



### Alberta Greens AGM

The Y2K Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Greens/Green Party of Alberta was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at the Gull Lake Camp & Retreat Centre, near Lacombe, Alberta.

Madeleine Oldershaw was appointed Chief Financial Officer by acclamation. Allan McCreary was appointed Membership Coordinator, with responsibilities for maintaining lists of members for mail-outs and for emailing. The position of Executive Secretary is open. The positions of Leader, currently held by David Parker, and President, currently held by David Crowe, continue for one more year.

Other business at the AGM was to make minor revisions to the party's Constitution and Policy Book. The name *Green Party of Alberta* is now acceptable as an alternative to *Alberta Greens*.

The 2001 AGM will be reduced to a half-day, and will be held in Red Deer. It was felt that the more convenient location and shorter duration would encourage greater attendance.

### Donate Now!

Donate to the Alberta Greens before the end of 2000 to ensure that your tax credits apply against your year-2000 taxes. Send a cheque dated no later than December 31, 2000 to:

Box 61251, RPO Brentwood,  
Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada

Your cheque must be received by us before January 15, 2001!

### Federal Election Candidates

The Green Party of Canada ran more candidates in the 2000 election than ever before (111 versus 79 in 1997), and received about double the percentage of the popular vote, on average, in each riding (0.8% in 2000, compared with 0.4% in 1997). 55,583 Canadians voted for the Green Party.

Thanks to all those who helped in the Alberta campaigns, in particular our candidates who did so well at election forums, in talking to residents of their ridings and most of all in providing Green Albertans with an alternative to vote for. Table 1 on page 1 shows how Green Party of Canada candidates fared in Alberta.

### CALGARY CANDIDATES

The Green Party of Canada was represented by four candidates in Calgary:

- Evan Osenton, Calgary West
- Michael Alvarez-Toye, Calgary Centre
- Jim Kohut, Calgary South East

- Andrew Pickles, Calgary North Hill

### EDMONTON CANDIDATES

The Green Party of Canada candidate in Edmonton was:

- Jerry Paschen, Edmonton Southwest

### OTHER ALBERTA CANDIDATES

Green Party of Canada candidates elsewhere in Alberta were:

- Harvey Scott, Athabasca
- Don Ferguson, Lethbridge

### TOP RIDINGS

The top 20 ridings, in terms of the percentage of votes cast, for the Green Party of Canada are listed in Table 2 on page 2.

The Green Party had two third place finishes (Laurier-Sainte-Marie and Mercier, both in Quebec), and two fourth place candidates (Kootenay-Boundary-Okanagan and Nunavut). Greens received more votes than candidates from major parties in Outremont (more than the Alliance candidate), Rosemont-Petite Patrie (Alliance), Riviere-des-Mille-Iles (NDP

Table 1: Alberta Candidates in Canadian Election 2000

Candidate	Riding	Green vote	Total	%
Harvey Scott	Athabasca	344	34,363	1.0
Michael Alvarez-Toye	Calgary Centre	1,169	57,232	2.0
Andrew Pickles	Calgary Nose Hill	1,092	59,624	1.8
Jim Kohut	Calgary Southeast	871	51,019	1.7
Evan Osenton	Calgary West	1,456	61,487	2.4
Jerry Paschen	Edmonton Southwest	483	53,654	0.9
Don Ferguson	Lethbridge	944	46,426	2.0

**Table 2: Top Green Ridings in Canadian Federal Election, 2000 (ranked by percentage of votes cast)**

Riding	Province	%	Votes
Kootenay-Boundary-Okanagan	BC	7.02	1161
Vancouver Island North	BC	5.80	1268
Victoria	BC	5.60	1010
Kingston and the Islands	ON	5.23	2504
Nunavut	NU	5.20	232
Saanich-Gulf Islands	BC	5.11	1803
Laurier-Sainte-Marie	PQ	4.89	2002
West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast	BC	4.28	1335
Vancouver Centre	BC	4.21	417
Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca	BC	4.05	1418
Parry Sound-Muskoka	ON	3.98	1491
Mercier	PQ	3.90	1771
Outremont	PQ	3.50	1010
Westmount-Ville-Marie	PQ	3.38	627
Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey	ON	3.15	1363
Rosemont-Petite-Patrie	PQ	3.05	1312
Kootenay-Columbia	BC	2.88	1001
Winnipeg Centre	MB	2.82	613
Ottawa Centre	ON	2.78	891
Papineau-Saint-Denis	PQ	2.70	848

and Alliance), Laval Centre (NDP), Ahuntsic (NDP), Charlesbourg-Jacques-Cartier (NDP), Laval West (NDP), Argenteuil-Papineau-Mirabel (NDP) and Laval East (NDP).

