

David Suzuki Endorses the Green Party

In March, 1996, well known environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki, finally took the step of endorsing the Green Party, in British Columbia and around the world.

Dear Friends

We are now midway through the '90s which was to be the "turn-around" decade so often spoken of by many scientific and political leaders. In Canada and in the world we have repeatedly heard but not adequately heeded the call for a lessening of the human impact upon the planet.

The Green parties in Europe, the South Pacific, Latin and North America have been working for well over a decade to present a clear alternative to the economic growth model which has brought us to the present fiscal and ecological crisis.

The Greens call for stable state economics in which progress is no longer measured in terms of how much more we can consume. Rather success is measured by how clean is the water we drink, how pure is the air we breathe, by the natural productivity of our soils and by the extent of justice, good health and security of our people. For all the lip service we hear, there is no evidence that other parties recognize these values.

Many of us had hoped that we could

convince those in power to lead us toward the conservation of the earth's resources so necessary for both our survival and that of future generations.

Only the Greens have taken on the deep ecological issues and are proposing ways to live in balance with the planet's productivity.

There was never a time when these issues were as urgent as they are now.

We need to have these real issues raised. I therefore urge you to lend a hand to the Greens with your energy, ideas and money. The Green party needs us and we need the Green Party - especially in the BC legislature.

Sincerely,

David T. Suzuki

Green Leadership Candidate Challenges Sheila Cops

Wendy Priesnitz challenged Sheila Cops in the Hamilton East by-election which was caused by the blatant refusal of the deputy prime-minister to make good on her promise to resign if the GST was not abolished.

Wendy Priesnitz was uniquely qualified to run in this by-election. She is a native of Hamilton East, publisher and owner of "Natural Life" and a declared candidate for leadership of the Green Party of Canada. While she only received 150 votes, her campaign may lead to the formation of a Green Party branch in Hamilton.

Ralph Nader for (Green) President

America's most famous consumer advocate, Ralph Nader, is running as a Green Party presidential candidate in several states, including California, Rhode Island, Maine and Alaska. Eventually, he expects to be a Green candidate in 15 to 20 states.

Ralph Nader is not planning to take over the Green Party, nor limit the issues to his personal concerns. He intends to lend his media recognition and credibility to the depth of policy that Greens already possess. His biggest concern that is shared by Greens, is the trend towards larger and larger, richer and more powerful corporations controlling the political destiny of the US, leaving larger numbers of Americans poorer, unable to afford the 'goods' of this society, and unable to escape the 'bads'.

The repeal of federal speed limit legislation spurred Ralph into this action. To him, it symbolized a triumph of corporate greed and right-wing dogmatism over common sense and concern for lives, the environment and the costs of maintaining highways.

Sustainable Agriculture

The Calgary Sustainable Agriculture society are having a field day at the certified organic farm of Neall Coulson, near Nanton, on July 14th. Anyone interested can contact Cathy Taylor at (403) 227-1219.

Greens Run 71 Candidates in BC Election

The Green Party of British Columbia ran 71 candidates in the May 27, 1996 provincial election, very close to a full slate of 75. The party more than doubled their showing over the 1991 provincial election, placing third in two constituencies, fourth in another nine and receiving more votes than all smaller parties combined, including Social Credit. The party received about 2% of the total popular vote. For the first time, three candidates broke the 1,000 vote barrier.

Party Leader's Statement

Party Leader, Stuart Parker stated, "This election is clearly a case for the kind of electoral reforms we proposed in this campaign. We don't even have government by the largest minority; we have government by the second largest minority." The New Democrats received 52% of the legislative seats with 39% of the vote while the BC Liberals received 44% of the seats with 42% of the vote. "We congratulate Premier Clark and urge him to make this election the last one in which British Columbians must choose between the lesser of two evils and end up with a government that the majority voted against."

Parker noted that under a proportional representation system, the Green Party's share of the vote would have translated into 2 legislative seats to 32 for the Liberals, 30 NDP, 7 Reform and 4 PDA. "And no doubt, we would have received more votes under a fairer system. We intend to use this government's 'do not try this at home' initiative legislation to bring in proportional representation in the next four years so that the next election will be fought more fairly..." Parker further outlined plans to build a multi-party coalition to collect the required 200,000 signatures. Other plans outlined by Parker included ambitious plans to field many Greens in this fall's municipal, regional and school board elections.

Parker plans to stay on as Green Party Leader.

