



Green Party of Canada in Alberta is Ready for the Election!

George Read

Table 1 lists the Green Party of Canada candidates for Alberta. Not only is Alberta doing well, the party has roughly half the 308 candidates we need all across the country. Alberta is currently second in the race to fill all the available seats. We only lag behind PEI which quickly filled their 4 Electoral Districts with Green candidates. In Alberta, we have a full slate of candidates in Calgary

and Edmonton. For the first time more than two million Albertans will have an opportunity to vote Green.

The upcoming federal election is critical to the Green Party because if we can get 308 candidates we can get easily achieve the 2% of the total votes cast, which means that the party will receive funding from the government. This money will be split evenly between the federal hub, the regions and the local Electoral districts. There has never been a more historic time for the Greens in Canada. Contact your local Green Party candidate today!

Green Party Party!

Join us at 6:30pm (or later) at the Auburn Saloon at the Calgary Tower on Sunday, February 22nd to party, er, Meet the Candidates!

As you can see from Table 1, we are close to a full slate of candidates in Alberta.

Meet the candidates. Question the candidates. Encourage the candidates. Even join their campaign team or pledge them a donation!

Table 1: Green Party of Canada Candidates in Alberta (subject to additions)

Riding	Candidate
Athabasca	Ian Hopfe
Calgary Center North	Mark MacGillivray
Calgary Center South	Phillip Liesemer
Calgary East	Dean Christie
Calgary Northeast	Morgan DuFord
Calgary Nosehill	Richard Larson
Calgary Southeast	George Read
Calgary Southwest	Sandra Seamens
Calgary West	Danielle Roberts
Edmonton Beaumont	Jason Unger
Edmonton Centre	David Parker
Edmonton East	Harlan Light

Riding	Candidate
Edmonton Leduc	Bruce Sinclair
Edmonton Sherwood	Robert Wilde
Edmonton Strathcona	Cam Wakefield
Edmonton West	Gerry Paschen
Lethbridge	tbd
Macleod	tbd
Medicine Hat	Darcy Kraus
Peace River	tbd
Vegreville-Wainwright	tbd
Westlock-St. Paul	tbd
Wetaskiwin	Michael Garfinkle
Yellow Head	Albert Aris

Alberta Greens Policy

*George Read
Leader, Alberta Greens*

The Alberta Greens kicked a policy review off with a meeting at the University of Calgary on January 14th 2004.

The goal is to have a draft policy available for distribution to the membership in the early fall. A policy convention will be held in conjunction with the AGM on Sunday, October 3rd 2004.

Only those with a voting membership will be allowed to participate in the convention. A voting membership in the Alberta Greens is \$10 (except in cases of inability to pay) and can be obtained by sending a cheque to:

Alberta Greens
Box 61251, RPO Brentwood
Calgary AB, T2L 2K6

Report from the Alberta Representative on the Federal Green Council

Darcy Kraus

I [Darcy Kraus] am now the federal organizer for the Green Party of Canada (GPC) in Alberta. I will be working on candidate recruitment, fund raising, media and things related to the anticipated federal election.

I have stepped down as Alberta representative on the GPC council, leaving a vacancy. This job only requires about two hours of phone conferencing per month, and monitoring 5 to 15 emails every day, if you are interested.

My last act on council was to attend a retreat in Toronto in January, 2004. We spent 16 hours in a boardroom working on strategies, planning, budgeting, and organizing for the federal election. Presentations were given by web designers, media consultants, lawyers, fund-raisers, policy makers and others.

I came away from the meeting impressed by the team that Jim Harris and Frank De Jong assembled from the recent Ontario elections. I urge anyone travelling to Ontario to try and meet with representatives of the Green Party of Ontario (GPO). They are working with the best and brightest, and hopefully we will be able to draw in more people like them in Alberta.

It is with inspiration from this meeting that I take on the role of Alberta organizer. If you can offer candidates, volunteer your time, work with the media, help organize in rural areas or just have lots of money to donate(!), please email me at:

djkbuddha@yahoo.ca

or phone me at home any time at +1-403-541-1694.

Support for Green Party Rising

According to the Ipsos-Reid public opinion pollsters, support for the Green Party rose steadily from March 2003 through February 2004. It is now an average of 5% across Canada, with 11% support in British Columbia and 5% in Ontario and Quebec. Support is highest among the young, the well educated and in rural areas.

