



### **Jim Harris — New Leader of Green Party of Canada**

*Green Party of Canada*

On February 19<sup>th</sup> 2003, the Green Party of Canada announced the election of a new leader, Toronto management consultant Jim Harris. Harris attracted over 80% of the votes cast (437). John Grogan of Valemount, British Columbia received 76 and Jason Crummey of the Northwest Territories (formerly from Newfoundland) received 24.

For nearly two years, the Green Party has been functioning without an elected leader. With a strong and committed new Federal Council elected at their August 2002 convention, the Green Party has begun to make its presence felt on the national political scene. Election of a leader will further this momentum by increasing the visibility and credibility of the party, thus allowing for a significant gain in its influence at the federal level.

Jim Harris has been a Green Party member since 1985. He was the Organizing Chair for the Green Party of Ontario in the provincial election of 1990, Toronto organizer for the Green Party of Canada in the federal election of 1993, and has been the President of the Green Party of Ontario and their representative to Elections Ontario since 2001.

Harris intends to travel the country and speak with business and community leaders and green activists to encourage environmental and progressive organizations to work with the Green Party and to field local candidates. In addition, he will meet with Green Party members to

gather feedback on policy and to help prepare constituency associations for upcoming campaigns. His main priority is to recruit candidates. "We ran 111 candidates in the 2000 federal election, and we are going to see a significant increase in that number in the next election."

"There are literally thousands of progressive groups of local activists throughout Canada who are passionately working for change. However, at the present time, most of them are working in isolation. I believe that the Green Party of Canada can work in solidarity with these groups so that they can become more effective in achieving the change that they wish to see. We can help them through publicity and organizing, and they can help us by running candidates who will be motivated by the issues that they are most passionate about. It's a win-win."

"The Green Party is campaigning vigorously for electoral reform and fully supports election finance reform. In addition, Greens will continue to push for implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, and a universal public health care package."

"But above all," says Harris, "the Green Party is the party of peace, and truly the party of hope for our children!"

The Green Party of Canada, with members in every region of the country, is part of a global Green movement motivated by the desire to find solutions to global and regional problems. Green Party members have been elected in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

### **Jim Harris visits Calgary**

One of the first stops Jim Harris made after winning the election was in Calgary. Jim is committed developing the Green party in the West.

Jim spoke at the University of Calgary about how he had become a Green because his fiscally conservative views had led him to the realization that the ecological debt is unforgivable. The loss of species can never be replaced. Jim was well received by the Calgary audience with several people committing to run as candidates, and others offering to help out.

Jim talked to local party members about the launch of the 'Thousand Thousand' campaign to encourage 1000 people to donate \$1000. It will allow people to make both monetary and time commitments. People who are interested in learning more about this unique method of donating should contact. Mark McGillvery by email at:

[thenow@hotmail.com](mailto:thenow@hotmail.com)

Jim also talked about the Green Party's commitment to run candidates and asked for people to step forward both at the provincial and federal level. Jim does not see a difference between provincial Greens and federal Greens. Jim said "A rising tide lifts all ships" pointing out that gains on any single front will help on all fronts.

### **Greens in Scotland**

Greens have gone from 1 seat to 7 seats in the Scottish Assembly after an election at the end of April, 2003.

## Growth in Alberta

The Green Party in Alberta is growing by leaps and bounds. We are adding meetings and events to our activities. We have recently started regular socials in Edmonton and hosted the first Green Party Celebration of Earth Day in Calgary. The party has never been so vibrant. Listed below are some upcoming events:

A quarterly meeting will be held in Edmonton at the AEN on June 14, 2003 at 10am.

A Green Party Social is held on the fourth Thursday of every month from 7 pm to 9 pm at Organic Roots at 112<sup>th</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, also in Edmonton.

In Calgary meetings are usually held on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Pat Gidora's house (phone +1-403-606-0703).

A Green Party Pub night is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The location is now the Crush Restaurant and Lounge at 1312 – 12th Ave SW, Calgary. Please phone George Read for more information (+1-403-230-9474).