BC Media Ignores Greens

Again, the party was studiously ignored by the media. While attention was given to parties that ran fewer candidates, and previously had received a smaller percentage of the votes, the media tried hard to pretend that the Greens did not exist.

The Greens are a major threat to the NDP, who are obviously scared to death that if more people find out about them, more people will vote for them. Why the press is so delinquent in their duty to report the news is more of a mystery, but perhaps has a lot to do with the amount of money the NDP and Liberals will spend on advertising.

BC leader Stuart Parker was invited to the CBC leader's debate, which was cancelled, but not the BCTV and CKNW debates that were not. The Greens subsequently took BCTV to court.

Following the election, BCTV reported the results under proportional representation (presumably prompted by a Green press release) ... but reduced the size of the legislature by 2 seats to avoid discussing the Greens!

Best Results: Nelson-Creston

The candidate given the best chance of winning a seat was Andy Shadrack in Nelson-Creston. He did not win the seat, but polled 10.9%. In some polls, the Green vote was up to 29%! Andy feels that about half the people who were intending to vote for him changed their mind at the last moment and voted NDP or Liberal. This illustrates how much the Green vote would change in a proportional representation system where people would not feel pressured to vote 'strategically'.

Green Party of Canada Conference: Arrow Lakes, BC: August, 1996

The Green Party of Canada biennial conference will be held at the Selkirk College, Castlegar campus, in the West Kootenays of British Columbia, from noon, Friday August 9 to Sunday 11 1996, with an optional excursion on Monday August 12.

Attendance with dorm accommodation and three vegetarian meals each day, for Friday through Monday is \$200. Registration without room and board is \$50.

Registration must be paid by July 15, 1996 and no refunds will be available after that date. Please send name, address, phone number and an email address (optional) to

Eco-Centre
577 Ward Street

Nelson, B.C. V1L 5R4.

Cheques should be made out to "Arrow Lakes '96". Selkirk College is within walking distance of Castlegar airport.

Eye in the Sky Update

We are hoping that the weather in June will permit the acquisition of our satellite image. Twice a month the satellite called Landsat orbits over the Calgary area and collects electromagnetic radiation from the earth's surface. If the sky is clear enough to allow a good view, we will process that data and produce a film. We are anxious to see the effects of all the logging that has taken place west of Calgary this year.

We are sure that if more Albertans can see what is happening to their forests, that they will get their axes out ... and it won't be to chop down more trees!

Grizzly Bears Threatened in Alberta

The Alberta Greens are joining with other environmental groups in a campaign to eliminate the annual spring grizzly bear hunt in Alberta. The grizzly is a threatened species in Alberta, however the Alberta government still permits roughly 10 to 20 male and female animals to be killed for "sport" every year.

Alberta Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Wildlife Management Division, Occasional Paper Number 16 states on page 1:

"In a review of the status of grizzly bears in Canada in 1990, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) found 63 percent of the Canadian population at risk, either vulnerable or threatened (Banci 1991). In Alberta, grizzly populations were considered vulnerable (a population at risk because of low or declining numbers or for some other reason) in three of the four provincial zones that they occupy. The COSEWIC report identified grizzly deaths or mortalities including legal harvest and problem and illegal kills as having major negative impacts on some populations."

Ty Lund, Alberta's Environment Minister supports the hunt because he claims it is a tradition in Alberta, and because of its economic benefits. He also states that, "it maintains wariness in bears". Since hunters are encouraged to only shoot solitary bears we wonder how this wariness is communicated.

Lund and his Department of Wildlife Management feel that they have a duty to provide "the enjoyment of hunting grizzly bears", in order to meet the demand of 1200 or so licence applicants every year. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee, in a very short time, collected more than 3000 signatures on a petition to end the hunt. To date Lund has not acknowledged the significance of this demand. This only goes to show that 1 hunter is worth more than 2 environmentalists in Alberta!

The grizzly bear in Alberta and B.C. is under enormous stress due to the con-

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Office location	#009, 610 - 8th Ave. SW, Calgary	
Mailing address:	Box 133, Station M, Calgary, T2P 2H6.	
Phone:	(403) 269-2384.	
Fax:	(403) 289-1465.	
Email:	molders@freenet.calgary.ab.ca	
Leader	David Parker	469-1448
President	David Crowe	289-6609
Executive Secretary	Madeleine Oldershaw	282-4788
Treasurer	Pam Munroe	245-3441
Recording Secretary	Albert Munz	230-8891

Meetings

For information on meeting dates, times and locations, call Madeleine Oldershaw in Calgary at 282-4788, or David Parker in Edmonton at 469-1448.