A chart showing the fortunes of all five major Canadian parties has been prepared by Dave Ferguson at:

members.shaw.ca/greenpower/MyHTML.htm

The results of the February poll are at:

www.ipsos-reid.com/pdf/media/mr040213-3tb.pdf

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

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MEMBERSHIP - ALBERTA GREENS

Voting membership in the Alberta Greens is only \$10 per year! Simply send payment, along with your name, address and other contact information to our mailing address above. You do not need to be a voting (paid) member to 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
Web: 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 the party secretary.

COMMENTS

We welcome submissions for this Newsletter. Please send them to the editor by email to David.Crowe@aras.ab.ca.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know your new phone, address 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 Alan McCreary, Erica Crowe and Julia Crowe for their assistance with the distribution of the newsletter.

Changes in Canadian Election Funding Rules

Starting January 1st 2004, rules for Canadian election funding changed. Under the new rules, Canadian citizens and permanent residents are limited to an annual total donation of \$5,000 to a political party. These donations are tax creditable with even more generosity than before. A \$400 donation is eligible for a \$300 tax credit. The maximum tax credit is \$650 on a donation of \$1,275. Tax credits do not apply to donations to leadership or nomination contestants.

Corporations, unions and associations can no longer donate to parties or leadership contestants, but can donate up to \$1,000 annually to each registered electoral district association and candidate.

These changes also provide public funding for parties that receive 2% of the vote nationwide, or an average of 5% in ridings where they run candidates. Individual candidates will be reimbursed for up to 60% of their expenses if they receive at least 10% of votes.

More information is available from the Elections Canada website:

www.elections.ca

These changes do *not* affect provincial election funding, such as to the Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta).

Save us Money; Receive your Newsletter by email!

It costs about \$3 to mail out one newsletter. We can email the same information at almost no cost. If you are willing to receive this newsletter electronically, send your email address, along with a preference of 'Plain Text' or 'PDF' format, to our membership coordinator, at:

AlanMcCreary@shaw.ca

Include your mailing address and at least one phone number as well. It is common for people to change their email address, and this ensures that we can still communicate with you.

Greens in Saskatchewan General Election

The New Green Alliance represented the Green movement in the November 5th 2003 provincial election in Saskatchewan. The fledgling party received 2,503 votes, 0.59% of the total.

Full details of the election are at:

www.elections.sk.ca/results.php

Candidate performance is shown in Table Table 2: on page 4.

NDP: Green with Envy?

*by Andrew Lewis
Green Party of Canada nominee*

New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton attempts to defend the NDP (The Party Of Ideas -- letter in the Globe and Mail, January 21st 2004) by suggesting, with a note of sarcasm perhaps, that it must have been some other party that outlined community health-care strategies, reduction of smog with green-car initiatives, energy-conservation programs, reducing student debt, reforming the electoral system, and respecting equal rights for gays and lesbians.

Yes, it was some other party, Mr. Layton; the Green Party of Canada has consistently promoted these ideas for decades, along with a long list of other creative solutions to today's problems.

Greens in Ontario Municipal Elections

Richard Thomas was elected Reeve of Armour Township (Parry Sound district), along with his entire team of 4 council candidates (although only Richard is a GPO member).

Two Green Party members – Warren Maycock and Rob Strang – were elected as Orangeville Councillors.

GPO member Tom Adams was elected to the Oakville town council, along with 3 other members of the Oakville Green Conservation Association.

Carla Carlson, the partner of Tom Ferguson, GPO candidate in Erie-Lincoln, was elected councillor in the town of Lincoln on the Niagara peninsula. Carla is not a party sympathizer.

In Thunder Bay Charles Campbell came in 6th in a field of 9 just missing a Council seat. He received 540 votes out of a total of 6500 votes cast.

Judy Greenwood-Speers failed to win a seat on Waterloo Council, but she says she had a great campaign. Greg Bonsor failed to win a Toronto Council seat, but ran an excellent campaign.