## Election 2000 Notebook

### GREENS, SHE DON T GET NO RESPECT

The Green Party of Canada, which has tried harder than any other party to include women in its team and women's issues in its platform, was excluded from the NAC (National Action Committee on the Status of Women) in their election debate. It is particularly unfortunate, because this is a repeat of 1997, when NAC apologized for this exclusion, and considering that the leader of the Green Party of Canada is not only a woman, but more importantly an internationally recognized expert on women's issues.

## ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

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Treasurer Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788  
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Membership Alan McCreary +1-403-220-4261

### MEMBERSHIP - ALBERTA GREENS

Membership in the Alberta Greens is free! Simply send your name, address and other contact information to our mailing or email address above. Members have the right to vote at Alberta Greens meetings and will receive this newsletter.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY GREENS

The University of Calgary Greens is a new political club associated with the Alberta Greens. For more information, please contact:

Cody Torgerson  
Facilitator  
Email: [Cody.Torgerson@alberta.com](mailto:Cody.Torgerson@alberta.com)  
Web: [www.ucalgary.ca/~ucgreens](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~ucgreens)

### DONATIONS

If you cannot give us your time, we could certainly use your money! 75% of your first \$150 in donations to the Alberta Greens are returned to you on your next Alberta tax return. You can also receive this tax break on donations to joint projects between the Alberta Greens and other environmental and social action groups. Contact us for details.

### MEETINGS

For information on meeting dates, times and locations, call Madeleine Oldershaw in Calgary, or David Parker in Edmonton.

### COMMENTS

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the editor, Box 133, Station M, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2H6, Canada, by email to [crowed@cadvision.com](mailto:crowed@cadvision.com) or by fax to +1-403-289-6658.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know your new postal or email address before it changes. Include your name, both your old and new addresses as well as the effective date of the change.

## LEADER ARRESTED

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Joan Russow, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, had the honour of being the only leader of a Canadian political party arrested during the election campaign.

She was arrested 3:30 PM Quebec Time Saturday November 18, 2000, and was detained for almost an hour. Quebec police who were preparing for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) meeting in April, 2001, said it was against the law to take a picture of the jail that had been emptied in preparation for the FTAA summit. It is anticipated by the organizers of the FTAA meeting that this Quebec City jail will be needed to detain the peaceful protesters expected at the FTAA meeting.

Russow was accompanied by Jean-Claude Balu, the leader of Parti Vert du Quebec, and other Party officials and Green Party of Canada candidates. Russow, and others, had taken a photograph of the jail and when the police aggressively demanded the photograph from her, Russow refused and put the photo in her pocket. The police then detained Russow and placed Russow in a detention cage for 15 minutes without communication. 30 minutes later Russow was released from the holding cage.

Russow later said that "My arrest and the Quebec City jails show that the Chretien Liberals are preparing to turn Quebec City into a battle ground against its own citizens."

## University of Calgary Greens

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Established this fall, the University of Calgary Campus Greens hit the ground running, with two members in the federal election.

Evan Osenton, a third-year English major and co-editor of the student newspaper *The Gauntlet* ran in Calgary West. Andrew Pickles, a fourth-year student with a double major in political science and economics, ran in Calgary Nose Hill. They received 1,456 and 1,092 votes

(2.4% and 1.8% of popular vote), respectively.

Both candidates approached the election as a chance to engage in activism. Osenton, who has a previous degree in history, says his campaign in Calgary West was "a grassroots effort, involving talking, arguing, and teaching". Similarly, Pickles says his primary concern was to get people "thinking about the issues and maybe question some of the facts that they thought they knew."

The U of C Campus Greens, which had their first general meeting in October, already has the signatures of close to 100 supporters, according to Campus Coordinator, Cody Torgerson. The primary goals of the Campus Greens, says Torgerson, are "to promote the Green Party at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, and to network with different social interest groups within and outside the campus".

A survey of over 40 Canadian universities uncovered only one other Campus Greens club, at the University of Victoria.

Visit the U of C Campus Greens website at [www.ucalgary.ca/~ucgreens](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~ucgreens).

## Michael Alvarez-Toye s Campaign Summary

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As the candidate for the Green Party in Calgary Centre I found this election to be one of hope and optimism, for both the party and for the country. There are many issues that need immediate attention, that will likely not receive it, but from the perspective of recognition of these problems facing us, and the level of awareness the public is starting to reach, I found that this election served notice to the Green Party that inroads are being made.