Comment

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the editor, Box 133, Station M, Calgary, T2P 2H6, by fax to (403) 289-6658 or by email to crowed@cadvision.com.



tinuing destruction of its habitat in order to develop new tourism facilities. In these circumstances it would seem that, at the very least, the practice of killing them for sport should cease.

Please support our efforts by sending a letter to Alberta's Environment Minister Ty Lund. His fax number is 403-422-6259.

If possible, also send copies to:

Premier Klein at fax number 1-403-427-1349

Environment Minister Sergio Marchi at 1-819-953-3457.

International Green News

England: Greens placed third, with over 10% of the vote, in the Lewisham London Borough Council by-election on April 24th, the best result for the Greens in a while. They surpassed the declining Conservatives by a number of votes, and came close to a second place tie with the Militant-Labour splinter party.

Sushila Dhall won over half the vote in an Oxfordshire county council election. She now joins Dr. Caroline Lucas as the first Green 'bloc' on any English County Council. This was not to last for long, as two Greens were elected to Oxford City council, joining one already on the council for an even bigger bloc!

In the city of Huddersfield, Nick Harvey won with more than double the votes of second place Labour... Stroud has maintained their complement of Green Councillors with the election of Gwen Belcher...Pete West topped the poll for St.Peters Ward in Brighton and Hove, beating Labour for a seat on the Brighton and Hove Unitary Authority.

USA: There *is* Green news in the US (apart from Ralph Nader's candidacy!)

Alva d'Orgeiz, longtime Green activist, was elected to the Bisbee City Council (pop. 15,000) in a non-partisan race.

In New Mexico, on March 5th, Green Party member Fran Sena Gallegos was elected as the new Municipal Judge of Santa Fe. Gallegos received 44% of the vote, beating three-term incumbent Tom Fiorina by 256 votes or just over 1%. Four other candidates shared the remaining 13% of the vote. Fran now joins City Councilor Cris Moore as the second elected Green in New Mexico. Green Party member Miguel Chavez also ran a credible race on the West side against powerful incumbent Art Sanchez, receiving 33% of the vote.

Taiwan: The recently formed Taiwan Green Party was elected to one seat in

Congress just two months after its formation. Its major campaign plank was opposition to nuclear energy. The Taiwanese party received advice from UK Green executive member Penny Kemp, who travelled to Taiwan specifically for the election.

Spain: The United Left/Green Party won 13 out of 109 seats in Andalusian elections in March, down from 20 seats in 1994.

Germany: Two Green parties increased their share of the popular vote to 8.3% in Bavarian local elections.

Cyprus: A Green Party, known as Ecologists-Environmentalists or The Cyprus Green Group, has recently been formed in this Mediterranean island country. Information can be found on the internet at <http://www.isr.umd.edu/~pzaphiri/elections/>.

New Zealand: The Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand has a web page at <http://www.greens.org.nz/>.

Lethal Pressure-Treated Wood

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- in 1990 researchers from Health Canada determined that arsenic could be obtained from "pressure-treated" wood simply by touching it (Galarnau et al., 1990)
- a worker has won a \$450,000 (US) lawsuit against a "pressure-treated" wood manufacture after developing neuropathy in his legs from working with this product (Clement v. Wyck-off, 1990)
- a college student, after fighting a fire on a deck made from "pressure-treated" wood, fell into a coma the next day and died.
- arsenic is a known toxin and carcinogen (Chen & Wang, 1990) and constitutes over 18% of "pressure-treated" wood solutions (Cox, 1991).

- there are alternative and less toxic methods for protecting wood (Daar, 1986).
- in 1991 Health & Welfare published "pressure-treated" wood safety tips that cautioned people to "wear gloves" when handling or touching CCA [Copper-Chromium-Arsenate] wood, to wear a mask when cutting it and to wash clothes separately that have come in contact with it (Health & Welfare, 1991)

This is the same type of wood that you find used in parks and school playgrounds to construct children's play equipment. Show that you care about your children's health and pressure your city council to have pressure-treated wood banned or its use heavily restricted.

