists, as they burn the midnight oil poring over their calculators and electoral maps, hypothetically adding and subtracting seats in various regions of the country as they craft the upcoming Throne Speech.

In the midst of last week's sudden flare up in our party, there is another fact we would do well to remember: in the next election voters will vote their values. Only calculating strategists, like the University of Calgary's Tom Flanagan, working in the shadows for years planning a U.S.-style Republican revolution in Canada, believe that the electorate can be fooled by soft-pedaling politicians trying to conceal their true intentions

through an incremental shift to the right. The voters won't buy it. They will eventually find out what is really going on behind the Oz curtain.

The Liberal Party of Canada has played a foundational role in creating modern Canada. It has forged the key principles at the heart of our nation. The codification of these principles has been the result of our party's drive to protect minority language rights and guarantee, through equalization, access to services for citizens in vulnerable parts of the country. These values remain firm within the Liberal vision. Our Liberal caucus fought hard in the last session of Parliament against Stephen Harper's decision to eliminate the Court Challenges Program for minorities, to renege on the Atlantic accords, and to scrap Ken Dryden's childcare agreements with the provinces.

Despite our current challenges, ones that all parties face at times, the Liberal view of the country and the world is in the Canadian sweet spot. On a range of issues, the Liberal Party and Canadians, including Quebecers, are in tune. The proof lies in the repeated but disingenu-

Liberal Nepean Carleton Federal Liberal Association **NCFLA**

INVITES YOU TO AN EVENING WITH
The Honourable Ralph Goodale

Please come and join us for an eclectic mix of food,
friends and political discourse

Pho Thi Fusion, 129-4 Riocan Ave, Market Place Riocan Mall, Barrhaven
Monday Oct-29th :: 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Price \$75 per person/\$50 (Chequemate Members)

Hot and Cold hors d'oeuvres and drinks served

RSVP TODAY:

SALMA SIDDIQUI	613-789-7800
JOSH DRACHE	613-826-9989
GORDON SHELDON	613-823-8079
DON DRANSFIELD	613-232-2422
KANWAL SINGH	613-884-3344

salma@magma.ca
joshdrache@hotmail.com
gsheldon@magma.ca
ddransfield@rogers.com
kanwal@ksingh.ca

our team

ous attempts by the Harper Conservatives to clothe themselves in Liberal policies. It is all too clear that Stephen Harper had a conversion the day Stéphane Dion walked into the House of Commons as leader of the Official Opposition.

Finally Harper decided he was convinced climate change was real after years of obstinate denial. Then, while denying publicly that Canada was withdrawing from the Kyoto process, Stephen Harper did just that. Unfortunately, our Prime Minister has now joined George Bush in watering down Kyoto through “aspirational” voluntary targets.

On Afghanistan, Harper has also contradicted his previous position in a clumsy effort to appeal to voters. But who knows his real position; certainly not NATO.

To these contradictions can be added: the broken promise of tax relief, while instead raising the tax rate on the lowest income Canadians; the flash reversal on income trusts risking the savings of seniors; and the abandoned promise of creating 125,000 childcare spaces through the private sector.

The current Liberal team is one of experience and intellectual depth. Stéphane Dion is surrounded and supported by a roster of committed and hardworking MPs and candidates with a vision of Canada that is in sharp contrast to that offered up by the Harper Conservatives. I am proud this team includes Ken Dryden, Justin Trudeau, Michael Ignatieff, Marlene Jennings, Bob Rae, Martha Hall Findlay, Gerard Kennedy, and so many others. This is the team the electorate will be measuring favourably in the next election campaign.

If there is a fall election, so be it. But fellow Liberals, let’s make it about values, issues, and intellectual honesty. We know the electorate will be looking at the big picture.

Francis Scarpaleggia
Member of Parliament, Lac-Saint-Louis

CHEQUEMATE!!

Don’t miss out on enjoying all the wondrous benefits of your Liberal membership! On Tuesday, September 4th, an exciting gathering for our ChequeMate club was held at the lovely home of Rabia D’Andrade, co-chair of the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association’s Policy Committee.

We enjoyed a wide variety of hors d’oeuvres and wine, all free of charge, as well as good company with fellow area Liberals. Best of all, we were treated to a visit by Liberal Senator David Smith, who shared with us his smart wit and valuable insight.

Sounds like a lot of fun, doesn’t it? Why not join us next time?

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 our riding association and the Liberal Party stronger and all 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. Join today!

EDITOR’S DESK

As it is so apt to do, the media is once again chattering uncontrollably about the possibility of an early election to follow the upcoming Speech from the Throne. The New Democratic Party and Bloc Québécois have made unreasonable demands of the government, meaning they will surely be opposing the Throne Speech and the Liberals are left to decide whether or not we will be heading for the campaign trail.

What Canadians can count on is that the Liberals will not be bullied by this prime minister into supporting his ideologically bankrupt government and its extremist policy agenda.



