

Wendy Priesnitz Elected Leader of Canadian Green Party

At the August, 1996 Green Party of Canada Arrow Lakes conference, Wendy Priesnitz was elected leader of the party. Other candidates were Harry Garfinkle from Alberta, Don Francis from Ontario and Jason Crumme from Newfoundland.

Wendy's Acceptance Speech

"Being chosen leader of the Green Party of Canada is a humbling responsibility. But it is an exciting one, and I thank you for putting your confidence and trust in me.

I find the task ahead somewhat daunting. An election looms within the year, so there is a lot of organizing work to be done now. But I welcome the challenge. And I believe that Green politics can provide real solutions for the environmental, economic and social problems our country is facing.

You have chosen me as your leader because I bring to the position a mix of business experience, organizing ability, and 20 years of activism in many of the Green policy areas. I look forward to putting this experience to work. Many people probably also voted for me because of my commitment to collective, decentralized decision making. As someone once said, if you are looking for leadership, check out the reflection in the mirror. In other words, self-government is about all of us working together to solve problems.

So while I accept the leadership of the Green Party of Canada, I want to remind you that we are all in this together. Green leadership is not about heroes, nor is it about sitting back and deferring responsibility. It is about inspiring, inciting, motivating and organizing others to keep focused on goals that we have jointly defined.

That is what I have been doing with my life for over twenty years, and I am pleased to

find another way to do the same job. In 1976, my husband Rolf and I started Natural Life Magazine in order to find information for ourselves, and provide access to it for other people, about ways to make changes in our daily lives in order to change the world.

Back in those days, I realized that the personal is political with a small "p". Every choice I make in my everyday life is political, whether it is to walk to the farmer's market rather than drive to the supermarket, to help my children learn at home instead of sending them to school, or to buy local organic produce instead of chemically sprayed stuff imported from California.

But about capital "P" politics, I wavered between apathy and disdain. I assumed that running a country was something done by aging white men, something other people did in some other place. My role was as an outsider protesting, arguing, writing letters, and trying to change them. I still do not believe that politicians create change. At least not politicians as we know them.

...Attracted to the Greens...

One of two things that attracted me to the Green Party was that people can work together to find small-scale, personal and local solutions to massive problems. The idea of empowering individuals and communities to become self-reliant has driven my own actions over the past twenty years, as a publisher and editor, a writer, a promoter of microbusiness and community economic development, and as an education activist.

The second attraction for me is the notion that everything is connected. While each of us has our own pet issues and areas of concern or expertise, Greens have a unique understanding that economics, social justice issues and the environment are interrelated, and solutions to problems in any of these areas must be holistic. Without each one of us taking responsibility for our own lives and for our own home places, we will not have a

healthy and sustainable community, country or world.

Greens share the vision of saving the world by saving the watersheds, one local ecosystem at a time. And of being a Canada-wide, indeed world-wide, confederation of people working together in the political arena with the same goals. For me, this translates into an understanding that the Green Party can only succeed by getting members one person at a time. And raising money one dollar at a time.

Green politics is grassroots politics. To be Green means working, through grassroots organizing, to reverse the state-orientation of politics and create a climate in which citizens are active participants, rather than passive subjects of those in power.

With this vision, we can effect large-scale change. Ours is a powerful way of looking at politics, one that removes cynicism and replaces it with hope. And one that should speak well to voters across the country who are looking for a new way of governing our country.

But change does not come easily, especially to Canadians. There are many barriers to electoral success for Greens. Words are not enough to surmount the barriers. I see my role as helping to refocus the vision, to inspire action and create the infrastructure that will enhance that action. I cannot change the country alone, nor can I make the Green Party work all by myself.