Why Greens Went NDP

*Frank de Jong
Leader, Green Party of Ontario*

Jack Layton considers it noteworthy that a couple of Green Party of Canada officials recently switched to the federal NDP. It would have been interesting to hear why these people made the switch. Were they attracted by Layton's leadership, or was there more to it? I've known these people for a number of years, and in my opinion they left because the Green Party of Canada recently shifted its political philosophy to become a true "green" party, in which they no longer feel comfortable. The party now considers left-right thinking increasingly obsolete. The members who switched to the NDP didn't accept this change.

Greens seek to achieve left-wing ends using right-wing means. We wouldn't subsidize housing but would shift taxes from buildings onto land so the market would build low-cost housing on less land, without interference. We would finance more of the federal debt through the Bank of Canada. We would use creative tariffs to assist value-added production and reduce raw resource exports. Green taxes would be applied to reduce sprawl, phase out fossil fuels and nuclear power, and eliminate garbage and pesticides.

Our ideas may not be for everyone, and a few may move to other parties, but many more are joining us.

Table 2: Saskatchewan New Green Alliance Performance

Riding	Candidate	% Vote	Achievement
Batoche	Gordon Robert Dumont	0.99	
Estevan	Sigfredo Gonzalez	1.33	
Moose Jaw North	Michael Wright	0.85	
Moose Jaw Wakamow	Marcela Gall	0.96	
Prince Albert Carlton	Jayna Lacey	1.09	
Prince Albert Northcote	Ben Webster	2.66	
Regina Coronation Park	Kim Weiss	0.89	Beat the PC candidate.
Regina Dewdney	Darcy Robillard	0.46	
Regina Douglas Park	David Orban	1.65	Beat the PC candidate.
Regina Elphinstone-Centre	John W. Warnock	6.22	Highest percentage of the vote. Beat the PC and WIP candidates.
Regina Lakeview	Brian Rands	1.39	
Regina Northeast	Susan Ferren	0.86	Tied with the PC candidate.
Regina Qu'Appelle Valley	Kelsey Pearson	0.49	Beat the WIP candidate.
Regina Rosemont	Victor Lau	1.12	Beat the PC candidate.
Regina South	Garry Ashworth Ewart	1.03	Beat the WIP candidate.
Regina Walsh Acres	Nigel Taylor	0.88	
Regina Wascana Plains	John Keen	0.52	
Saskatchewan Rivers	Gerald Regnitter	2.60	
Saskatoon Eastview	A.M. (Sandy) Ervin	1.15	
Saskatoon Fairview	Jason Hanson	0.73	
Saskatoon Greystone	Brian Berezowski	0.57	
Saskatoon Massey Place	Ryan John Taylor	0.92	
Saskatoon Meewasin	David Greenfield	0.97	
Saskatoon Nutana	Neal Anderson	2.44	
Saskatoon Riversdale	Keith Morvick	0.91	Beat the PC candidate.
Saskatoon Southeast	Neil Sinclair	0.62	
Saskatoon Sutherland	Lynn W. Oliphant	1.47	

Greens Rise in US

As of November 18th 2003, 205 Greens had been elected in the United States and 302,120 Americans were registered in the Green Party in 22 states. The Green Party has ballot access in 21 states, with Nebraska expected to become the next. Forty-three state Green Parties are now affiliated with the Green Party of the United States.

Green Narrowly Missing Becoming Mayor of San Francisco

Green Party candidate Matt Gonzalez received 47% of the vote in the December 2003 mayoral election in San Francisco, losing narrowly to heavily funded Democrat candidate Gavin Newsom. Democrats were so worried about this race that both Al Gore and Bill Clinton showed up to campaign. They also spent \$3.6 million, more than eight times the funds available to the Green Party candidate.

How the Manitoba Greens took Wolsely from 5% to 19% on \$10,000

Markus Buchart

In our first general election in 1999, the Manitoba Greens (GPM) ran six candidates and became a registered party. We resolved to double that in the next general election. On June 3rd 2003, we gave Manitobans a choice of 14 Greens. Next time, we plan to more than double that again. With 29 or more candidates, we would be running for more than half of the legislature's 57 seats.

