

Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 3

Fall 2004

Green Party Success in Canada

Greens did spectacularly well in the Canadian election of 2004 that saw Paul Martin's Liberals returned in a minority government, clinging to power with the help of the NDP.

Many people did not feel that the party would be able to run a full slate for the first time, but it did. Some felt that 2% of the vote was unachievable, but it was surpassed with ease.

580,737 Canadians voted Green (4.3% of votes cast) so the party will now receive a million dollars a year in funding from the government (\$1.75 per vote per year). This will allow the hiring of full-time staff, advertising and other activities that will increase the party's support even more at the next election.

The only disappointment of the campaign was that Canada did not elect its first Green MP. But that is for next time!

What If Canada had P.R.?

According to Fair Vote Canada (FairVoteCanada.org), the results of the election would have been much more equitable if Proportional Representation had been implemented. Greens certainly would have had seats, and might have been a coalition partner with the Liberals and NDP.

Greens would have elected 2 MPs in British Columbia, 2 in Alberta, 5 in Ontario, 2 in Québec and 1 in Nova Scotia.

This would have benefited most other parties as well. The Liberals and Conservatives would have MPs in every province and the NDP in every province except PEI. There would have been one more independent and even the Christian Heritage Party would have gained one seat. Only the Bloc Québécois would lose seats without being compensated by more national coverage.

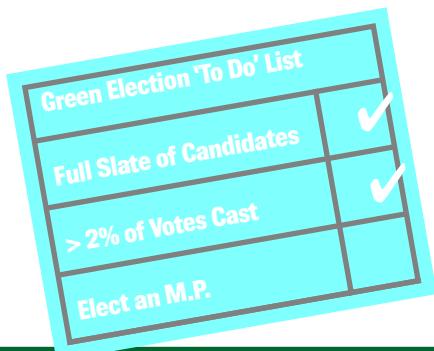
Alberta Greens AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Greens will be held on Saturday, October 2nd 2004 at the Red Deer Lodge in Red Deer. This will be followed by a policy discussion on Sunday, October 3rd.

Motion #1—New Executive Positions. Section VI, Part B of the Constitution currently states "The Executive shall be those persons elected at a General Meeting and will include: Leader, Deputy Leader, President, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Secretary". It is proposed that this list be extended to include the new positions of Membership Coordinator, Communications Coordinator and Election Readiness Coordinator.

Motion #2—Definition of Election Years. Section VIII, Part A of the constitution currently states "The following positions shall be elected at a General Meeting to serve for two years: Party Leader, President, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Secretary". It is proposed to reword this to "The following positions shall be elected at a General Meeting to serve for staggered two year terms. The Leader, Executive Secretary, Communications Coordinator and Election Readiness Coordinator shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Deputy Leader, President, Chief Financial Officer and Membership Coordinator shall be elected in even-numbered years."

Directions. Red Deer Lodge is on 49th Avenue, the main road through Red Deer. This is a one-way road, to reach the hotel from the North, travel south on Gaetz (50th Ave) and turn left at 43rd St. and then almost immediately at 49th Ave.



Accommodations. Members staying in Red Deer overnight must make their own arrangements. The meeting hotel website is:

www.reddeerlodge.net/directions.htm

Alberta Election Planning

Regional nomination meetings for the expected fall 2004 Alberta provincial elections are being planned:

- Calgary: 7pm Wednesday September 8 at the Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Association.
- Edmonton: 9am Saturday September 11 at the International Hostel.
- Drumheller area: 7pm Thursday September 16 at a location tbd.
- Medicine Hat: 7pm Monday September 20 at a location tbd.

To participate in the development of policy, please contact Ellie Stein at +1-403-685-4861. The new policy development website is:

www.AlbertaGreens.ca/greenwiki

Campaign 2004 Diary

May 22. Jim Harris was in New Brunswick just before the election was announced. "We are rocking!" he said as the Telegraph-Journal had "Green Party set to field full slate in New Brunswick" was the headline. Meanwhile the Toronto Star, Montreal Gazette and the Globe and Mail also had major stories on a party coming of age.

May 23. – Election Called by Paul Martin.

May 24. Morgan Wade of the Kingston Greens protests the exclusion of the Green Party from the Globe and Mail's "Decision 2004 – Issue Backgrounder" containing information on the platforms of all other major parties.