Goals

Here are my personal goals for my first year as leader:

1. To have a Green Party of Canada Strategic Plan in place by the end of September, including financial statements, a budget, an election strategy, a plan for attracting new members and for communicating with current members.
2. To organize 50 active, self-reliant riding

associations by early 1997. Notice I did not say that I would identify 50 candidates. Nor did I say I would put a national fundraising plan in place. The Green way to participate in the electoral process is to empower individuals at the local riding level to work together to communicate the Green message in their communities. If they do this well enough, with our help, credible candidates will emerge, as will the finances to allow these candidates to conduct their campaigns. Local organizing is never an easy task, but it is one into which I will put most of my energy. The Green Party I lead will operate from the bottom up, rather than the top down.

3. To build solidarity with those working for social justice and human rights issues, with community economic development leaders, with peace activists, and of course, with environmentalists across Canada.
4. To increase the visibility and credibility of the Green Party of Canada across the country, in order to attract new members and the ear of the media.

Hope for the Future

Virtually all of us arrived here today because we gave up on established political parties whose primary interest is always in extending their own power. I find hope in the creativity of people working at the grassroots level to create positive change. My efforts within the Green Party of Canada will not be to replace this work at the community level, but to enhance it. The day can come when we are in Parliament, working in partnership with the established political parties. Until then, we will be the anti-party party political experiment that is unwilling to compromise its fundamental values.

The G in Green stands for Grassroots. The R stands for Responsibility. The twin E's stand for Ecology and Earth. The N must stand for Now. For it is now that we must begin to work together on the most important task of all: To provide a political home for those who believe in the power of small groups of people to overturn the forces of corporate greed and individual short-sightedness that will destroy our Earth. The fate of the Earth hangs in the balance. So let's get to work now. I look forward to working with all of you.

Thank you."

Cheviot Mine Threatens Jasper Park

The proposed 30 km long Cheviot Coal Mine, less than 2 km from the boundary of Jasper National park threatens the integrity of this national jewel. To obtain a summary of the mine's project application write to:

Cardinal River Coals Ltd.
Bag Service 2570
Hinton, Alberta T7V 1V5

There will be a joint Canada-Alberta environment assessment review of this project. Please consider reading the application and preparing a letter or submission for the review. This project would be the Pits!

Cheviot's review is a classic example of the fox watching the chicken coop. The project application was written by the Cheviot Mine owners. Knowing full well that a judgment of "significant" impact means that a full assessment review board is required, they defined every impact as insignificant, even though the impact will be total destruction of the local habitat. Listen to what they say about Grizzly bears and other carnivores:

"Grizzly bears are already severely impacted in the region. Species extirpation is unlikely to occur as a direct result of the proposed Cheviot Project. However, the cumulative effects of past, present, and possible future developments and activities in the region, could result in significant declines in population of species which do not do well in fragmented landscapes. Together, the Cheviot Project along with other regional developments would have adverse effects for many carnivore species. This prediction is in contradiction with wildlife management objectives defined in the Coal Branch IRP. ...The impacts of the development on carnivores, after considering mitigative measures and the proposed compensation program is considered insignificant."

In other words, "you can't blame us for everything" and "there isn't nothing we can't mitigate, even if mitigation is nothing more than paying research scientists to document the destruction and buying the Grizzlies a Greyhound ticket out of town."

Shell Protest

Jack Locke, who will be running for the Green Party in the next Federal Election, was blocked by Shell from speaking at an Alberta Energy and Utilities Board hearing at Caroline, Alberta on October 2, 1996.

Jack had sought to raise relevant information regarding Shell's application to increase gas production at their Caroline facility. Some of these concerns are:

- That Shell's return on investment is 15% as opposed to Shell's claim of 5%.
- That Shell made \$147M profit in 1995 from their Caroline facility.
- That Shell only paid \$4.6M in federal and provincial taxes.
- That Shell intends to increase emissions at Caroline by 24%

Calgarians have launched a protest over Shell's blocking of Jack Locke's participation in the hearing. The protest is called, "A Month and A Day Campaign", and will be held every morning from October 9th until November 10th outside the Shell building.

The name comes from the book by executed Nigerian writer Ken Saro-Wiwa: "A Month and A Day, A Detention Diary". Saro-Wiwa and eight other Nigerian activists were executed on November 10th 1995 for their activism against Shell in Nigeria.

