



Alberta Greens Nominations

The Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta) will be holding elections for several positions at our October 1st 2005 AGM in Edmonton:

- Leader
- Executive Secretary
- Communications Coordinator
- Election Readiness Coordinator
- Justice & Fairness Committee Members (two active positions and three backups)

If you are interested in a position, or would like to nominate someone please provide, by July 15th, the name of the person, full contact information, and a summary of their qualifications (up to 500 words) by email to:

membership@albertagreens.ca

or by mail to the address on Page 3.

Ballots will be mailed by September 1st and must be returned by September 23rd unless you will be in attendance at the AGM.

EverGreen Campaign

The Alberta Greens have initiated an EverGreen campaign. Supporters can make monthly donations through convenient withdrawals from their chequing or savings account. A form is included as Page 4 of this newsletter.

Small monthly donations can be painless for the donor, but add up to sustainable funding for the party...and big tax credits for you,

the donor. If you donate \$10 a month (\$120 a year) \$90 will be refunded on your Alberta tax return. You have effectively multiplied a \$30 donation by a factor of four!

Policy Convention

The Alberta Greens are holding a policy convention on June 11th and 12th in Calgary at 1111 Memorial Drive (at the 10th Street 'Louise' Bridge). It will run both days from 9^{am} until 5^{pm}.

If you are interested please contact George Read, party leader, by June 3rd at:

leader@albertagreens.ca

Leader's Message

*George Read
Leader
Alberta Greens*

The Green Party in Alberta has spent the last 4 years, from 2000 to 2004, just getting noticed. We worked really hard and I can say, with pride, that we have accomplished our goal. The average person in Alberta now knows that there is a Green Party.

The problem is that they do not understand what the party is all about. The challenge of the next 4 years is to be understood.

To become understood we need to improve our fund raising because we are going to need to pay the expenses for people to go out and

talk about the Green Party. We will need to rent halls, place ads and provide our workers with brochures, platform documents and other materials.

We also need to understand ourselves better so that we can communicate with other people. That means that we need to work on our policy development and, for this purpose, there will be a convention in Calgary on June 11th-12th. There will also be another one in Edmonton in the fall. We need to develop a Green plan for a Alberta. We need to be able to say to the people of Alberta that, if we were the government, this is what we would do and here is how much it would cost.

This is the way forward for the Green Party in Alberta. We need to become understood.

Green Support Rising

*Jim Harris
Leader
Green Party of Canada*

If you haven't yet heard, in late April two national polls showed the Green Party of Canada rising substantially in voter support, with one sample giving us 8% of the vote and the other an impressive 10% nationwide for an election likely to be called very soon. That's more than double the 4.3% of votes we received in the 2004 election.

More Canadians now view the Green Party of Canada as a credible alternative.

This is great news. It is heartening that our hard work is beginning to pay off and I thank you sincerely.

More and more Canadians are responding to our message of government accountability, fiscal responsibility, social progress and environmental sustainability. Perhaps more importantly, Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast are viewing the Green Party as a credible alternative to the country's three old-line parties.

For the first time in generations, Canadians have the opportunity to break the outdated mold of left versus right and vote for a party that's out in front with a positive vision for all Canadians and fresh ideas for the 21st century.

The Green Party of Canada is ready to make a difference.

In fact, all over the country, at water coolers and family get-togethers, Canadians are asking one another about the election and our future. The emerging consensus appears to be that the old-line parties' way of doing things isn't working.

From corruption to the unfair tax burden, from the failure to adequately protect our family farms, our communities and our environment, from addressing the challenges facing health care and post-secondary education, the old-line parties no longer seem to have the answers.

I believe more and more Canadians are ready for a different approach, and I know the Green Party has the integrity, the ideals and the fresh ideas to take on the challenge.

Let's focus our energy and redouble our efforts.