## Manitoba Greens Protest Tuition Hikes

*Green Party of Manitoba*

On February 4, 2003 the Green Party called the NDP government's approval of a 92.1% tuition fee increase by the University of Manitoba's law faculty elitist and exclusive.

"It is ironic that most of those people sitting around the NDP cabinet table had the benefit of subsidized education and affordable student loans, and now they are acting to deprive today's students of these same things," said Green Party of Manitoba leader Markus Buchart.

"Two things shouldn't be rationed by price: health and education," said Buchart. "The New Democrats' approval of a doubling of law tuition means that they approve of rationing access to education by price."

Buchart, himself a graduate of the law faculty, added that the government's policy sets a dangerous precedent. Now, he says, other faculties, schools and colleges will be tempted to increase similarly their tuition fees and will cite the government's approval of the law tuition hike as a precedent.

Buchart referred to the premier's own \$600 student loan that he received in 1969. After Doer stopped making payments, the federal government sued him in 1976. When Doer was made a minister in the Pawley government in 1986, the federal government garnished his minister's salary to collect the balance of the loan.

The Manitoba Greens are planning to run 14 candidates in the ongoing provincial election. Their leader, Markus Buchart can be reached at [buchart@gatewest.net](mailto:buchart@gatewest.net).

## ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Address:	Box 61251, RPO Brentwood Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada
Email:	<a href="mailto:molders@calcna.ab.ca">molders@calcna.ab.ca</a>
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Leader	David Parker +1-780-469-1448
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Treasurer	Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788
Secretary	Pat Gidora +1-403-686-0703
Membership	Alan McCreary +1-403-239-6768

### 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.

### MEMBERSHIP - GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

Memberships in the Green Party of Canada are available for \$10 to individuals, or \$15 to families from:

Alan McCreary  
Secretary, Green Party of Canada in Alberta  
#46 - 6915 Ranchview Dr. NW  
Calgary, Alberta, T3G 1R8, Canada  
Email: [alanmccreary@shaw.ca](mailto:alanmccreary@shaw.ca)  
Web: [green.ca](http://green.ca)

### 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, contact Pat Gidora, the party secretary.

### COMMENTS

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the party address above or directly to the editor by email to [David.Crowe@aras.ab.ca](mailto:David.Crowe@aras.ab.ca).

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know your new phone postal or email contact information before they change. Include your name, both your old and new information as well as the effective date of the change. Send updates to our address above.

### NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Madeleine Oldershaw, Alan McCreary, Erica Crowe and Julia Crowe for their valuable assistance with the distribution of the newsletter.

## News From the Wabasca Greens

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In July of 2002 Ian Hopfe ([ian@wabasca.com](mailto:ian@wabasca.com)) was appointed to the MD #17 Municipal Library Board, and at the first meeting was elected Chairman. Ian Hopfe, age 24, ran for the Alberta Greens in the last provincial election in the Athabasca–Wabasca Riding against Mike Cardinal (PC). Since there is no Community Library in MD of Opportunity #17 Ian will have the pleasure of helping to create something that is badly need and will be around for years to come.

### GLADUE MISSES SEAT ON BIGSTONE CREE NATION COUNCIL BY TWO VOTES

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In October, 2002 Albert Gladue ran for one of three Council seats open for the Bigstone Cree Nation. Albert Gladue, age 28, was Ian Hopfe's campaign manager in the last provincial election. At first count Albert was down 2 votes from getting the third open Council seat. A recount was performed the next day, but was not done properly, and Albert lost 2 more votes.

The election was appealed for infractions of the Bigstone Cree Nation Election Code and the Appeal Board (Two local store owners, and the local RCMP Sergeant who were all non-native and impartial.) upheld the appeal and recommended to the Chief to have a re-election. The Bigstone Cree Nation Chief (Gordon Auger) appeared to stall for two weeks and then on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002 a Bigstone Cree Nation Membership meeting was held. At this meeting the membership seemed to explode on the Chief and the three of six Councilors still in office. One point in the night the membership was calling for the Chief and remaining Councilors to step down and have a complete re-election of them all. When the Chief asked for a show of hands to vote on what to do about the current election appeal no members would vote. Fear of reprisals kept members from voting but the Chief wouldn't

allow a secret ballot. At the end of the night Chief Gordon Auger made the decision, *not* to accept the appeal and he declared the current top three candidates winners.