"Eye in the Sky" Update

All summer we have been monitoring the images which are collected by the Landsat Satellite as it circles the earth once every 16 days. Even though we had a great summer, the cloud always seems to come when the satellite flew over Alberta and there have been no cloud free images. When Landsat is switched off in November we will review all the year's data and make a decision about what to buy.

If you have access to the Internet World Wide Web you can see "Quick Look" pictures for yourself at the following URL:

http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/net/query/query_e.html

International Green News

USA: The main news is that Ralph Nader is still in the running for President on the Green Party ticket, with Winona LaDuke as his running mate. Nader and the Green party are officially registered in Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Oregon. Greens tried, but failed, to get in the presidential debate, along with the Reform and Libertarian Presidential candidates, although they did participate in interviews that followed the Clinton-Dole debate.

According to Mike Feinstein, Green Party of California, 28 Greens in 12 States hold elected office.

Australia: Elections in March gave Green Speaker Bob Brown from Tasmania a seat in the federal parliament. Greens still hold the balance of power in Tasmania. Dee Margetts from Western Australia won a seat in the house of representatives. In the Australian Capitol Territory, where the Greens have 2 of 17 state seats, they received about 8% of the federal votes.

Latvia: the Latvian "Green" party demanded a total ban on alcohol in the army. The problem of excessive alcohol consumption in the army came to the fore on June 23, 1996. During the local vernal equinox holiday ("Jan's Day") two young men were shot dead by their fellow border guards, not the first servicemen who fell victim to heavy drinking in the army.

Bulgaria: In recent municipal elections the Green Party secured 35 councillors and 5 mayors. The Socialist Party was the overall big winner.

Albania: A Green Party has been officially registered.

Cyprus: The ecological and environmental movements in Cyprus have joined forces to create a Green Party which contested the May 1996 parliamentary elections. Their contact is Harry Karayan: environm@spidernet.com.cy.

Mongolia: The July, 1996 election was a contest between the ex-Communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and the coalition of the democratic union comprising the National Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, the "Greens" and the Party of the Believers. Members of the coalition favour

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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, or David Parker in Edmonton.

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.

Change of Address

Please let us know your new address when you move. Include your name, old and new addresses and date of the move.



consolidating democratic achievements and accuse the party in power of inefficiently ruling the country.

England: Greens placed third, with over 10% of the vote, in the Lewisham London Borough election.

Mexico: Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo announced the creation of four new nature reserves in the country, but environmental activists charged there was little to celebrate. Zedillo pledged to provide increased funding for the new reserves, which include the Cozumel reef and the Chincorro Shoal reef in the Caribbean Sea, the Sierra de los Alamos in the northwestern state of Sonora and the Bay of Loredo in Baja California.

Jorge Gonzalez Torres, president of Mexico's Ecologist Green Party, said environmental destruction in Mexico had accelerated since 1990, "and thus it makes no sense to continue celebrating Environment Day in Mexico."

Slovakia: A recent poll showed support for the Green Party at 5%.

Taiwan: The Green Party Taiwan was formed on 25, Jan. 1996, and has already won 1 seat in parliament. They are interested in receiving posters and pamphlets from other Green Parties. Contacts Ang Luteng and Lin Ho-Chun can be reached by email at: gptaiwan@ms10.hinet.net or by fax at +886-2-3621361.

Alberta Greens Web Site

If you have internet web access, check out the Alberta Greens site at:

<http://www.freenet.calgary.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html>

At this web site you can find our latest newsletter, contact information, and information about our philosophy, when we meet and other goodies.

Inventing the AIDS Virus: A Book Review

The most gripping book of the year is not a fictional thriller, but a dissenting view of the AIDS crisis. Dr. Peter Duesberg describes AIDS as a failure of the medical-industrial complex more than of the immune system. His view that HIV does not cause AIDS is reasonably well known, but his 1996 book "Inventing the AIDS Virus" answers the two most likely criticisms "How could so many scientists be wrong?" and "What does cause AIDS, if not HIV?".

