



# Post-Election Issue!

Greens in Alberta have just finished their second campaign in a few months. After fielding a number of candidates in the November Federal Election many of the same people bravely faced the electorate again, with many of the same volunteers backing them up in the Alberta provincial election. Both elections were outstandingly successful for Greens in the number of votes cast for us, the number of candidates, the number of helpers and, most importantly, the raising of Green issues. Even with a *first past the post* electoral system that stops many people from voting for small parties, there are thousands of Albertans who chose to make a statement in favour of Green values.

Thank you Candidates! Thank you Party Workers! Thank you Green Voters!

David Crowe, President, Alberta Greens

### David Parker, Party Leader

Although we made only a small splash in this election, every exposure Greens get will help other Green parties in Canada. In the expected BC election I am sure the Greens will be even stronger for our efforts.

Talk of proportional representation (PR) is everywhere all of a sudden. Is this the catalyst which will force us toward a real democracy, and allow people to vote Green without feeling that they are wasting their vote?

Thanks to all the candidates and all the volunteers!

### Betty Paschen, Former Leader

The emphasis in Edmonton was on energy policy, particularly the need to stop subsidizing the fossil fuel industries and encourage conservation and alternative sources of energy. Proportional representation was often cited as a necessary step to representative democracy. The need to create a strong agricultural recovery was encouraged by our candidates.

Sickness prevention and strong regulations for food safety, and water purity were high on the agenda which included keeping health-care public. Smaller class sizes in our schools was a major item, as was lower costs for secondary education.

Congratulations to the Calgary candidates for their fine showing!

**Table 1: Alberta Greens Votes in 2001 Provincial Election**

Riding	Candidate	Votes	% of vote
Athabasca-Wabasca	Ian Hopfe	94	1.5
Calgary-Bow	Jan Triska	395	3.1
Calgary-Fort	Michael Alvarez-Toye	121	1.2
Calgary-Glenmore	James Kohut ( <b>more votes than NDP</b> )	467	3.3
Calgary-North Hill	Darcy Kraus	404	<b>3.7</b>
Calgary-Varsity	Tavis du Preez	335	2.4
Edmonton-Gold Bar	Margaret Marean	193	1.3
Edmonton-Mill Creek	Harlan Light	97	0.7
Edmonton-Riverview	Jerry Paschen	165	1.1
Highwood	Julie Walker	<b>581</b>	3.5

## Julie Walker, Highwood

I had a great experience in the election. As soon as I agreed to run, both Roxanne and I felt the nature spirits and the energy flow around us and support us throughout the process. Roxanne was amazing and besides handling all the administrative aspects of the campaign, single-handedly placed 37 out of 39 signs at key locations throughout the 6 towns in our large rural riding.

I attended every forum, and we lucked out with our timing of having a special scientist from Ontario, in High River and Okotoks the two weeks prior to the election, speaking at organized hearings about the correlation between sour gas emissions and certain types of cancer, asthma and other diseases.

Two nurses in Black Diamond gave a talk on the correlation between sour gas emissions and the high rate of Multiple Sclerosis, in the Turner Valley, Millarville and Black Diamond areas. Apparently we have the highest rate in the world, in this tiny little area. This has become a key issue in the area that I will be pursuing, until I see improvements.

The key issues for me were, these environmental health issues, electoral reform, wholistic and supportive health education and health care and the importance of supporting our agricultural integrity and not putting it in second place, after the oil industry, and destroying family farms so that large scale food production can take over, which will not use health conscious practices in the growth, harvest and production of food and livestock.

I was very lucky to “work with” two of my “opposing” candidates. Both Leonard Borowski, of the Liberal Party and Gunhild Hoogensen of the NDP were very kind and wonderful people and indeed the three of us made a dynamite team at the forums. We even swapped phone numbers!

The local press and radio welcomed me into the election limelight and gave me interviews and great forum coverage. All in all I was very aware of my amateur level of understanding of government, policies, philosophy and the goals and objectives of “good” government, but then I am not alone, the governing party appears as ignorant as myself! I have so much to learn. Now is the time to get out to my constituents and listen to them, find out what is working, what is not and discover together how we can work to develop a better way in our community.

After a two-month break, that is just what I intend to start doing. Those Eagles I saw on my way to the High River and Nanton Forums were there to let me know that there is a vision and I am on its trail, I do not intend to let them down. Thanks to Madeleine, David, Sol, Larry, Gunhild, Leonard, Rose, Margaret and Tavis, for all your help in getting me going and a special thanks to Roxanne for being the team, and the light supporting my entire campaign! Until next we speak!

## ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Address: Box 61251, RPO Brentwood  
Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada  
Fax: +1-403-289-1465  
Email: [molders@calcna.ab.ca](mailto:molders@calcna.ab.ca)  
Web: [green.ca/ab](http://green.ca/ab)  
Leader David Parker +1-403-469-1448  
President David Crowe +1-403-289-6609  
Treasurer Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788  
Secretary *vacant*  
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.

### MEMBERSHIP - GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

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

Michael Garfinkle  
Secretary, Green Party of Canada in Alberta  
PO Box 52023  
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 1C9, Canada  
Email: [abel@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca](mailto:abel@freenet.edmonton.ab.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, 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.

## Harvey Scott, CFO Athabasca-Wabasca

---

As the 'old man' of the Athabasca-Wabasca Greens, I congratulate our fine candidate Ian Hopfe, and extend my appreciation to all our wonderful Greens who ran and worked in the election.

Here in Athabasca -Wabasca I was delighted when Ian Hopfe of Wabasca came forward and indicated a wish to carry the Green banner. We had sought potential candidates in the Athabasca area, held a small nominations meeting and had come to the conclusion that no one intended to run this time. However, we really had not communicated much with the Wabasca area and a week into the election Ian came forward offering to help another candidate or run himself. I had known him in 1997 during the federal election campaign and was pleased to have him run although asked him if he was concerned about the possible effects of the late start and the resulting lack of a campaign team.

Ian made it clear that he saw his candidacy as an opener for building a Green foundation for elections to come. In my view, he has done that very well. With the huge size of the riding- it stretches from way south of Athabasca to the NWT border, and the distance from Wabasca and the returning officer here in Athabasca, it was a scramble to get the paperwork completed. We ordered a set of Goods for Greens signs and materials and got those up in Wabasca for the last week of the campaign. We will have those ready for all future campaigns, meetings etc. Given the much shortened time frame, it was possible to run only a very minimal campaign but it was a very good start for the future.

Ian and his campaign manager, Albert Gladue from Wabasca are young Bigstone Cree First Nations school teachers who see the Green approach as rooted in and in harmony with the traditional values and principles of their elders and way of life. Ian is learning Cree and reconnecting with his traditional wisdom and connection with the land. He is also the

school computer technician and teacher so while he is 're-rooting' himself in ancient Cree wisdom he cyber-connected globally.

Thus while he had some learning to do on the specifics of Green Party platform, his traditional orientation, great sense of humour and thoughtfulness on the forum platform make him an excellent candidate. He proved to be a natural, presenting his own deep Green answers to a range of tough forum question while keeping the audience chuckling.

This Athabasca forum was the only one held during the entire campaign and Ian represented himself and the Greens very well. He wishes to seek the Green nomination again in future and wishes to use the time to build on the good start he made this time out.

## Tavis Du Preez Calgary-Varsity

---

Thanks first of all to the immensely competent and well organized manager of the Alberta Greens campaign in Calgary-Varsity. It was fun sharing so many firsts with you Peggy - painting the rock, 'bein bad' sticking out signs with my name on them on public property, and most significantly, entering the political arena. I hope that next time around we will switch shoes and I'll be putting up signs with 'Peggy Holroyd' on them!

Thanks to Jan Triska and Linda Hornburg for so much help getting nomination signatures. Thanks to you David for taking time out of your busy schedule to act as CFO. Thanks to Sol Candel for his generous donation of signs. Thanks to the Campus Greens for their support with tabling at the university. And thanks to Margaret Chandler, Pat Gidora, Madeleine Oldershaw, George Read, Jack Locke, Randy Klippenstein, and all the others who worked behind the scenes to contribute to the overall campaign.

I would also like to thank a number of people, including Scott Jubinville, who offered to help. Unfortunately, I was not organized enough to include all your

offered talents in the campaign. If there is a next time, I will begin organizing sooner and develop a more efficient team approach.

My chief aim in running was to provide a Green presence within the campus community during the election. I believe that this was successfully accomplished through participation in the Macewan Hall All Candidates Forum, coverage in the Gauntlet's Special Election Edition, the greening of the rock (there are a couple of boulders on campus that students regularly paint to advertise events), distribution of leaflets in residence, and through the installation of signs adjacent to the campus.