Former Nepean-Carleton MP Beryl Gaffney and Senator Jack Austin at our ChequeMate event

On October 4, the CBC reported that if sufficient opposition MPs vote in favour of the Oct. 16 throne speech, Harper will interpret that as a mandate to proceed with the priorities outlined in his parliamentary blueprint. As a result, all legislation flowing from the speech would be considered a matter of confidence over which the government could be toppled. The manoeuvre appears aimed at forcing a fall election.

So Harper wants Parliament to be always on the verge of collapse? Boy, has his attitude changed! Liberal MP Ralph Goodale, in an interview with the *National Post*, called Mr. Harper’s ultimatum a “breathtaking demonstration of hypocrisy,” given his insistence, when he was Opposition leader during Paul Martin’s minority government, that the views of opposition parties must be respected and that confidence votes should be limited.

Considering his record, it is surprising Harper would wish to face the wrath of voters. After all, in the Tories’ 2006 election platform, they pledged to end patronage appointments.

Instead, they have re-introduced patronage! He appointed defeated P.E.I. premier Pat Binns, an old crony who campaigned for him in last year’s election, as ambassador to Ireland, replacing a far more qualified non-partisan diplomat.

The Accountability Act allows for an independent commission to control appointments, but Harper has conveniently forgotten to set up the commission. According to the *Toronto Star*, in just one week in March, the prime minister gave jobs to 10 party faithful!

The realities of the war in Afghanistan merit a serious debate in Parliament. Our NATO allies must stand up and pull their weight. Canada continues to lose troops, and the Harper government's pedantic response has been to refuse to lower the flag on Parliament Hill. So much for supporting our troops!

If Harper provokes a fall election, it will be at his peril. His record is clear: higher income taxes for the poor, the violation of an international environmental treaty Canada signed in good faith, broken promises on income trusts, accountability and the Atlantic Accord, the cancellation of effective climate change programs, backtracking over the Afghan detainee issue, unspeakable political opportunism through the proroguing of Parliament, and much, much more.

Stéphane Dion stands in stark contrast as an honest and totally sincere man who passionately adores Canada – Harper, of course, believes us to be a second-rate socialist country.

All told, the Liberals are in good shape for an election. Despite tiresome media loyalty to the Conservatives, we remained tied in the polls, with upward mobility as Canadians get to know our leader and realize that he is so much more moral, more trustworthy and more personable than is Harper.

As Mr. Dion said recently, "I never broke my word in 11 years in politics. I am a trustworthy person ... I want to

destroy the sense of cynicism that no politician will stick to his or his word. I always did it. I don't over commit and when I'm committing, I will deliver. It's the message this whole caucus will carry."

The Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association will be ready if and when Harper drags us all to the polls. Please visit our website at www.ncfla.org for updates and further information. Have a safe and happy autumn!

Mark Johnson

ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Canadians are disgusted that Stephen Harper chose to extend MPs' summer vacation, prorogue Parliament and plan a Throne Speech. What purpose could Harper have had, if not to provoke an election after the confidence vote that a Throne Speech brings? With the Tories under investigation for criminal violations of election campaign finance laws, Harper must want

to get to the polls as soon as possible to avoid any further damaging revelations against the Alliance Conservative Party.

In proroguing Parliament and attempting to seek an unwanted election, Harper is trying not only to waste upwards of \$300 million of tax-

payers money to pay for his fall election, he has also killed a large number of bills Canadians were counting on, and which Pierre Poilievre and his pals had claimed to support.

According to the *Montreal Gazette*, to "prorogue" means "throw out all the legislative work done this last year and more, except for bills already passed by both houses, and start over." What

a waste of taxpayer dollars! Of course, never criticized by Pierre Poilievre, who never fails to toe the party line.

You will find below just a partial list of the parliamentary bills derailed by the Conservative decision to prorogue Parliament and extend their summer holidays:

C-10 – To impose mandatory minimum sentences for gun crimes.

Pierre Poilievre evidently believes those who commit crimes with guns should get off easy.

C-22 – To raise the age of sexual consent from 14 to 16. Pierre Poilievre evidently doesn't believe in protecting our kids.

C-33 – To tighten the rules around foreign tax havens. Pierre Poilievre evidently doesn't believe corporations should pay their fair share of tax – that hardworking Canadians should have to pay more tax to take up the slack.

C-35 – To make it harder for those charged with gun crimes to get bail. Pierre Poilievre evidently believes those charged with gun crimes should be let loose in our communities and not held to account for their misdeeds.

The Conservatives have also killed bills to bring in Senate elections (despite past rhetoric), to impose Senate term limits, to protect the environment and to bring in fairer representation in the House of Commons.

Funny how the Tories run on a platform of various vague promises in the 2006 federal election, then prorogue Parliament to derail their own agenda. How desperate can one be for Canadians to punish them at the polls? They will earn their just desserts.

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