Dr. Duesberg starts by laying the groundwork, to persuade his readers that massive medical mistakes have been made before, usually by ascribing an infectious cause to a non-infectious disease. Nutritional deficiencies such as Scurvy and Pellagra have been blamed on infections long after ample evidence showed the cause was dietary. Sadly, many people suffered while doctors and researchers denied the obvious. Particularly relevant to AIDS is the 1960's Japanese SMON epidemic, with symptoms including intestinal disorders, nerve degeneration and death. Virus hunters took charge of the search for the cause and, not surprisingly, looked only for a virus. The cause remained elusive for 10 years while claiming thousands of victims. After strong leads had been ignored for years, it was found that the drug clioquinol was found to be the cause, a drug often prescribed for the intestinal symptoms of SMON! As the drug made the disorder worse, more clioquinol was prescribed, in a vicious circle. The epidemic died out as soon as clioquinol was banned in Japan, although some researchers continued to look for a virus!

Duesberg also discusses the "War on Cancer", which also involved a search for infectious agents. Retroviruses were chosen as likely candidates because they insert themselves into the host's DNA, becoming likely candidates to stimulate cancerous growth of cells.

Duesberg himself worked on this search in the 1970's, but eventually concluded that human retroviruses were generally harmless. However, Robert Gallo (one of the supposed discoverers of HIV) still maintains that some cancers are caused by retroviruses, and it is still accepted as a fact by journals such as Scientific American (September 1996). Interestingly enough, HIV was initially called HTLV-III (Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus III), before being renamed Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The strongly suggestive names imply that the viruses are known to cause a particular disease, which makes the abrupt name change quite bizarre.

Although viruses are accepted by many as a cause of some cancers, few considered viruses to contribute significantly to the incidence of cancer. Consequently, the possibilities for research funding, drug patents and prestige were low. Virus hunters "needed a success because their lease on public support, extended for a few years by the War on Cancer, was wearing." The AIDS epidemic appeared as a golden opportunity for these researchers, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which also needed a continuous supply of new infections to retain its funding and power. Any non-infectious cause of AIDS would not require the CDC. Any non-viral cause would not require the virus researchers.

Duesberg now moves to the genesis of the HIV theory, describing a mind boggling tale of intrigue, with Robert Gallo always near the center of the storm. It is certain that Gallo never did find HIV, but merely analyzed the genome of samples sent by Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute. To avoid an international incident, it was agreed to name Gallo and Montagnier as co-discoverers of HIV. In a rush to beat Montagnier to the punch, Gallo and the US Department of Health and Human Services held a press conference announcing HIV as the probable cause of AIDS before any scientific papers had been published! This marks the point beyond

which research into other possible causes for AIDS stopped. Before this time there were a number of candidates, including Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus and the alkyl nitrite inhalant drugs commonly used by promiscuous male homosexuals.

Duesberg also details his own struggles against the establishment, as he became increasingly isolated. Although he is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, a pioneer in retrovirus research, the discoverer of the first cancer gene and a (past) recipient of a US National Institute of Health Outstanding Investigator Grant, he is now unable to get research funding, has lost all his grants and his papers are not accepted for publication in most scientific journals, both popular and academic. Even his scheduled appearances on US television have usually been cancelled at the last moment, substituted by someone who gives the 'proper' view on AIDS instead and his automatic right to publish in the National Academy of Sciences journal has been refused. The journal *Science* published an article about him in 1994, but only included their description of his theories (along with an appropriate rebuttal). Duesberg was not permitted to submit his own views, in his own words. Although one tends to be suspicious of someone talking about their own problems, his treatment speaks loudly of an incredible corruption and censorship of unpopular ideas in the modern health research complex.