This is one example of the problems within first nations of Canada. A problem that Ian Hopfe and Albert Gladue, Bigstone Cree Nation Members, hope the Green Party can address. During the last provincial election first nations issues were a big part of our green platform. We hope to show that the Green Party is the way to vote if you're a first nations member in Canada. We are working on plans to better help first nations people from a first nations view.

### HOW TO GET OIL PEOPLE TO VOTE GREEN?

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Another big issue in the Wabasca area is how to get people to vote Green when most of the people in the community work in the oil patch? Any help with this issue before the next provincial and federal elections would be great! Please forward your ideas to Ian at:

[ian@wabasca.com](mailto:ian@wabasca.com)

### ATHABASCA-WABASCA GREEN CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION

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We are hoping to get a Green Constituency Association going in Athabasca–Wabasca with the help of long time Green (and Ian & Albert's mentor) Harvey Scott from Athabasca. Any help or advice you can give us would be great!

### ABOUT THE RIDING

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This riding has the largest land area in Alberta, and the smallest population. A high percentage of the residents are first nations and much of the economy is driven by oil, gas and forest resource exploitation. There are few (or no, depending on your definition) large communities, few roads and many PC voters!

## CONTACT IAN HOPFE AT:

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Wabasca, AB  
T0G 2K0

Phone: +1-780-891-0154

Email: [ian@wabasca.com](mailto:ian@wabasca.com)

## It's Not Easy Being Green—Liberal

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*Frank de Jong, Leader  
Green Party of Ontario  
(in Toronto's Now Magazine)*

Bob Hunter says it will be a "colossal wasted opportunity" if the Green Party of Ontario doesn't form a pact with the Ontario Liberals to not run candidates in swing ridings in order to help the Liberals win the upcoming provincial election. Hunter is afraid the Greens may 'Nader' the Liberals giving the Conservatives another 4 years, and in the process losing the green policy proposals the Liberals have recently pledged, including a binding referendum on proportional representation.

While some party members agree with Hunter, the Greens attending our recent AGM turned the idea down flat.

What political deal-makers like Hunter don't understand it that the Green Party of Ontario is part of the international Green political movement that is much bigger than the Ontario Liberals. We hold a cohesive, comprehensive set of values and principles that can't be set aside on a whim. We're no \$10 hooker who gets into bed with any party that happens to have adopted a few similar positions.

Impatience and expediency are not what built the green movement over the last 40 years, and impatience and expediency are not how we are building the Green Party. As a party we represent a political culture that is unique to the green movement. As a party we must be true to the movement which we seek to represent in the Ontario legislature.

We don't believe in short cuts. Stopping sprawl, going organic, getting rid of cars,

moving to zero garbage, tax shifting, preventive health and inclusive education are long-term projects of the green movement and the Green Party. Comprehensive change comes slowly, methodically, based on philosophically sound principles and hard work, not by quick fixes.

As the green movement grows, so will the Party. Our job is not to control or define the green movement but to provide articulate, grounded candidates in every riding, insuring that all voters sympathetic to green values have the opportunity to vote Green. Voting for the real Green Party sends a much stronger demand for change than voting for a light-green PC, Liberal or NDP.

The strongest message of all would be to elect the first Green MPPs in the next Ontario election. We are intent on fielding excellent candidates in all ridings and we are intent on electing as many of them as possible. Our goal is to become the government of this province. And we will do so with integrity.

## RESPONSE LETTER:

*Rob Graham*

Frank de Jong's letter ("Go Green or go home", Dec. 26, 2002) has convinced me to not vote Green. Why? The whole tone of his letter shows that the Greens are well down the road to being an ideology. Ideologies are not about being good, but about being right. After the last seven years of unspeakable fun under the province Tories, no way am I going to help bring in another bunch of ideologues.