These are certainly exciting times for our party, but I should offer some words of caution here as well. Polls are notorious for fluctuating week to week and survey to survey. And over the course of the next few

months, Green Party numbers will no doubt see many ups and downs. This is to be expected. As encouraging as the recent poll results were, let's not be swept up by euphoria.

We must focus our energy and redouble our efforts to ensure that our message continues to reach all Canadians yearning for a true political alternative.

We've only just begun and we still need your help.

So what's next? Pat yourself on the back for all the hard work you've done to get us all to this point. But let's take nothing for granted. Right now in communities across Canada hundreds of Green Party members, concerned citizens like you, are preparing for the upcoming Election. And there's still so much work to do.

JOIN. If friends and members of your family are not yet members of the Green Party of Canada, ask them to join. Visit www.greenparty.ca to find out how.

DONATE. Volunteer your time or make a tax-deductible financial contribution. Every minute and dollar helps! Our website makes it easy.

RUN. Last election, the Green Party of Canada fielded candidates in all 308 ridings across the country. As a credible national party, we intend to do so again. If you're interested in running, please contact us as soon as possible.

Make no mistake. The Green Party of Canada's moment has arrived but we need your help. Let's change politics, let's change our country and let's change our world for the better!

Green Party of Canada Newsletter for May 2005

The Green Party of Canada newsletter for May, 2005 is available as a PDF file at:

[http://newsletter.greenparty.ca/
Green_Canada_Vert_pdf/](http://newsletter.greenparty.ca/Green_Canada_Vert_pdf/)

10% By-Election showing is Green Party of Ontario's Second Best Result

*Jim Harris
Leader
Green Party of Canada*

Green Party leader Frank de Jong won 10% of the vote in the March 17th 2005 Dufferin Peel Wellington Gray by-election. The NDP won 14%, the Liberals, with a local environmentalist, won 16.7% and Progressive Conservative leader John Tory won with 56.3% of the popular vote.

The Green Party continues to climb in popularity. In the October 2003 Ontario election the GPO ran almost a full slate (102 of 103 ridings) winning 2.7% of the vote across the province. In the June 2004 federal election the GPC ran in all 106 Ontario ridings winning 4.5 per cent of the vote. An Ipsos Reid poll put the GPO at 9 per cent across Ontario. So in the course of just 18 months the party's support has more than tripled in Ontario!

De Jong's incredible showing in this by-election was sweeter because the Liberal Party chose to run local environmentalist Bob Duncanson. Clearly the Liberals are worried by the rise of the Green Party. The Liberal vote collapsed from 28.8% in October 2003 in the provincial election to 16.7%. And the Liberals poured a huge amount of resources into this by-election. The Premier, and countless Liberal cabinet members to campaign in the riding and spending by the Liberals not doubt hit the maximum.

The NDP was terrified of the Green Party in this by-election because in the last two elections the Green Party has placed ahead of the NDP. This time the NDP spent huge amounts of money, bussed volunteers into campaign and just managed to move up to third place.

Despite the concerted efforts by the Liberals and NDP, the Green Party's vote still went up!

"We won by stealth," said Richard Procter a Green Party member and former candidate for the riding, "because at all candidates debates the other parties were presenting Green Party ideas."

The campaign ran on a slogan of "a breath of fresh air" and had numerous amazing sound bites including:

- "Stop talking about family values and start valuing families!"
- "It took us 20 years to become an overnight success."
- "We're not into finger pointing and laying blame."
- "Instead of getting people to the office, let's get the office to the people."
- "Don't panic, go organic!"
- "No farmer wants to make a living by walking to the mailbox to pick up a cheque."

The Green Party strong showing is built on a long record of fantastic candidates and results in the area:

- In the 2004 federal election Ted Alexander in the nearby riding of Dufferin Caledon won almost 4,000 votes (8.8%) – the highest in Ontario – beating the NDP.
- In the provincial election on October 2, 2003 Frank de Jong running in DPWG won 6.13% of the vote squeaking by the NDP's 6.1%.
- In the 2002 by-election Richard Procter running for the Green Party won 6.2% of the vote in DPWG.
- Rob Strang ran in the riding as the first Green Party candidate and in November 2003 was elected as a municipal councillor for the Town of Orangeville.