Duesberg shows that HIV cannot be the cause of AIDS by measuring it against Koch's three postulates. These are simple logical rules for determining whether an infectious agent causes a disease:

1. The virus must be present in all cases of the disease

Result: fails. Many people with AIDS are not HIV-positive. Even those with AIDS and HIV, usually have very low loads of virus circulating in their bloodstream. And, this is without considering the accuracy

of each HIV test, none of which actually test for the virus.

2. The virus must be isolated from a diseased host and grown in pure culture.

Result: passes (barely). Active virus can only be isolated from most people with AIDS by reactivating the latent virus. Ironically, once extracted, it can be grown quite easily in T-cell cultures. Yet HIV is supposed to kill these very cells to cause the AIDS immune deficiency!

3. The virus must cause the same disease when injected into an uninfected, but susceptible host

Result: fails. Obviously it is not ethical to inject a live virus into a person (and many would say the same about animals), especially a virus that is suspected to cause a dreadful disease like AIDS. However, Chimpanzees injected with HIV are still healthy 10 years later. No animals are known to get sick when injected with HIV. No health care workers are known to have contracted AIDS from a patient. Those with AIDS belong to the same risk groups as the general population. Finally, Duesberg claims that most HIV+ people were infected by their mothers and have never come down with AIDS. This is based on the difficulty of sexual transmission of AIDS, yet the high incidence of AIDS amongst young people (e.g. US army applicants who are all tested). "While some of these might have acquired their virus sexually, it is impossible that thousands would have had the 1,000+ sexual contacts with HIV-positives or the 250,000+ contacts with average Americans ... that are necessary to pick up HIV by sexual transmission."

Dr. Duesberg completes his thesis by providing strong candidates for AIDS disease causes, based on available evidence. The most important point that Duesberg makes is that AIDS is not caused by a single agent, but by life-

style factors that vary with each risk group:

- Male homosexuals are not at risk due from their sexual practices, but from inhalant alkyl nitrite drugs ("poppers") that many use as aphrodisiacs and muscle relaxants. They are known to be highly toxic and, Duesberg believes, accounts for the fact that Kaposi's Sarcoma is found almost entirely in this risk group.
- Injection drug users are not at risk due to contaminants on needles, but due to the toxicity of the hard drugs they inject. Clean needle programs, for all their good intentions, may make AIDS more likely.
- AIDS babies are generally born to mothers who injected drugs during pregnancy. Many other HIV infected babies are quite healthy.
- Hemophiliacs' immune systems are gradually worn away by daily injections of Factor VIII and (see below) by taking AZT and similar drugs.
- AZT users, and others taking "antiviral" drugs, are victims of the drugs prescribed to stop HIV developing into AIDS. Duesberg describes many side effects of these toxic drugs that mimic AIDS. The warning label on laboratory bottles of AZT includes "Toxic by inhalation, in contact with the skin and if swallowed. Target organs: blood and bone marrow [i.e. the immune system]" This label is omitted from prescription bottles. Duesberg calls these drugs "AIDS by prescription".

Nobody who reads this book thoroughly, and with an open mind, will come away believing any more in the HIV hypothesis for AIDS. They are more likely to come away shocked, angry and motivated to do something, anything, to ensure that unfettered AIDS research be allowed to resume.

"Inventing the AIDS Virus" by Dr. Peter Duesberg is available from Regnery Press at 1-800-955-5493 (the price was US\$29.95 at press time).

Keeping Kananaskis Country Klear from Klein's Klansmen

The Alberta Greens are helping out as "Defenders of Wilderness in Kananaskis Country", along with the Alberta Wilderness Association and other groups. **Surveys of the public by both a government committee and "The Defenders" show that people do not want more tourism development in "K-Country".**

For about a year, the Alberta government has been conducting a review of recreation development policies in Kananaskis. The new policies will determine the amount of development allowed over the next five to ten years.

As part of this process, the Kananaskis Country Interdepartmental Committee directed that a public consultation survey should be carried out. A summary of the results of this survey has been leaked to the Alberta Wilderness Association.