## Ontario Leader to Face Ontario Premier

Ontario Green Party leader Frank de Jong will face the Ontario premier, Ernie Eves, in the Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey riding at the next election.

A February 28, 2003 Ipsos-Reid poll put support for the Green party at about 5% province-wide. This is up from 3% in a similar poll from December, 2002. Popularity dipped to 4% in an April 23 poll.

Support for the Green party among younger Ontarians is around 9%, implying big increases in support in the future.

In other Ontario news, John Cowling will be running as the party's first candidate ever in the Perth-Middlesex riding. The party is also aiming to run a full slate of candidates for the first time. Their election platform is available at:

[www.greenparty.on.ca](http://www.greenparty.on.ca)

## BC Greens Tops in Canada

The BC Greens are at an amazing 19% according to a March 19, 2003 Ipsos-Reid poll, behind the NDP at 30% and the Liberals at 44%. BC remains the likely spot for the first Green provincial member of parliament. That will be a day to remember!

## Quebec Greens Start Again

The Quebec green party (Parti Vert du Québec) has had its ups and downs, but is now on its feet again. In the April, 2003 provincial election they received an average of 1.6% of the vote in each of the 36 ridings where they had candidates. This is a small showing, but this is where the British Columbia party was in 1991.

The best showing was Jessica Gal in the Notre Dame de Grace riding with 4.28% of the popular vote.

## The Green Channel

The Green Channel bills itself as Canada's environmental television service. Visit their website at:

<http://www.thegreenchannel.ca>

### GREEN URLS

The Alberta Greens website can be reached via:

[green.ca/ab](http://green.ca/ab)

The Green Party of Canada is at:

[green.ca](http://green.ca)

## Open Market Promotes Green Power

In a November, 2002 press release, the Ontario Green Party promoted open markets for energy, something that they believe would encourage environmentally friendly sources such as wind and solar power. Their alternative energy plan would:

- Phase out the Ontario Premier's dirty energy subsidy while giving homeowners and businesses a tax break for energy-saving renovations;
- Establish a "made in Ontario" emissions trading system where polluting producers must pay clean producers for their unused pollution credits;
- Invest in local generation projects that could turn energy consumers into green energy producers;
- Create a new agency called Ontario Power Conservation (OPC) that would facilitate energy-conservation market mechanisms like home and business energy audits;
- Remove provincial sales tax from all conservation technologies and related renewable energy equipment (e.g.: wind turbines, solar panels, solar hot water systems, co-generation technology, energy efficient appliances and compact fluorescent light bulbs);
- Provide tax credits for green retrofitting;
- Turn hydro bills into hydro paychecks by creating province-wide net-metering. This would encourage people to install personal electricity generation equipment and sell the excess back to the grid. This would also encourage electricity production by wind turbines, photo-voltaic panels, bio-mass, small hydro and geothermal energy;
- Refinance part of the \$38 billion Ontario Hydro debt through the Province of Ontario Savings Office (POSO). Refinancing the stranded debt through the POSO would allow the interest payments to accrue to the Ontario government, not to the banks.

## Greens in Idaho

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*The Spokesman-Review, Sandpoint*

The Green Party, one of the fastest-growing political parties in the nation, is taking root in northern Idaho.

“They care about the things going on in our society,” Sandpoint bicycle mechanic Larry Baggett said of the Greens. “They haven’t sold out to anybody along the way.”

Statewide, the party has yet to attain ballot status. In 2000, Green Party members collected 5,000 signatures to get consumer advocate Ralph Nader on the ballot, but not all were from registered voters.

Nevertheless, Nader garnered 2.7% of the vote as a write-in candidate, an impressive figure to Thomas McGuire, spokesman for the Idaho Green Party.

“In other states, he only got 2% even being on the ballot,” McGuire said.

After the 2000 election, Nader supporters in Idaho launched a statewide party. So far, it has about 220 members and a mailing list of 1,700 people. Local chapters are actively meeting in four counties: Ada, Gem, Elmore and Bonner.