I approached the campaign with the intention of winning. I made the decision to run based on issues that weren't being addressed. I felt that the only way to bring about changes on issues such as GMO's and food labeling laws, as well

as the Kyoto Accord and fundamental social issues, was to go forward and fight to effect those changes as a Member of Parliament.

The response I received was most encouraging, from the outset upon being nominated, through the first forum and right to the end of the campaign; contrary to what the media would have us portrayed as, the Green Party is *not* a "fringe", or a "one-issue" party, certainly not judging by the public reaction. Many people were openly apologetic when admitting that they were going to vote strategically in Calgary Centre. The general consensus was to oust the former incumbent, the member of the Reform Alliance Party. In their minds it was preferable to vote for the leader of the PC's-Joe Clark, even if they had never voted or endorsed that party, than to see the Alliance retain the riding.

In this election I think that strategic voters were right, to a certain extent. Greens were not properly prepared. We nominated candidates after the election was called, resulting in a slow start to the campaign. Had we been better prepared, going into the election, I believe the results would have been far different, perhaps to the detriment to the constituency, since it is quite likely that Clark would not have had the votes necessary to oust Lowther. The final count does not accurately reflect the interest and support the Green Party holds among voters in Calgary Centre, and this bodes well for the next Federal election – if we are able to be better prepared, with a sizeable core of volunteers and a larger financial base, as well as having established alliances with the various social, environmental and political groups in Calgary Centre. I know that the next election can

### GREEN URLS

The URL for the Alberta Greens website is:

<http://green.ca/ab.html>

The Green Party of Canada is at:

<http://green.ca>

make Calgary Centre ours for the taking, and I have every intention of being an integral part of that campaign, hopefully as the candidate.

## **Fair Voting for Canada?**

A new organization called *Fair Vote Canada* has been launched. This organization will push for proportional representation, a method of electing members of parliament that would ensure that parties that have minority support across Canada would win seats in proportion to their popular vote, unlike the current 'first past the post' system that awarded 60% of the seats in the last Federal election to the Liberals who received only 40% of the vote.

This organization's website is:

[www.fairvotecanada.org](http://www.fairvotecanada.org)

## **Canadian Election Act Changes**

Changes in the Canadian Election Act have made it easier for small parties to survive, and easier to raise money. These changes were not prompted by the goodwill of the Canadian government, but by the fact that previous draconian changes to the law were overturned by the courts as unconstitutional.

The limits for tax credits have been doubled. A tax credit of 75% is now applied to the first \$200 donated to Canadian political parties, up from \$100 before. Note that the Alberta provincial limit is still \$150.

Parties will no longer be dissolved if they run less than 75 candidates in a federal election.

Consult [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) for more details.

## **Goods for Greens**

*Goods for Greens* is the official supplier of Green election goods in Canada. They can be reached by phone, toll-free, at 1-877-254-8676 or on the web at [www.goodsforgreens.com](http://www.goodsforgreens.com).

## **New Leader for Green Party of British Columbia**

In a hotly contested campaign, a new leader of the Green Party of British Columbia was elected in September, 2000. Adriane Carr received 461 votes (63%). Also running were Andy Shadrack (223 votes) and Wally Du Temple (31 votes).

## **Canadian Green Party Leader in B.C. By-Election**

In September, prior to the Federal Election, Joan Russow, leader of the Green Party of Canada placed third in the Okanagan-Coquihalla by-election. The winner was Stockwell Day, leader of the Alliance party. Joan received 2,081 votes, 7.6% of the total.

## **Ontario by-election**

In a September 8 Ontario by-election in Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Aldershot, Green Party of Ontario candidate Mark Coakley placed fourth, with 1,406 votes (4%).

## **Gomberg for Mayor**

In a recent Toronto mayoralty election, Green values were represented by well-known Green Tooker Gomberg, formerly a councillor for the City of Edmonton. Tooker placed second, with 8.5% of the vote (51,603 votes). The incumbent mayor, Mel Lastman, received about 80%.

## **Victory in Mexico!**

The two party Alliance for Change in Mexico (Green Ecologist Party of Mexico and National Action Party) defeated the official party that had been ruling for more than 70 years. With this historic victory the Green force advances in Mexico and in the World. In July 2000, the alliance's presidential candidate Vicente Fox won with 45% of the votes. In addition the alliance got almost half the legislators in the upper and lower chambers. This will give to the Greens in Mexico at least 6 senators and around 17 deputies and they will probably negotiate positions in the executive government.