Throughout the summer, the Alberta Greens, the AWA, and other local groups conducted their own survey of Kananaskis visitors regarding tourism development, and we are delighted to report that the results of both the government survey and our own are in agreement, showing that an overwhelming majority of visitors do not want any more facility development in Kananaskis.

In our general survey at the Visitor Centre, 87% of the people surveyed said that they were against any more recreational development. Only 7% were in favour of more development and 6% had no opinion. In our survey of Resort visitors, 64% were against more development.

In the government's visitor survey, more than 80% of visitors said they did not want any more recreation facilities and, in particular, that they did not want more hotels and golf courses.

In the government committee's mail-in survey, most people were of the opinion that the committee had allowed developments which:

- which were not permitted by their own integrated resource plan;
- which should have been directed to other areas outside Kananaskis, and,
- which had unacceptable environmental

and socio economic impacts.

Since public opinion is so clearly against further tourism development in Kananaskis, the "Defenders of Kananaskis Country" are demanding that the government immediately cancel the developments which have preliminary approval and give assurances that all twenty-six developments currently proposed will be summarily rejected.

"Defenders" Survey Results

960 people were surveyed at Barrier Lake Information Centre ("General" survey) and at the resort areas ("Resort" survey) on Saturdays in June, July and August.

1. Less than 20% of people in both groups were aware that a review process was underway for Kananaskis.
2. 50% of general survey participants and 17% of the resort survey felt that there is already too much development.
3. 23% of the resort survey felt that more development should be allowed in the future and only 7% of the general survey.
4. Only 31% of the general, and 47% of the resort survey felt that current management policies "provide an appropriate balance between recreational use and environmental integrity."
5. 91% of the general and 80% of the resort survey wanted to see legislation to protect wildlife habitat from all industrial and recreational development.

A plan for Kananaskis

The Alberta Wilderness Association, long promoting protection of the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies, and its friends in the conservation community, have a Plan for K-Country, a plan that will ensure that future generations of Albertans will have Kananaskis as a sanctuary from commercial activity, a biological refuge and a bench mark for species diversity.

The Defenders' Vision

"Kananaskis Country in its entirety will be legally protected from any further commercial development. Visitor use will consist mainly of low impact back country recreation, and be managed using an ecosystem based method. The area will be harmonized with adjacent Federal parks, and with protected lands in British Columbia. The whole region will take on the role of a core protected area within a larger vision for the

Rocky Mountains."

The Defenders' Process

- The entire area of K-Country will be protected, by law, from any further industrial or commercial development.
- K-Country will be managed directly by the Alberta Government on behalf of the Citizens of Alberta.
- The Elbow-Sheep River headwaters will become a core wilderness area and private lands within this area will be re-acquired by the Crown.
- No more logging licenses or permits will be issued. Existing licenses and permits will be re-acquired by the Crown.
- No more grazing leases will be granted. Existing leases will be re-acquired by the Crown.
- Electrical power generation on the Spray and Kananaskis rivers will cease after the expiry of current contracts. Dams will be decommissioned and the rivers restored to their wild state.
- Oil, gas and other mineral exploration within K-Country will be discontinued. Petroleum production will be limited to existing wells. No further step out drilling will be permitted.

Hope for the Future

Kananaskis Country is a sprawling landscape of rugged mountains, deep forested valleys, fast flowing rivers and gentle rolling foothills. It is the home of grizzly and black bears, cougars and wolves. The peaks of K-Country form part of the spine of the continent, and along these ribs of rock, thousands of eagles migrate each year. Its montane grasslands are prime animal habitat, its waters are filled with fish, among them the endangered bull trout.

Do we care enough about these wild lands to protect them; what, if anything, are we willing to sacrifice. Can we modify our concept of progress in just a few places so that our children can come into this country and know what wilderness is?

What You Can Do

Phone or write to your MLA. Write to Ty Lund and Ralph Klein. Tell them how much you care about Kananaskis Country, and what your vision is for this region. Do it today!