## Greens Win in Wisconsin

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Four out of ten Green Party candidates in Wisconsin were elected, bringing the state’s total to 17. Three were elected to the Madison City Council. Brenda Konkol, an incumbent, received 71% of the vote in her district, Austin King 55% and Brian Benford received 53%.

## Green Growth in Finland

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In a March, 2003 election, the Green League of Finland (Vihr Gröna) increased their seats from 11 to 14 in the Finnish parliament (which has 200). The party’s vote increased to 8.0% from 7.3% in the last election. This makes them the fifth largest party in parliament.

Their website is at:

[www.vihrealiitto.fi/english.shtml](http://www.vihrealiitto.fi/english.shtml)

## Europe’s youngest MP

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*Tristana Moore, BBC*

Anna Luhrmann went into politics when she was 13. “I didn’t just want to grumble, I really wanted to do something,” says 19 year-old Anna Luhrmann, the youngest member of parliament in Germany - and in the whole of Europe.

She won her seat for the Greens during the September 2002 general election, setting a new record for the Bundestag (German parliament).

I think I can bring a young perspective on things and I saw the opportunity to go on into a political party

Thanks to Germany’s system of proportional representation, little-known candidates can win seats provided enough second votes are cast for their party.

When most girls her age would have been swooning over Robbie Williams, Anna was already getting involved in politics. At 13, she joined the Green Party.

Anna wants to pursue a university degree while she is an MP

“I think I can bring a young perspective on things and I saw the opportunity to go on into a political party – into the Green Party – and to make my points there,” she says.

“To get organized and to organize meetings and demonstrations and stuff like that and to really change something and not to complain.”

And what do her colleagues in the Green party think of her?

“We have the youngest elected member of any parliament in Europe,” says Claudia Roth, the leader of the Green Party. “I think that makes something clear – that we do not only speak about politics for young people but in my party and now in the German parliament young people are making politics.”

## Behind the Greens increased vote in Australia

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*Alison Dellit*

The Greens scored a whopping 9.2% of the vote across Victoria, Australia in the November 30 state election. This was just the latest in a string of successes that began with a better than expected result in the Western Australian elections in early 2001. Since then, the Greens won 570,000 votes in the 2001 federal election and their first federal lower house seat in the Cunningham by-election.

The Greens’ success has come on the back of an increasing political convergence between the ALP and Liberals, at a state and federal level. The fact that Australia uses a form of proportional representation, instead of Canada’s “First past the post” system, has also helped the party immensely.

“On the key issues, the [Victoria] government had failed to perform”, Pinnell said. “There has been disappointment with the ALP, its failure to invest in health and education, its closeness to big business, letting developments go ahead, such that there’s almost no difference [with the Coalition].”

Hale also cited the ALP’s shift to the right as a factor in growing support for the Greens. “There is huge dissatisfaction, with the Liberals obviously, but possibly more with the ALP, and its stance on war in Iraq, refugees and other things”, she said.

“We campaigned strongly on public education, health and environmental, particularly forest, issues but it’s broader than that”, Pinnell explained. “Lots of people raised [our support for] refugees and [opposition to] war. Our broader political positions drew people to us.”

Both Pinnell and Hale believe that the Greens’ campaigns around planning issues, in particular opposition to intensive development in inner-city areas, also won them support.

Hale told GLW that there was a relationship between local issues and the broader national questions: "People are conscious of the difference between state and federal issues. The national profile of the party has made people more aware that we are not just a lot of tree huggers, but have significant social justice policies. Planning issues are part of this."

"People are now seeing the Greens as a viable alternative government", Pinnell agreed.

According to Luntz, the increased in votes for the Greens is not coming from a different demographic than their previous support base. "It's the same sort of people", he said, "just more of them". Greens voters share two main characteristics, Luntz noted: they are young and have completed at least one year of tertiary education.