## **Ralph Nader and the US Presidential Election**

*Compiled by George Reed*

The American election raises some interesting points for the Green Party of Canada. Is the purpose of the green party to be a one issue party that is an extension of the traditional political parties or is the Green Party a movement unto itself encompassing a broad spectrum of issues that is best represented by their effects on the environment?

The Ralph Nader inspired millions of Americans, illustrated by how his campaign drew record numbers to paying rallies.

"...the Green party contender and veteran consumer rights campaigner, drew a crowd of 10,000 recently to hear him speak in Boston, following hard on the heels of gatherings of 10,000 in Seattle, 12,000 in Minnesota and 10,500 in Portland.

Not only are these figures higher than those mustered by the two main candidates, Al Gore and George W. Bush, they are paying customers, shelling out up to \$10 a time to hear the Nader message."

*The Guardian Weekly  
12-10-2000, page 6*

Gore's camp countered Nader's success with the slogan "A vote for Nader is a vote for Bush", implying that the people who voted for Nader were the same ones who would have voted for Gore if Nader were not there. This is not true, however. Most of the people who voted for Nader would not have voted if Nader had not been running

Nader's camp reported that most of their support came from the 51% of the population that do not vote. These are the same people that were at the WTO demonstrations in Seattle and the same people who entered the Green movement in the last 8 years fighting on behalf of environmental issues against the Clinton-Gore administration. They do not believe the Democrats are Green.

"...a huge gulf now separates the official leaders of America's green groups from activists across the country. Carl Pope could get his board to commit the Sierra Club's financial resources to Gore, but that didn't mean that the group's activists obeyed Pope's call to fall into line and abandon Nader. The young folk on those Seattle streets who locked down and awaited the gas, pepper spray and batons a year ago were not of a mood to be intimidated into supporting the Democrats.

There is a new breed of green: people who have come of age during the Clinton-Gore years, and who have cut their teeth as activists fighting projects that had been given the OK by the Clinton-Gore administration."

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Independent Publishers Ltd.,  
Waikato Times (Hamilton)  
November 30, 2000

The people who voted for Nader were not Gore supporters. The Democratic party has shown in the past 8 years shown that it is no better than the Republican party when it comes to environmental issues. To add insult to injury, once the Green party started showing in the polls, Gore's campaign did not address the serious issues of environmental concern. Gore resorted to fear

tactics, telling voters that the Democratic Party was the lesser of two evils. The problem is of course that they are indeed two evils with no good between them. The Democratic Party is not as bad as the Republicans are but they are the two heads of the same beast. Both parties blocked Nader from public debate.

"St. Louis, MO, October 18 – Ralph Nader was denied entry last night to the campus of Washington University by the Commission on Presidential Debates, despite the fact that he had a valid pass and was scheduled to be interviewed by WUTV, the campus television station. This marks the second time in two weeks that the CPD, in association with local law enforcement, has unlawfully denied Nader access to a university campus hosting a presidential debate."

Tom Adkins  
Assistant Press Secretary  
Nader 2000

The truth is that Gore stole votes from Nader. The Sierra Club and the Friends of Earth both threw their support behind Gore convinced that the lesser of two evils was still better than their own man. Their membership did not entirely follow suit. The board of the Sierra Club was split and many of the club's members voted according to their conscience. The fear tactics of the Gore campaign cost the Green Party the 5% that would have allowed them major funding in the 2004 presidential election. It probably also cost them access to the 2004 presidential debates and a chance to get their message out.

The politics of fear is a lose-lose proposition. Gore was not willing to make the real changes needed to improve environmental issues and his track record in the Clinton administration shows that the Democratic Party is only paying lip service to environmental concerns. The Democratic party, by running a poor campaign and using fear instead of action to get voters has shown its true colors as the other head of a two headed beast.

Gore as Vice President in an incumbent Administration entered the election with "every advantage against a marginal, ill equipped and corporate-dominated Texas Governor. "Yet, the Vice President mismanaged his campaign into a deadlock with Bush and now he has only himself to blame for the Democratic fiasco"

Ralph Nader  
Washington DC,  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 2000

The Green party represents a new type of politics, a politics not based on the difference between right and left. The debate is not about capitalist versus socialist or about conservative versus liberal. It is now about a sustainable economy versus an unsustainable one. It is about safe water and clean air versus pollution. It is about corporate greed versus democracy. This round corporate greed won this round, but the Nader 2000 campaign represents the thin edge of the wedge where the Green parties of North America move from being seen as promoting a single issue, to being parties in their own right confronting issues on all fronts.

The Green party is now the third largest party in the United States and Ralph Nader received 2.7% of the vote the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest number of votes any 3<sup>rd</sup> party presidential candidate has ever won.