Canadian Green News

Federal: The leader of the Green Party of Canada since 1990, Chris Lea, has resigned. Two candidates have announced an interest in the position; Don Francis of Ottawa, a well known but controversial figure due to a large invoice he submitted following his work in the 1993 federal election. Wendy Priesnitz is also running. She is the owner and publisher of Natural Life magazine and is currently running in the Hamilton East by-election against Sheila Copps and others. Nominations close July 9, 1996.

To join the Green Party of Canada, and be eligible to vote for a new leader and on policy issues, send \$5 to "Green Party of Canada, PO Box 397, London, Ontario, N6A 4W1".

British Columbia: During the recent provincial election, Victoria regional Green Party candidates presented a Clayoquot protester with a cheque for \$55,000. These funds were collected by the Green Party to pay the fines of those arrested by the BC government at Clayoquot Sound.

Kananaskis Imperilled

The Alberta Greens have joined with the AWA and other Alberta environmental groups in a campaign to increase public awareness of tourism and industrial development in K-Country. By July 1st a new relaxed recreation policy could be quietly slipped into place which would open up this area to even more commercial development. Twenty-six development proposals are in the works, seven have approval in principal. Conservation groups are calling for a moratorium on all new development until the government has reported on the state of the environment, and there has been a fair and open public review of Kananaskis Country management.

Did you know?

- Kananaskis is not a park.
Only the tiny Plateau mountain ecological reserve is truly protected.
- Two thirds is open to the full range of resource development: logging, oil and gas exploration, coal mining and cattle grazing.
- One third has limited protection but is still open to roads, commercial tourism and industrial development at the discretion of the minister.
- Half a billion Heritage Fund dollars has been spent on K-Country with no report on the environmental consequences.
- Approval is already in place for a Marina and Tour Boat operation with no public input or environmental impact assessment.
- There is no ecosystem based planning
- There is no public review process.

We have been distributing information in Kananaskis and conducting a survey of visitors in order to determine public opinion about further development. Overwhelmingly, the results indicate that visitors are not looking for more development, and that they support the introduction of government legislation to protect

wildlife habitat.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Alert your friends!

Write to your MLA, Ty Lund, and Ralph Klein:

The Hon. Ty Lund

Minister of Environmental Protection
323, Legislative Building
10800 97th Ave.
Edmonton, T5K 2B6

The Hon. Ralph Klein

Premier of Alberta
307, Legislative Building
10800 97th Ave
Edmonton, T5K 2B6

Banff National Park: What's the Big Deal?

In the fall of 1995, chainsaws began clearing a new ski run at the Lake Louise ski area in Banff National Park. It won't be a big ski run and not that many trees will be cut down. The mountain is ribboned with ski runs already. So why is everybody making such a big deal about the new Cameron Way ski run?

Because, on September 22, 1995, when Parks Canada approved development of the Cameron Way ski run, and two additional tree skiing runs, they violated Canadian environmental law, dismissed the advice of their own conservation officials and ignored federal Liberal government policy.

Under Canadian law, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act requires that "the proposed expansion of a golf course or ski hill in a national park or national park reserve" be subject to the Comprehensive Study Level of environmental assessment (CEAA Comprehensive Study List Regulations, Section 3, Part 1, Paragraph 3).

Parks Canada ignored this legal requirement by calling the new Cam-

eron Way development a "minor facility enhancement project" despite the fact that Skiing Louise Ltd. described the Cameron Way development as a "new ski run" in their own 1995 project description. Indeed, Skiing Louise Ltd. has begun advertising it as "a new run on the front side called Cameron Way" according to the spring 1996 issue of the tourism trade magazine, the Rocky Mountain Express. By allowing this new development to begin without proper environmental assessment, Parks Canada violated the laws Canadians depend on to protect our national parks.

Moratorium?

What about the federal moratorium on development in Banff National Park?

There isn't really a moratorium, but the Minister of Canadian Heritage did pass a set of development restrictions during the period of the Banff Bow Valley Study. Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy ordered that any new development in Banff Park meet at least one of seven criteria designed to protect the Park's integrity until the study completed its task.

Amazingly, Parks Canada approved the Cameron Way project even though the development failed to meet any of the Banff Bow Valley Study Development Criteria.

Approval Questioned

If its standards were not met, why did Parks Canada approve it? This remains a mystery. Several Banff National Parks officials condemned Skiing Louise Ltd.'s environmental screening report in written letters. In an official memo to senior Parks administrators a veteran manager for Banff National Park's Heritage Resource Conservation section suggested that the scientific work in the screening report was sub-standard and recommended the project not be approved "until accurate and comprehensive information is provided to the reviewing officers." The next day, senior Parks administrators rubber stamped the approval.