May 28. The Green Party's agriculture advocate Tom Manley will participate in a national debate on agriculture. Unfortunately, however, the major TV networks also announced that Jim Harris would not be participating in the national leader's debate. CBC Calgary explained the exclusion of Phil Liesemer from a debate in his riding as a policy of only including the top 3 can-

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Address:	Box 61251, RPO Brentwood Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada
Web:	AlbertaGreens.ca
Leader	George Read +1-403-230-9474 politics_of_ecology@yahoo.ca
President	David Crowe +1-403-289-6609 David.Crowe@aras.ab.ca
Treasurer	Mark MacGillivray +1-403-204-5400 albertagreens@planet-save.com
Secretary	Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788 molders@calcna.ab.ca
Membership	Alan McCreary +1-403-239-6768 AlanMcCreary@shaw.ca

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.

dicates in every riding. One wonders what they do in Quebec where there are four significant non-Green parties!

May 31. Ian Hopfe, candidate for Athabasca, has been invited to be the Green representative on an election debate on APTN (Aboriginal People Television Network). Ian will be flown out to Winnipeg for the show. He believes that this may help gain him the credibility needed for him to be elected.

Dave Rutherford's Calgary radio talk show announced that four parties, including the Greens, would be debating election issues on his show every day, starting the following week. Even though he is quite right wing, he has been quite complimentary about the Greens recently, according to Madeleine Oldershaw.

John Hague, in a complaint to the CBC ombudsman wrote "I formally proclaim my complaint with each and every television broadcaster who has colluded to deny the Green Party of Canada its right to free speech as guaranteed in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The CRTC Act and the Incorporating contracts of the CBC. By the date of the election it is virtually certain that the Green Party of Canada will have 308 candidates coast to coast to coast. Which of the other 'favoured treatment parties' can claim the same thing? The Green Party is making history in Canada today, and the TV media cannot see the story! What kind of journalism is that? Do they see it and have been told to suppress it?"

June 1. Global TV in Toronto covered the Green Party on their 5:30 news program. Darcy Kraus cornered Stephen Harper on a visit to his riding and got him to admit that he probably would not be appearing in any debates or forums in his riding.

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.

June 4. Four major party leaders, including Jim Harris, took part in live text-messaging (SMS) 'chats'. Jim's special number was TXTGRN (898476).

June 5. There are 203 confirmed Green Party candidates out of 308 seats, a jump of about 100 from yesterday. Only the NDP, Conservatives and Liberals have more candidates registered. A backup plan for situations where candidates have less than the 100 required signatures is in place.

An Ipsos-Reid poll showed support for the Greens at 6% in Canada. Support is highest in BC (13%) and Alberta (8%) and also substantial in Ontario (6%) and Quebec (4%). The pollsters predicted a close race between Conservatives and Liberals for the most seats, and estimated that the Greens would win two seats.

CanWest publication the *North Islander* says that "if there was a 100% turnout at the polls [in the North Vancouver Island riding], the Green Party would probably win".

June 7. The Globe & Mail note that BC is the most fertile ground for the Greens and Saanich-Gulf Islands is the most likely place for them to win their first seat.

By late afternoon 295 Green candidates had been confirmed out of 308 seats.

June 8. As Returning Officers continued sending in paperwork the count of candidates climbed to 305.

June 9. It was confirmed that the party became only the fourth in Canadian history to run a full slate of candidates. Every Canadian will have the ability to vote Green! Special thanks to George Read, Mark MacGillivray, Darcy Kraus and Kevin Colton in Alberta. There isn't the space to list the others who went above and beyond the call of duty in other parts of Canada.

Green Party of Canada chair Frank de Jong criticized *Student Vote Canada* for only listing four parties on their mock ballots, even though seven parties are running more than 50 candidates and the Green

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.

Party is running a full slate, far more than the Bloc Québécois, for example.

June 10. Ipsos-Reid reported that support for Greens had risen to 7%.

June 11. Stephen Legault, Executive Director of Wildcanada.net challenged Canadians to learn about the five major party positions on important environmental issues, including the Green Party, on sites like CanadaVotes2004.net.

June 12. Former leader Joan Russow criticizes the Green Party for having a platform "with the loss of broader socialist concerns, with weakened opposition to militarism, with proposals for reduced government, and with 'market-based' environmentalism". Joan is now a member of the NDP.

June 14. The AWA reported that more than half of 1,200 Albertans polled would support a political party that promised more protected wilderness areas.