But as the campaign wore on I knew that I wanted a taste of door knocking. During the last couple of days I blitzed a as many houses around the University as I could and a few other neighbourhoods as well. I loved it and was impressed by how positive my reception was. I am convinced that door knocking is the most important part of the campaign process. Talking to people face to face seems to make such a difference. Many people were impressed by the underlying vision of the Greens, whether ecological wisdom or systems thinking. I definitely stressed this point, using examples such as health care and proportional representation as concrete examples. People appreciated my candour, as Jan observed, in stating my goal as spreading the Green vision over and above the mere gathering in of votes (but I always reminded them that the Greens certainly appreciated and needed their votes). I think that this message (Green vision) may be particularly attractive to the more reflective breed of elector and I feel that Calgary-Varsity with its high student/professor population is a riding that has great future potential. I am sure that if I had done more knocking and talking - a lot more votes would have come to me.

To further riding development, I took note of particularly ardent Green supporters that I encountered with the plan of inviting them all to a potluck soon after the election in order to network and

hopefully begin a riding association. Preparedness is an essential issue for us, and I think that the process of preparing for 2005 has already begun with the writing of these reflections. Spreading the vision is the stage that we are at, so we must be active between elections. Riding associations are perfect vehicles for this.

Developing the riding is one vital form of preparation - another is candidate development. I experienced a dramatic improvement in my own ability to elucidate the Green vision over the course of the limited campaigning that I was able to do. If I was to take every opportunity available to me to speak publicly and to debate Green political issues over the next four years, I could present as a professional candidate in 2005 rather than as the sincere, amateur Don Quixote that I was this time around.

Riding development and candidate development will be even more effective if they are done in conjunction with one another. Future candidates should develop their abilities within the riding that they will eventually run in. And in this way their community will realize the benefits of their green activity even before they get the opportunity to elect the candidate. Their choice should be clear. The riding association will have tackled sustainable community development issues and will have become a functioning organization with roots and resources in the community. Door knocking to organize sustainable community development initiatives can continue throughout 'normal' time as opposed to the current model of knocking only during the election. Door knocking is a vital key. Effective participatory democracy happens face to face.

This approach will allow us to continue *acting* in the *integrity* of Green values. Through the continuing action of actually Greening our communities, we will be educating our neighbours as to the fecundity of our Green dream. We must *not* abandon our trust in human nature by judging Alberta voters as stupid and thus giving ourselves license to use manipulative political tactics. This will

be a terrible temptation for us right now. The Alberta political situation appears to be hopeless - but it is not. If we believe in our own values then let us transform our communities in the image of these values and political power will follow naturally. I understand that many long time activists have been working at this for years, and I do not mean to offend them by saying 'let's start this now'. But there must be some kind of shift towards throwing ourselves more fully into our home community's affairs. Perhaps the bigger issues capture so much energy that there is little left for our own street. But that is where we have the best chance of making a difference - "Think Globally, Act Locally"!

On a city-wide scale, we can begin to forge alliances with organizations like sustainable Calgary and other community/environmental activist groups. We must present ourselves to them as their natural political voice and ally - as we should be. Tabling at any appropriate events such as folk festivals and farmers markets is a must. The 'Goods for Greens' merchandise is in demand. All we have to do is make it available to people and we will: make money, talk to interested folk about Green issues, build membership, and develop our 'brand.' It seems that brands are important in politics. The success of slogans like 'Ralph's Team' and 'Proven leadership' proves the effectiveness of the PC brand in Alberta. Well we have a *great* brand. People want Green stuff of all sorts. I had some signs stolen, and I bet that the culprits were not supporters of a 'rival' party, but Greens who have mounted the signs on a residence wall.

Thanks for the chance to get involved under the Green banner. What an honour

it's been to participate in democracy! It was a heck of a lot of fun, and as Brian Edy said after the election "I would recommend politics to anyone!"

## Darcy Kraus, Calgary-North Hill

First, many thanks. I have had the pleasure of meeting most of the Greens in the Calgary area (except Cody - does he really exist?). Your support was encouraging, and I will definitely be around for the next one. Secondly, thanks to George Read for everything you did to help, not only as my campaign manager, but also for the rest of the party. Your time, your thoughts, and your resources are appreciated greatly. Also, thanks to John Johnson for being my financial guru.

Many more thanks to the nameless hordes that showed up to the fund-raiser that I held at my house on March 3, 2001, and a great big thanks to all that nourished the big jug with your "green support".

Finally, thanks to the volunteers who delivered flyers for me - I owe my terrific standings to Errol and Marsha Read, George, Ingrid and her nameless friend, Marijke, Kate, Jennifer and Christopher (who also gave generously) and anyone else whom I may have forgotten.

Now, for my soapbox ranting. As a young fool, I took a B.A. in Political Science. Much like the anthropologist hanging out with the cannibals who gets a hankering for a barbecue, a political scientist always runs the risk of political involvement.