The only Green Party candidate to ever get a higher percentage than the DPWG by-election result was Richard Thomas who won 17.6% of the vote in 1990 running in Parry Sound.

In 1981 a candidate called Ernie Eves 1981 beat Liberal candidate Richard Thomas by a mere six votes. Eves was dubbed "landslide Ernie" while Thomas was encouraged to run for the leadership of the Liberal Party. Thomas came third in the race for the leadership. A guy called David Peterson won and a woman called Sheila Copps came second.

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Address:	Box 61251, RPO Brentwood Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada
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Leader	George Read +1-403-383-7083 leader@albertagreens.ca
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Communications	Allison Roth +1-403-861-8657 communication@albertagreens.ca
Election Readiness	Shelley Willson +1-403-949-7786 thenewwest@telus.net

MEMBERSHIP – ALBERTA GREENS: Voting membership in the Alberta Greens is only \$10 per year! Mail us a cheque or pay with a credit card at AlbertaGreens.ca. You do not need to be a voting 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 will be reimbursed on your next Alberta tax return. A \$100 donation will cost you only \$25.

MEETINGS: For information on meeting dates, times and locations, see our website or contact the party secretary.

COMMENTS: We welcome submissions for this Newsletter. Please send them to the editor by email to cfo@albertagreens.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.

THANKS: Thanks to everyone who helped with the newsletter, including Erica and Julia Crowe (mailout), Allison Roth (email) and Alan McCreary (mailing labels).

EverGreen Campaign

The EverGreen campaign helps to provide core funding for the activities of the Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta). Your monthly gift allows us to continue to campaign inside and outside of election periods.

You will receive a tax receipt after the end of every year in which you participate in this program. When included with your Alberta tax return, you will receive a credit of up to 75% of your donation. \$10 a month amounts to \$120 a year, but your cost is only \$30!

Monthly Donation	Annual Total	Alberta Tax Credit	Net Cost to You
\$5	\$60	\$45	\$15
\$10	\$120	\$90	\$30
\$15	\$180	\$135	\$45
\$25	\$300	\$200	\$100
\$75	\$900	\$500	\$400
\$100	\$1,200	\$633	\$567

Please give generously.

Authorization for Automatic Bank Withdrawals

This form is used to request that the Alberta Greens withdraw the specified amount of money on the 15th of every month, and use it as a donation.

Full Name:

Street Address:

City: Postal Code: **Alberta** (donations cannot be accepted from residents of other locations)

Email:

Telephone: Fax:

Bank Name and Address:

Transit # (5 digits): Bank # (3 digits): Account # (7 or more digits):

Amount of withdrawal:

I authorize the Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta) to debit my bank account as indicated above:

Signature: Date:

Please give this form to an authorized representative of the Alberta Greens, fax to (403) 289-6658 or mail to the Alberta Greens at Box 61251, RPO Brentwood, Calgary, T2L 2K6. If possible, include a void cheque (some banks will supply these even for non-chequing accounts).

Want to Help?

You can help the Alberta Greens in many different ways. Between elections you can host a neighbourhood coffee party to introduce the candidate, get on the phone and call prospective voters, or raise awareness in your own unique way. We have some campaign debts and so, more than ever, need your financial donations. You will receive much of it back in Alberta tax credits (up to 75%!).

Join our EverGreen programme by donating a small amount every month and help generate sustaining funding for the party.

Thomas disillusioned by the Liberals lack of commitment to environmental issues joined the Green Party, and became the first Green Candidate in Parry sound in 1990 winning 17.6% of the vote. Thomas was elected the Reeve of his Reeve of Armour township in 2003 and a member of the Green Party.