The 2003 election campaign began on May 2nd. On that day, the Manitoba Greens had only about \$3,000. 32 days later, Manitobans rewarded our 14 candidates with an average vote of 4.1%. We more than tripled our vote in all four ridings in which we had run in 1999. In two Winnipeg ridings, we substantially increased our vote over 1999: Lord Roberts went from 1.4 to 6.3% and Fort Rouge from 1.8 to 5.0%. In the riding of Wolsley, in which I had the privilege of carrying the Green banner, we came second, beating the Liberals and Tories, and more than quadrupling our vote from 4.7 to 19.2%. We accomplished all this with an expenditure of only \$10,000.

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.

Even when an election is not looming you can, of course, donate money to the party and receive much of it back in Alberta tax credits. You can also 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.

Below are some of the things I think we did right.

Goods for Greens — We had a stockpile of generic large *Goods for Greens* signs at the start of the campaign. In Wolseley, they sprang up like mushrooms after a rain shower right after the election call. By the time our NDP opponent got his signs, ours had been up for almost two weeks. The psychological effect of the sign explosion created a buzz in Wolseley right from the first week of the campaign. Journalists couldn't help but notice. The initial media interest in the Greens was probably due to our signs.

Visit from GPC leader — We invited GPC leader Jim Harris to campaign with us for three days at the end of the third week of the campaign. Jim met with us privately to strategize, went door-knocking with three of our candidates and attended several community events, most notably a fund-raiser for an anti-pesticide group. His enthusiasm and persuasiveness were infectious. On a Sunday afternoon, we put on a pot-luck barbecue in a park which was attended by a hundred people and at least one reporter. Jim gave an excellent short speech and then mingled.

Excellent leaflets — Candidate Joan Johannson wrote our main leaflet, the clarity and precision of which contrasted so well with the re-heated Grey mush on offer from the old decadent parties. On many occasions, people ran after me on the street to tell me that our leaflet was exactly what they were looking for. With very few words, people knew what we were about and exactly what we'd do during our terms as opposition MLA. In Wolseley, we designed and dropped in three days an "attack" leaflet aimed specifically at NDP voters when a new supporter donated the money for a drop and told us, "If it costs more, I'll pay it; money should not be a factor."

Excellent media coverage — Right after our signs went up, we began to receive respectful media coverage. Unlike 1999, commentators rarely referred to as "fringe". I think that our Manitoba-style muckraking media releases between

elections kept us in the media's eye for four years and gave us a head start during the campaign. Newspapers, radio and TV all covered our campaign regularly. We had probably half a dozen media "hits" during each week of the campaign. By the last week, it really felt like "Markus Mania" in Wolseley. People would frequently stop us in the street to talk or wave and cheer from cars and bikes. A newspaper reporter shadowed me on election day and was amazed by the public response. "We're not staging this," candidate Mikel Magnusson and I assured her, "It's just happening." She reported on the phenomenon in her column the next day.

Kick-ass campaign team — Several dozen people worked regularly on the campaign in addition to more occasional volunteers. Our president, Connie Jantz, opened up her house to us day and night to use as provincial and Wolseley campaign headquarters. Connie and Shane Sadorski served as the provincial campaign directors. Shane and his wife Catherine Johannson contributed their campaigning experience and a tactical good sense that money just can't buy. My Wolseley agent and manager Bill Burrows shatters the mainstream Green stereotype: he is scary organized. Conveniently (for the party) Bill was between jobs during the campaign, allowing him to work full-time plus plus (yes, that's double-plus) and make sure that everything got done. And everyone checked in their egos at the door. Of course there were disagreements, but everyone accepted the team's decisions without pouting or undermining them. This ingredient is vital if you want to work together in a group effectively.

Fun — Just because the Greens' project is to prevent the world from descending into Eco-Hell doesn't mean we can't smile. Our team had incredible fun during the campaign and I think it was infectious: voters respond to hope. Without watering down our message, we presented the Green message in a cheerful, optimistic way. We describe ourselves as "the party for a planet with a future". After running really hard for 32 days, fun

was still driving us on election night as we talked about how we'll do it even better next time in the federal general election.