Secrecy

If Parks Canada had followed the law by doing a Comprehensive Study, the public would have been notified well in advance. As it was, Parks Canada listed the project on the formal registry of Screening Reports, but did not deposit a copy of the Cameron Way screening report in the Banff Public Library for review until at least a week after the deadline for public input.

By excluding the public from this process, Parks Canada has dismissed the efforts and hard work of so many Canadians who contributed to the Banff Bow Valley Study. This study is important to the future of our community should not be ignored by the Minister.

In the Plans?

Skiing Louise Ltd. claims that the developments were agreed to under the 1982 Long Range Plan. The park Superintendent's claims that the new run is just a connector run. However, nowhere in the 1982 Long Range Plan is there a description of the Cameron Way run, or anything like it.

The new run is a mirror image of the existing Juniper Run. It is longer than the Ladies Downhill. Cameron Way extends 700 metres through undisturbed forest to the skier's left of Ladies Downhill. The Long Range Plan warns against vegetation removal in this area because of slope instability. Moreover, the Long Range Plan never mentions the two new gladed runs to be cleared on each side of Ptarmigan Run.

What can be done?

All Parks Canada has to do is suspend construction of the Cameron Way ski run and other tree glading and terrain modification and submit the project to the legally correct assessment procedure. If you think Parks Canada should re-examine the Cameron Way ski run developments, please write the acting Minister of Canadian Heritage, The Hon. Lucienne Robillard, and copy the letter to the The Hon. Sergio

Marchi, Minister of the Environment.

Making it a Greens issue

Consider also testing the response of the Reform Party on this issue by sending letters requesting a written reply to: Mr. Myron Thompson, MP - Wild Rose (Banff-Cochrane, Reform Party Critic for Justice), and Mr. Jim Abbott, MP (Reform Party Critic for Parks Canada). Down the road, the more that the Greens have a written record of examples of Reform Party behaviour on issues like this, the easier it will be for campaigns.

Coalition forming

Meanwhile, several regional and Canadian environmental organizations have taken steps to form a coalition to ask Parks Canada to submit the dispute to negotiation and possible arbitration.

Further information

A full 50-page research report and original documentation is available (at cost) from:

UTSB Research, Box 2310
Banff, Alberta, T0L 0C0

Phone: (403) 762-0351,

e-mail: utsb@web.apc.org.

Authors: Peter Poole & Ted Woelke
UTSB Research.

Greens Find Support at National Energy Board

At last there appears to be a tiny crack in the National Energy Board's defences.

Under the auspices of the new Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), the NEB and the Minister of the Environment convened a Joint Review Panel to consider the impacts of the Express Pipeline Project, a new oil pipeline proposed for southern Alberta, from Hardisty to Wild Horse. The panel consisted of two NEB members and two CEAA members. Several environmental organizations lead by Mike Sawyer of

the Rocky Mountain Ecosystem Coalition, intervened at the hearing.

In May, the review panel delivered its findings, and, predictably, supported the project, with the usual minor recommendations about mitigation of environmental damage. However, this time, one of the environment panelists has delivered a stinging indictment of the process.

Dr Glennis Lewis' 19 page dissenting opinion was included in the NEB report. Dr. Lewis states that Express Pipeline Limited, the projects proponents, failed both scientifically and legally to provide adequate evidence of the impact of the project on vegetation and wildlife, and the cumulative effects on the environment of this project when combined with other developments.

"I disagree with the majority's findings, conclusions and recommendations. I consider it would be wrong at law to recommend that the project proceed. In failing to put forth the necessary evidence, Express has failed to make its case and has not met the burden of proof imposed at law."

The NEB ignored this view and approved the project anyway.

In theory, it is the duty of the NEB to guard the Canadian public interest with regard to energy issues, both economically and environmentally. Environmental organizations have long maintained that the NEB ignored this duty in favour of satisfying corporate interests.

With the advent of NAFTA the NEB's financial obligations became obsolete; Canadians now compete with the US on even terms for economic rights to their own petroleum resources. It is now clear to all that the NEB has no intention of protecting the environment either.

Based on this dissenting opinion, and other evidence, the Sierra Legal Defence Fund has launched a lawsuit to overturn the decision.