June 15. Jim Harris was excluded from today's leadership debate. In a prepared statement he described how tired and worn the policies of the other three major national parties are, and how more Canadians than ever before are choosing a better alternative rather than the 'lesser of three evils'. People are voting Green because of a desire for a sustainable economy, opposition towards military spending and for a party that rejects short term expediency, such as importing toxic waste 'for the jobs it will create'. He finished by saying "Some people never believed we could get this far, but this is what real democracy is about. We are bringing forward a set of ideas whose time has come. People tell me they are losing hope that real change can ever happen. It's

time we all realized that the most powerful role in this country is the office of Citizen. History is not going to be made somewhere else by someone else. We make history. Somebody is us. And someday is now."

According to the weekly newspaper *Ontario Farmer* Tom Manley, the Green Party of Canada agriculture critic, was a breath of fresh air at an agricultural debate held at the University of Ottawa. His proposals were to "Eliminate subsidies and make consumers rather than taxpayers pay the true cost of food; break from being captive to political and market vagaries in the U.S. by focussing on our internal markets; concentrate on organic rather than

agri-chemicals and GMOs; revitalize family farming in part by promoting it as a career among urbanites; and

reform the food supply system to provide farmers with a fairer share of the consumer dollar."

June 16. Danielle Roberts represented the Green Party at an Education forum at the University of Calgary. She earned applause for her description of the financial hardships facing today's university students, and for quoting Nelson Mandela ("Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world") who the Conservative candidate for Calgary West, Rob Anders, has called a "communist and terrorist". Anders was also at the forum.

Mark MacGillivray was at a Council of Canadians forum where the Conservative candidate, Jim Prentice, was the only no-show. His place was taken by a potted plant.

June 17. Jim Harris responding to increasing NDP attacks on the Green Party by focussing on the record of the NDP when governing a number of Canadian provinces. He noted that Clayoquot arrests were under a BC NDP government, Uranium mining in Saskatchewan, Malathion mosquito fogging in Manitoba (even against the express wishes of residents) and Hog Barns in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba. How can the NDP call the Greens militaristic when Greens are opposed to nuclear power while their government supplies Uranium for nuclear weapons?

June 18. A CBC poll shows that Environment Minister Anderson's riding in Victoria, BC, is heading for a squeaker four way race between Anderson (Liberal) and the candidates for the Conservative, NDP and Green parties.

Thanks for Voting Green!

June 20. Mark MacGillivray represented the Green Party at a forum focussing on visible minorities sponsored by the Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary.

June 21. Phil Liesemer represented the Green Party in a debate hosted by Mount Royal College.

In Halifax, Michael Oddy drew the attention of a crowd during his debate speech where he held up a copy of the latest *National Geographic* with the cover blaring *The End of Cheap Oil* to reinforce the idea that Green views on cheap gas were backed up by some well respected mainstream sources.

An article in the online magazine *PROFITguide.com* discussed the impact of Green Party policies on the economy with Jim Harris and Michael Pilling

June 22. The *Ottawa Citizen* endorses Green Party candidate David Chernushenko over all the others, including Ed Broadbent, although it notes that all would make a fine MP.

June 23. Jim Harris was on Much-Music answering questions from the audience and viewers.

June 24. Chris Bradshaw, a former interim leader of the Green Party, responded to Joan Russow's attack on the party's environmental platform. Among other things he notes that "Joan focuses on the NDP *platform*, not on their party's record while in power at the provincial level". He called this record "dismal".

Famous British Columbia columnist and talk show host Rafe Mair wrote in an editorial "On Monday I will go across the street and vote for the Green Party – Wendy [his wife] advises me she will do the same. They won't win – in fact they may never win – but they will stand for

and fight for principles I believe in. The whole point of my brand of democracy is to stand on your principles and fight like hell – no matter how long the fight lasts and even though there isn't even a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. If other parties, ones with more chance, were to stand for the things I believe in, I would vote for them. But they don't so instead of recording nothing by staying home, Wendy and I will go to the Community Hall in Lions Bay and vote for Andrea Goldsmith, Green."

June 28. Election day! Canadians in every riding in Canada vote Green, most for the first time ever.

In the evening Greens across the country put up their feet for a change and clap and cheer every time the television commentators announce another success for the Greens.



Reflections on the Campaign

"It feels fantastic to know that almost 4,000 people wanted me to represent them in Parliament. I am really proud to get 8.3% of the vote in Canada's most conservative riding."