Bankrupt opponents — Greens from coast to coast have this factor in common. The trick is making it really obvious. The NDP especially deserves special mention as a factor in our success. An anecdote. I brought a bottle of Assiniboine River water (you don't want to know what's in it!) and poured it into a clear drinking glass during the Wolseley all-candidate's forum. The team had decided against offering the glass to the NDP candidate. However, during my final remarks, the frustrated NDP candidate repeatedly heckled me and ignored the moderator's warnings to stop. Finally, I placed the glass in front of him, hoping he'd stop and the audience would laugh. Instead, he took the water and drank from it, to the palpable gasp of the crowd. Word of the event spread like wildfire and finally made the newspaper on election morning.

It's hard to sum up lessons from a successful campaign in a short piece. If you want any advice, especially if you are in a province, territory or area with a beginning Green Party, call us at +1-204-488-2831 or send e-mail to:

info@greenparty.mb.ca

Greens Continue to Battle Fluoridation

According to FluorideAlert.org, the Green Party is one of the strongest voices against water fluoridation in both the UK and Australia. The battle to fluoridate areas outside Melbourne in Australia has somewhat backfired on fluoride opponents, as information about the dangers and lack of efficacy of fluoride has filtered back into the city, based on debates in the surrounding area.

In England, the government recently voted to impose fluoridation on the public, although they were opposed by the

leader of the Conservative Party, Foreign Minister Jack Straw, the Green Party and Welsh nationalists.

New Zealand Greens Wheel Into Position

Four New Zealand Green MPs raced in the November, 2003 Lake Taupo Cycle challenge. Mike Ward, spokesperson for Sports and Recreation rode a recumbent tricycle for most of the distance. He notes that "cycling is not only good for the body and mind but also good for the environment". Rod Donald, co-leader of the party, and a keen cyclist himself, even offered the winner the right to challenge him for the Green Party leadership. More information on the New Zealand Greens, who have strong policies as well as a sense of fun, can be found at:

greens.org.nz

Kyoto: Canada Needs a Plan

*David Parker
Past Leader, Alberta Greens*

A political weapon used by the Alberta government has been the specious argument: "we need a plan." Because the Alberta Tories have held this tattered red flag so high, for so long, the Federal Government has had to do something it is not required to do, which is to specify exactly how it intends to implement an international agreement it has signed.

The trap the Klein Government has so effectively set for the Federal government is that whatever solid objectives they set down will be shot down as a threat to the economy and hence unacceptable to a society that prefers dire ecological consequences over a few more years of cheap oil.

Why does the Alberta Government, which is on record as conceding that global warming is a fact, not adamantly insist on a mitigation plan for the consequences of this, now universally accepted, environmental disaster?

Another political reality was the expedient requirement to exclude third world countries. Al Gore and others knew very well that the only way any the treaty was going to be signed was to exclude these backward economies.

Since we in the west, with about 20% of the world's population, produce about 80% of the greenhouse gas emissions we should shoulder the lion's share of the 'pain' (although I do not know how reducing lung cancer, asthma, Middle East wars, traffic deaths, acid rain, oil spills, traffic congestion, and the paving over of the planet can constitute pain).

Even in the brightest of development scenarios India, China and Brazil will not even come near to our own *per capita* consumption levels until long after New York is under water. And who in their right mind believes that they will proceed down a fossil fuel dependency route if the West addresses Kyoto and begins to reap economic benefits?

The question everyone should be asking our self-serving politicians is: "What will come first, effective action on mitigating global warming or direct, measurable consequences?"

Natural Law Party Flies Into Oblivion

The Natural Law Party, famous for its claims of levitation, was deregistered by Elections Canada on January 23rd 2004, upon request from the party.

Global Green Websites Worldwide

AREA	URL
ALBERTA	AlbertaGreens.ca
B.C.	GreenParty.bc.ca
SASKATCHEWAN	votenga.ca
MANITOBA	GreenParty.mb.ca
ONTARIO	GreenParty.on.ca
QUÉBEC	PartiVertQuebec.org
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	peigreens.isn.net/default.htm
NEWFOUNDLAND	infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/providers/green/index.html
CANADA	GreenParty.ca
USA	gp.org
MÉXICO	pvem.org.mx
EUROPE	europeangreens.org
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	web.greens.org/ams.shtml
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	web.greens.org/oceana.shtml
AFRICA	web.greens.org/africa.shtml
ASIA	web.greens.org/asia.shtml
OTHER INFORMATION	www.gruppom.com/gm/2003.html