The Future of Agriculture

*Tom Manley
Deputy Leader
GPC*

I had the pleasure of joining 7,000 farmers at the Ontario legislature on March 2nd. The five hour bus ride each way was worth the opportunity to understand the many facets of the crisis in contemporary agriculture in Ontario and Canada.

On one hand, there were loud demands for immediate actions to address the current crisis: direct financial support comparable to Quebec, the USA and Europe, delays or reduction in the regulatory load, withdrawal of trade embargoes. People could clearly grasp the short-term problems and solutions, as demonstrated by the reading material, the rhetoric of the speakers, the cheers of the crowd, and the discussions on the bus.

There were also great statements from the podium about long term solutions, a hand up instead of a hand out, the future of agriculture, long term sustainability, systemic changes, the priority of food in our survival and quality of life, feeding Canadians first, the need to connect the grower and the eater, etc...

Unfortunately, the participants usually came up short on specific long-term solutions. Quite often, a question about long-term direction was often answered with the usual short-term band-aids.

I fear that farmers either do not grasp the long-term dilemma or refuse to imagine the significant changes required to make agriculture sustainable. That is understandable since systemic changes may be very uncomfortable for those who still rely on the current paradigm in agriculture.

Let us first understand that the current income crisis is not a sudden event caused by a border closure or a crop surplus or a subsidy disparity. The trend has been clear for many decades as mechanization, high energy inputs, globalization and consolidation have eaten away at margins. Foreign trade policies have then amplified the problem.

Given the current electoral status of the Green Party, I will leave the short-term debate to current governments. Rather, let me focus on a vision for agriculture in 10 years, one that a Green Party government could implement.

Above all, the world has a limited supply of fossil fuels and we will run out of cheap energy. The rising cost of energy will make long distance transportation and fossil-fuel fertilizers unaffordable and uncompetitive with low input and organic agriculture. Cheap foreign commodities will no longer flood the Canadian market because of the rising

cost of transportation. The US farm subsidies will be a victim of the crushing US debt.

Farmers will abandon the disenfranchisement of globalization and the export-import commodity business. We will feed Canadians with a rich and varied offering to satisfy our culinary and cultural diversity. Local economies will flourish. Farmers will cut out the middleman and re-connect with consumers through farm stands, farmers markets, and home delivery. Miniaturization will make on-farm or community processing the norm.

The average age of farmers will drop considerably. The current generation of so-called "production farmers" will have retired, to be replaced with a generation of new and second-career farmers focused on food, health, and lifestyle. Marketing systems will evolve to reduce the capital cost barrier, open the bottom to entry-level farmers, allow for direct marketing, diversify and distribute production on mixed family-scale farms. Farm credit organizations will facilitate start-up farms, small acreages, local processing, and farmer coops.

I see farmers doubling their political clout by simply doubling their numbers from 2% to 4% of voters. I

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 name and email address to our membership coordinator, at:

membership@albertagreens.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.

can read the headline in this paper in 2015: "Ontario registers its 100,000th farmer!" Farmers will also have become political and will ensure their own direct impact on their urban friends, thanks to direct contact through direct marketing.

But that also means a 50% reduction in the average farm size. History will have swallowed the industrial scale commodity farm serving the export market. The next generation farm will be more labour intensive, as farmers re-connect with their consumers and respond with organic food, high value crops, fresh produce, wool and fibers, on-farm processing, and pastured livestock.

We may think that Ontario agriculture today is safe, nutritious and ecological. But health conscious consumers and budget sensitive governments have a much more demanding definition of sustainability for our farms, our ecology and our health. As provincial health care budgets overtake all other departments, we will undertake a great paradigm shift towards greater nutrition, raw food, less meat and more produce, and local production and consumption.