Based on Luntz' analysis of previous election results and the distribution of the 2002 votes, in the November 30 elections around 40% of tertiary-educated voters under 35 voted Green statewide, 9-10% of those who were either under 35 or tertiary educated voted Green and only a tiny proportion of others did.

In the four main priority seats, where the Greens beat the Liberals to score the second-highest primary vote, Luntz estimates that more than 50% of young people voted Green.

According to Luntz, Greens' membership is now five times what it was two years ago. Interestingly, both Luntz and Pinnell said that the Greens' growing membership was slightly older than its voting base. In the main four seats alone, the Greens mobilized around 700 people to staff the booths for the day.

Pinnell described the new Greens voters as "young people, first time voters and rusted-on ALP voters. There's also people very concerned about environmental issues, who come from both the Liberal and Labor parties."

"There has been a shift to the left in the electorate", Hale argued. "Liberal voters are moving to Labor, Labor's left is moving to the Greens."

Asked about the tension in the Greens between those coming from an environmental campaigning backgrounds and those more concerned with social justice issues, Pinnell was candid: "People come to the Greens with different sorts of backgrounds — environmental campaigning, social justice campaigning, even union campaigning. The challenge for us is to merge them together, working within grassroots structures. There is debate along those lines, but that's a good thing."

New South Wales' Labor premier, Bob Carr, has attempted to exploit some of these tensions, arguing that he deserved Greens preferences because of his government's campaign to reduce migration to Sydney. Carr's war on migrants has involved 'ethnic profiling' and police attacks on Muslims.

Asked about the Greens position of urban immigration and population, Pinnell said: "The Greens are very involved in campaigns to [reduce housing] density. Cities need better planning. We also support increasing immigration, particularly the refugee intake, and ensuring our communities embrace diversity."

Luntz pointed out that of the four main Greens candidates, three had no involvement in environmental campaigning before they joined the Greens, and the fourth was also involved in social justice campaigns. Pinnell, an ex-student union official, is now working for the National Tertiary Education Industry Union.

These various backgrounds may explain the different campaigning style of Greens candidates. In different seats, Greens candidates make their own decisions about fundamental questions such as the allocation of preferences.

Pinnell and Hale expect that Greens' support will continue to grow, challenging the two-party, pro-business consensus. "In the next federal election, we expect to get a [Victoria] senator elected and gain lower house seats", Pinnell said. "We are consolidating ourselves as the third party. Of course, the Greens have always been about struggle outside the parliamentary arena as well."

Hale argued that the Greens' victory in the NSW federal seat of Cunningham indicates that in the March NSW election, "our primary vote will be much better, in double digits. We could get two or three MPs elected in the upper house, and will be pushing the ALP in a few lower house seats, especially Port Jackson, Marrickville and Keira.

"Success breeds success and we expect to do very well."

## Greens: Party or Movement?

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*George Read*

Recently there has been controversy over the direction of the Green Party, particularly because of the David Orchard campaign for leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada and Bob Hunter's speech to the Green Party of Ontario, Orchard is considered by many to be a "Green". Bob Hunter is a founder of Greenpeace and has spoken in favour of the Green Party joining with other parties in order to be successful.

The Green Party has always pulled together diverse opinions in order to push progressive ideas forward. The *Green Party* represents the *Green Movement*, promoting it in ways only a political party can, by running candidates in elections and applying pressure on politicians by taking votes from them. The *Green Movement*, in contrast, uses a wider variety of means to create a green society.

Members of the party can push on several fronts and are encouraged to do so. Many of our members are involved in other environmental or activist groups that apply pressure to politicians in other ways. The party, because it is a political party, is more limited in its options. It must focus on building its own membership and infrastructure so it can compete in elections. Any other direction the party takes would be counter-productive. By working to build the party, and also working with government through activist groups, we create a carrot and stick strategy. Ruling politicians are presented

with the carrot of changing their policies to win green voters, or the stick of losing votes to a growing Green Party.

This leaves us with the best of all worlds. The Green Party can applaud the green policies of other parties. Members can support other parties as well as the Green Party. For this to be a success, formal party policy should always be directed toward making the party a political force in its own right.