I am not an environmental activist (yet), but I do strongly believe that the decisions of our current governments are far too short sighted. I do believe that the people being represented are intelligent and thoughtful people, who when faced with the issues in a fair and balanced manner, are supportive of sustainable government and social structures.

However, as I saw in this campaign, so few issues are discussed in anything more than a sound-bite, that people can-

### GREEN URLS

The URL for the Alberta Greens website is:

<http://green.ca/ab>

The Green Party of Canada is at:

<http://green.ca>

not help but be incredibly conservative and re-elect the incumbent governments.

The strength of the Greens is our underlying philosophy. It is for this reason that I chose to run. The people that I met with agreed that we have an ethical message that is lacking in any other party. The ideals of a sustainable, democratic society should govern our actions. I pounded this message home at the Alberta College of Art forum on February 26, and people responded with a Question and Answer session that could have gone on all afternoon. Unfortunately, Mark Hlady and another candidate never showed up to see the people that have to get educated in overcrowded, under-maintained schools, and then hit the food bank on the way home.

What has to be communicated to the public is that we are not extremists, but people concerned with the decision making process and its focus. The logic of government and democracy itself is lost, when people define it as 30 second slots of airtime and a leader as a person who "gets things done".

In my riding, I had about 10 people helping me deliver flyers. I believe that we covered about one-third of the riding. I decided from the start that door knocking, though a cornerstone of campaigning, would not be the most effective way of getting the message out. I chose instead to flyer fast and hard, and only talk to those people in the street who were available. In this day and age of paranoid security freaks, how many people will answer their door or screen their incoming phone calls? I recommend to any candidate in the future, that unless they have a small army behind them or 3 months to campaign, door knocking is too slow a method of spreading the word.

Another unorthodox campaign decision was to forget about signage. I took a lot of heat from Magnus for whoever ran Green against him in '92. There were signs "all over public property" that offended his aldermanic aesthetic sensibilities. That aside, I feel that if you can't get a sign on someone's lawn, than why on earth would they agree to you putting

it in a boulevard or a park that they have a vested interest in? I say respect the ideals of the Greens, and forget about signage unless your supporters will display them on private property.

With these decisions in mind, plus my lack of prior community involvement (other than helping the Boy Scouts 8 years ago), I was expecting very few votes. To my amazement, in my incredibly conservative riding (O Great Sea of Blue Magnus Signs), I got 3.6% of the vote. By the Herald's numbers of March 13, this was the highest popular vote for any Green in Alberta.

I was astounded by this reaction of popular support, despite being the stealth candidate. However, in the future, let's have more members, more volunteers, and more candidates, so we don't have to run a stealth campaign. We need a leader that can run with the rest of us. We need enough fundraising in the next few years to ensure that new candidates start with adequate money to establish their campaign. That is a major incentive for people like me to run and get the Green message out there.

We need 83 candidates for 83 ridings - that's what it takes to be a serious contender. If the Socreds could field 70 in '96 and the NDP can run a full slate every time, why can't we do it? Democracy is only as good as the people who get involved in it, and if you don't get involved, you will get the government you deserve. Let us build some bridges and become the voice of concerned Albertans.

This rant could go on for days. I'll stop here. A final thank you to all the other candidates who were truly an inspiration. Thanks for coming over to watch the election coverage - you're all welcome to come by anytime to drink a beer, talk politics, and start planning for the next big show.

## Michael Alvarez-Toye Calgary Fort

---

This was my first campaign provincially, and I approached it with hesitation, knowing that in my heart I wanted to run yet knowing as well that my personal situation was such that an income was definitely a priority. It was through the encouragement of Margaret Chandler, Madeleine Oldershaw, David Crowe, George Read and others that I decided that I would stand as a candidate, even if I weren't able to do as much campaigning as I wanted to. As time wore on, my involvement with the election grew as well, to the point that I did a fair amount of door-knocking in key areas of the Fort constituency, with volunteers helping out with leafletting in other areas as well.

Knowing the areas of concern of the constituents I focused on social issues, such as the whole deregulation issue as it applied to them and their bills, alternative energy sources (specifically wind power), the lack of day-care, the health care issue and alternatives to the system as it exists-including proactive health care and reinforced public health care, education, 'clean' foods, etc. The priorities for Fort are predominantly blue-collar issues, with a huge population there being underemployed, or working poor, and a smaller segment being inner-city politically polarized, and therefore fairly leftist in perspective.

The highlights in my campaign were in the amazingly positive responses I received in the door knocking I did in the Inglewood area, and the responses I received indirectly in the Ogden/Lynnview/Millican area. At one address for instance, Heather was confronted by a sweet old lady with her walker who, issued forth with, "All these goddamned politicians are full of shit!" Heather, without missing a beat said that if she wanted to know of one who isn't, she should read my leaflet. With that the sweet old lady said quite cheerfully that she would certainly take it.