*Chris Foot
Candidate for Wild Rose*

"As most Green Party candidates soon found out, being a candidate involved a little more than the glory of door knocking and attending public forums. Dressed head to toe in rain gear while pounding in signs we pulled our borrowed 1962 gas-guzzling, maximum-speed-30-km per-hour, Chevy truck with its severely cracked front window glass over to help push a van out of a muddy ditch. After much pushing and shoving we successfully got the van back on the road, but I fell face-first in the mud in the process. So much for the professional image I had been trying to portray!"

The driver turned out to be interested in the Green Party, though, and said he would vote for me because of my 'community spirit'.

Later in the campaign I visited a grade 4 class. Most of the class was enthusiastic about the Green Party policies, however one student was disappointed when I had to admit that we had no specific policy regarding shooting gophers on farms."

*Margaret Marean
Candidate for
Edmonton Sherwood Park*

Be Proud!

George Read
Leader
Green Party of Alberta

I want everyone to know how thankful and proud I am of the campaign team that has worked this 2004 federal election. These people deserve our thanks.

I would like to first thank all 28 of the federal candidates who have run in Alberta. When we started out to run a full slate in the federal election it seemed like an impossible dream but the slogan "We must do the impossible or face the unthinkable" has long guided the Green Party and we have a full slate. People have stepped forward to run and have run active credible campaigns.

At the beginning of the election planning we dreamed that we would hear people talking about the Green

Party in coffee shops and stores. That is happening now people are talking about us. We have raised the awareness of the Green Party in Alberta to the point where we are the second strongest Green Party in Canada. We are second in the national polls after BC. This is all been due to your efforts. These first historic 28 candidates are all heroes to me. I thank you all.

I would also like to thank the people who have helped us. I would like to thank them for organizing, donating, delivering flyers, putting up signs, talking to people about the party and just supporting us. We could not have done this without you. The Green community has come together as a family to support our candidates. We are stronger than we have ever been and it is all a result of your actions and your selfless support.

We have worked together to overcome adversity and make the Green party into a credible political force in Alberta. If we can do it here we can do it anywhere and no matter what the outcome of the election. We can stand proud that we have gained the credibility we sought.

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you and then you win." – MK Gandhi.

No one is laughing at us now. The 2004 election has been a roaring success for the Green party in Alberta. We are here. We are Green. We are not going away.

Jim Harris' Victory Speech

Jim Harris
Leader
Green Party of Canada

Thank You. Thank You. Thank You!

Thank you to the hundreds of thousands of voters all across Canada who have cast their ballots for Green Party candidates. You are the force that will drive change in Canadian politics and all the other parties in the coming months and years. You will force all the old line traditional parties to address the issues we have been talking about for 20 years.

Thank you to our thousands of Green Party volunteers across Canada who have toiled so tirelessly in this election.

Thank you to the organizing team that did such a fantastic job ensuring we had the first ever full slate of Green Party candidates. Thank you to the media team and the strategy team with your fantastic execution.

And thank you to the 308 women and men across Canada who stood up and spoke the truth.

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
OTHER INFORMATION	www.gruppom.com/gm/2003.html

Six months ago no one would have predicted that we would be where we are tonight.

BC broadcaster Raif Mair and Ontario broadcaster Mike Harris endorsed the Green Party. The *Ottawa Citizen* endorsed our Ottawa Center candidate David Cherneshenko over Ed Broadbent.

We have seen over 580,000 voters cast their ballot for the Green Party in this election.

The Ekos poll that came out two days ago showed the Green Party was the second choice of 11% of Canadians – so our party has tripled to quadrupled the growth potential.

In 1988 the Reform Party won 2.1% of the vote or 276,535 votes and no seats the following election in 1993 the Reform Party won 52 seats.

76% of Canadians – some 17 million – felt we should have been included in the televised leaders debates. I want to thank the thousands and thousands and thousands of Canadians who registered their protests with broadcasters about the unfairness of five unelected, unaccountable network executives felt they had the power to exclude the voice of the Green Party despite the fact that we were running in every riding, despite the fact that we were running over 4 times as many candidates as the Bloc, despite the fact that we attract more youth support for our party as a percentage of our vote than any other party,

Newspapers from coast to coast to coast ran editorials arguing for our inclusion in the televised leaders debates including the *Cape Breton Post*, *Montreal Gazette*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *Calgary Herald*, *Edmonton Journal*, *Vancouver Province*, and *Victoria Times Colonist*.

Countless columnists including Peter Desbarats the former Dean of Journalism at the University of Western Ontario argued for our inclusion.