By the way, our farms will be profitable through the price of food, not through subsidies to farms, energy, or industry. The food portion of our disposable income will rise from 10% to 15% with a corresponding decrease in taxes as we reduce subsidies, transportation infrastructures and sick care costs. We will have rediscovered the culture of agriculture, the pride and appreciation of farming, and the ecological value of land stewardship.

Abraham Glacier Resort Melts Away

Alberta Wilderness Association
<http://AlbertaWilderness.ca>

Almost a year after being denied a development application by the Clearwater County, the Province has cancelled the land reservation for the development of the Abraham Glacier Wellness Resort; the 520 acre, full-service, self-contained health spa and resort located in the Whitegoat Lakes Development Node along the David Thompson highway (Highway 11) near the Big-



horn Wildland. "Given the inappropriate nature and size of this resort, we are happy to see it go," says Lara Smandych, AWA Conservation Biologist. "We hope that concern for environmental integrity will continue to be a measure by which the County evaluates future projects for the area."

Recently, Martha Kostuch, president of Alberta League for Environmental responsible Tourism (ALERT) was informed by the provincial government that the land

holding for the resort had been cancelled. The Province will not accept any new applications for the area until the Whitegoat Lakes Development Concept Plan is completed. The Concept Plan is a document that dictates what the county and province consider for development within the Node. "This decision means that even if the Abraham resort proponent wishes to reapply, there are now several new applications ahead of him," says Kostuch. "We have suggested that the Concept Plan be adopted with modifications including the establishment of a wildlife travel corridor, limits of small to medium sized accommodation, and the elimination of some discretionary uses, including the establishment of a heliport."

Although the Abraham Resort has been denied, concern over future development in the area remains. "Based on the deficient proposal we saw, the county did right in declining the application," says Alan Ernst, owner of Aurum Lodge. "We must ensure that high standards are also applied when reviewing new applications. This area is too sensitive and too valuable to be ruined by speculative developments and unsuitable projects."

For more information, contact Lara Smandych, at +1-403-283-2025 or visit www.AlbertaWilderness.ca.

Cypress Wind Farm Not Green?

AWA
February 22nd 2005

A wind farm is being proposed next to Cypress Hills Provincial Park on environmentally sensitive native prairie.

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) is generally supportive of renewable energy developments as alternatives to fossil fuel production; however, they must be subject to rigorous environmental assess-

ment and public involvement and they must not damage environmentally sensitive lands, especially those in public ownership. Locating wind farms on internationally significant grasslands in the Cypress Hills does not represent sustainable green energy production.

The wind farm proposal by Ontario-based West WindEau Corporation will cover a township (almost 100 square kilometers) of largely native prairie starting a mile west of the Graburn Road at the Cypress Hills Provincial Park boundary running west along the boundary five miles and north seven miles. The area lies mostly within the Cypress Hills fringe area defined in the Cypress Hill structure plan which maintains this buffer zone around the Park as agricultural land and specifies the importance of protecting viewscapes. The wind turbines will be 120

m high and construction will require many new roads capable of withstanding 500 ton crane trucks.

Local ranchers may be paid as much as \$10,000/quarter section per year on private lands or leased Public Lands on which the wind turbines will be built.

AWA has been informed by local residents that Alberta Public Lands apparently has no objections to this proposal.

West WindEau held a public meeting last week in Medicine Hat; however, the standard mode of operation is that decisions on public lands are made behind closed doors with no public involvement. Despite public protest, environmentally sensitive public grasslands with plant and animal species at risk were sold in the Bow Island area and cultivated for potato production

within the last two years without any public involvement or concern about the loss of biodiversity.

“We are opposed to private interests benefiting from the destruction of these environmentally sensitive public lands,” adds Cliff Wallis of the AWA. “We are also opposed to any change in use designation from agricultural and its associated viewscape protection to allow this industrial activity on private lands.

Some of the deeded lands in this area have conservation easements and the terms do not allow wind farm development.”

Global Green Websites Worldwide

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