In Inglewood there were many who were happy to know there was a Green candi-

date running in their riding. Their support spurred me on. Unfortunately, all the campaigning and positive responses didn't result in a large number of votes, which was a disappointment; the fact that only 40.2% of eligible voters actually cast a ballot speaks volume. Clearly voter apathy is a huge problem.

I had a dedicated crew of volunteers working with and for me, from Brian Dyson who set up and formatted my pamphlet, to Heather MacEwan-Foran and her daughter Fiona (and her daughters!), Fiona's sister-in law Bonnie, Matt Urquhart (an aldermanic candidate for the upcoming elections). I would like to thank Tavis for his generous help, Robin for his leafletting (he was able to contribute to the process even though he was unable to run), and of course Sandy, my dear wife and chief supporter! Our son Damien offered his assistance in leafletting in Dover and Erin Woods, along with friend TJ, and two others who, through miscommunication were unable to take part. A special thanks to Randy, as my Official Agent and Financial Officer, a task he took on without hesitation from the beginning, even though we didn't know each other. Randy is truly a great person, I am glad to have had the opportunity to get to know him.

In fact, the key highlight for me was the new friends I have made by becoming involved with the Green Parties, their dedication to the cause runs deep. There is commitment within the people who make up the Alberta Greens that bodes well for the future.

One thing to be done differently would be to make sure that everything is ready and awaiting the dropping of the writ – signs, leaflets, money and volunteers. This is critical for any successful campaign. Knowing and responding to the specific concerns of the constituents is also vital, and that is what I focused on, and likely what I would do again.

I think the need to make our presence known, as a viable alternative to the mainstream parties, is something that needs to be worked on between elections so that we don't have to spend as much

time explaining who we are and what we stand for while campaigning. I look to the future with commitment to the Green movement and to the Green Party, working alongside all of you.

## Jan Triska Calgary-Bow

A huge 'Thank you' goes out to all who helped me. Running an election campaign, albeit a small-scale one, is quite a challenge. I was struck by the camaraderie among the Greens as a group, and by the good reception I got at doors in my riding. I was only able to effectively campaign in about 15% of the riding but where I did, it paid off. Next time, all of us can double our votes. Even with only 5 candidates running in Calgary, the Greens were the 4th largest party and we did give the NDP a run for their money in a couple of ridings, and beat them in one. So, let's hold our heads high!

The challenge with the current political climate in Alberta is the apathy and a certain sense of complacency that *all* of the candidates face. It was evident in all the opposition party's results - while the Klein supporters made sure to come to the polls, many potential voters for other candidates just stayed away. I myself had several discussions with friends who could be described as cynical intellectuals - the opinion out there is that politics just doesn't produce enough worthwhile choices. Now, that's something the Greens should emphasize - the fact we are a party for the educated and for the young (as those broad descriptions generally fit the people who tend to know lots about environmental issues).

Personally, I focused on the energy sector deregulation since I could both use it to highlight our policies and to criticize the record of the government. It met with fairly good results. Another point I stressed, going door-to-door, was the completeness of the Green platform ('we are not a single issue party anymore'). I tried not to be negative. Not to sound cocky, I know my debating skills and the fact that my strength lies in one-on-one

persuasion. So, I chose to spend more time with fewer people, those who were open to listen. And also those who asked good questions. If the campaign had only been a couple weeks longer, I know there would have been another 200-300 votes in addition to the 400 I got. It is really a race against time for the small parties and independents.

A big issue for Greens is election readiness. What I did personally was amateurish. I could have started to seriously prepare at the beginning of the year, instead of February 5th (one week before the writ was dropped!). I think most of us fall into similar category. According to experiences I have had with 'professional' campaigning (Liberals in Bow in '97 and the Municipal election in '95), a candidate is already doing outreach and pounding the pavement 2-3 months before the election start. Next time, that is exactly what the Greens should be doing. Also, fund raising among environmentally progressive businesses and NGOs is an idea worth pursuing. Pembina Institute, need I say more? BP Amoco - I know that sounds like heresy but these people are the most 'green' out of any oilpatch company with Alberta presence. I have friends who work for BP here.

There are many, many more campaign experiences I could share. What it seems to have been, for the most part, is an awareness-raising campaign rather than a campaign focused on getting votes no matter what. Honesty goes a long way - I noticed how well people reacted to Tavis when he spoke at the university forum. You seldom hear a candidate admit that their party won't be forming the government any time soon...if we're modest, we will be taken more seriously.