## Thoughts on Iraq

*David Parker  
Leader, Alberta Greens*

I have to make a confession about feelings I have been forced to suppress while listening to the coverage of the war on Iraq.

My desire to see the war go badly and consequently discredit the US Administration is so strong I am tending to forget the humanity and the compassion I should have for the soldiers who are suffering humiliation and dying for a cause I have yet to have clearly explained to me.

I have considered all the motivating factors for the invasion and, although they all have some validity, none stand out strongly enough to warrant a killing spree of this magnitude.

- Oil security must be a motivating factor. North Korea, which has no oil, is allowed to thumb it's nose at the international community and openly develop nuclear weapons, repress it's population and, heaven forefend, remain a Stalinist dictatorship.
- Human rights are loudly touted in spite of the dozens of other repressive regimes that treat their civilians in similar ways and refuse even a glimmer of democratic freedom, for example Burma, China, many African states, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, Algeria, and some South American states.
- Getting revenge after Daddy's humiliation at losing his second term to Bill Clinton might have some bearing but

surely George Junior has more integrity than that, being a Christian and all.

- Of course weapons of mass destruction have been talked about a lot, although the UN Inspectors could not find a trace, and this remains the case as US soldiers move deeper into Iraq. Even if they do exist I have had great difficulty understanding how Iraq was supposed to deliver them the 6000 km onto American soil when they were forbidden from producing missiles with a range greater than 100 Km.
- Harboring terrorists perhaps? It is now well known that the Islamic fundamentalists have nothing but hatred for the godless and secular Saddam Hussein. To say these two didn't see eye to eye is a gross understatement. Any terrorists hiding inside Iraq were doing so thanks to the cover provided by UN sanctions.
- Iraq is a threat to its neighbours perhaps? After 12 years of punitive sanctions, bombings and curtailment of oil production, where is the threat. The concept of "containment" was working very well and preserving many lives, which are now being sacrificed on both sides of the conflict.

So, what are we left with? I submit the worst, most dangerous, and destabilizing motivation of all, ideology. The present US Administration is driven by a messianic belief in the superiority of the American Way. Evidence for this thesis is now common knowledge and was mentioned in Jonathan Manthorpe's column "Bush advisors fail to admit limits of US 'superior' warfare". The incriminating document is known as the "Project for a New American Century" and is the brainchild of none other than your old friends Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Perle, plus a few other political hawks. These three are very high-ranking officials in the Bush White House. Richard Perle was nicknamed the 'Angel of Death' during the Reagan years.

In a similar fashion to the inquisitors of medieval Spain who burned and tortured people for their own salvation we are seeing a forced conversion of all non-

believers to George Bush's idea of the right way. Making the world safe for McDonalds, Exxon and Coca-Cola you might say.

What of the poor soldiers that signed up for the US military in an effort to escape from the poverty of the American South never expecting they would end up on world television answering questions concerning their desire to kill Iraqis. The term for these high school drop outs who wanted nothing more than a good job and the chance at an education is "grunt". America has a history of sacrificing it's poor as cannon fodder. George Bush escaped that fate, at no surprise to anyone, after leading a privileged life in the American aristocracy.

Canada is not my country of birth but I have never been prouder to have adopted it as when our Prime Minister refused to join this motiveless war. The puerile argument that we should back the aggressors "because they are our nearest neighbours and our biggest trading partners" indicates how little certain elements of the population have evolved. To what depths are we prepared to obsequiously go to stay on the good side of our belligerent southern neighbours? Not as low as Tony Blair I'm glad to say.

### WANT TO HELP?

You can help the Alberta Greens in many different ways. You can run as a candidate, act as campaign manager or chief agent for a candidate, or simply drop off flyers, host a neighbourhood coffee party to introduce the candidate or get on the phone and call prospective voters.

When an election is not on you can, of course, donate money to the party and receive much of it back in Alberta tax credits. You can help out in the development of policy, write articles for this newsletter, phone to expand and strengthen the membership or dream up your own way to help the party grow.