Support for our inclusion came from all party lines. Senator Mira Spivak, Liberal MP Denis Mills, former NDP leader Ed Broadbent, Quebec ADQ leader Mario Dumont, and Ontario Human Rights Commissioner Keith Norton.

Edward Greenspon, the Editor of the *Globe and Mail* wrote a letter from the editor talking about the Green Party's coming of age and reporting that the editorial board voted 9 to 1 with three abstentions to increase coverage of the Green Party.

We have had endorsements of our positions from surprising quarters. The Pentagon in a secret report said that the global climate change posed a larger threat to US national security than terrorism. When you have the Pentagon saying your issues are front and center you know you have arrived!

The actual leaders debate was a huge disappointment, Canadians were turned off and tuned out. In the end less than 10% of Canadians could bear to watch the two hour fiascoes.

Canadians in this election were angry, cynical and disillusioned and they have good reason to be. If there were two words I could use to characterize this election it would be anger and fear. This has been one of the most negative campaigns in Canadian history, leading to anger and cynicism with politics in general. The election has been about attack ads, and the raw pursuit of power – rather than talking about issues and solutions to the problems Canadians face.

But I am proud of what we have done in the Green Party:

We have not spent one nickel on negative attack ads. We have been talking about the issues. We have been positive. And electors have been grateful.

We have been talking about creative, constructive solutions, like creating Green collar jobs. Denmark and Holland now collectively export \$10B of wind turbine technology and have created 12,000 jobs.

I just picked up my Toyota Prius a hybrid car which uses only 50% of the gasoline of a traditional vehicle by reclaiming energy from braking that would otherwise be lost. But why is it only Japanese car companies that are making hybrids. We would like to create jobs right here right now in Canada.

Canadians are hungry for change. In 2000 more people did not vote than voted for the winning party - some 39% of Canadians didn't cast a ballot – 8.2 million Canadians. When you ask them why it's because they didn't see their values and their ethics reflected in any of the old line political parties.

Young people don't see the point of participating in election. In the last federal election only 24% of first time youth voters (those between 18 and 22) bothered to cast a ballot. Why? Because they don't see their values and their ethics reflected in any of the old line parties. I find it particularly ironic that the Green Party which has more youth support than any other party as a percentage of our vote was excluded from the televised leaders debate and then commentators wonder why youth don't vote.

Imagine five parties running in every riding and they each get 20% of the vote. But one party gets one more vote in all 308 ridings. It would have 100% of the seats in Ottawa with the same percentage of popular vote. Would you call that democratic? And the other four parties with 80% of the vote would not have a single seat. Would you call that democratic?

How our system works is the problem. Up until this election you first identified party you most despised and then worked to figure out who has the best chance of beating them. If you vote for the bad to keep out the worse – if you vote strategically – if you vote for the lesser of three evils – a you will always be left with bad government.

Canadians want change. Real change. New direction. New vision. Hope. Positive campaigning.

Until we change the system we will always get what we have always got. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. The problem is with the electoral system. Fair Vote Canada knows that. The Law Commission of Canada knows that.

It is the system that is the problem. Until we change the system we cannot expect any better.

The electoral system we propose is the mixed member system. The Law Commission of Canada proposed that two thirds be elected with our current system with larger ridings and one third from lists. So tonight, with 4.3% of the vote we would have 13 MPs.

We are proud in this election that we were the only party promising to implement a system of proportional representation that would double the number of women in parliament.

We are the only party that has been talking about health, not just medical care: we believe in investing more in the health care system but the number of cancers are predicted to double in Canada in the next 50 years. Wouldn't it be a good idea to remove the source of carcinogens from our environment rather than just treat cancer once we get it?

We are proud of our efforts in this election.

We are thankful to the 580,690 Canadians who responded to our message of hope and positive campaigning style.

We are proud of our 308 candidates from coast to coast to coast.

We are excited about the future.

And in just a few months we may be at the polls again. So we will take the next 48 hours to celebrate! And then we will prepare for the next election when we will again run a candidate in every riding. And this time the broadcasters will not dare exclude our voice – and we will see our vote double, triple as it did in BC when Adriane Carr was included in the televised leaders debate in the 2001 provincial election.

And so thank you.

Green Party Success in Alberta

The Green Party of Canada did orders of magnitude better than ever before.

In 2000 the party ran 11 candidates in Alberta and the highest percentage of the vote was 2.4%. This time round the party ran a full slate of 28 candidates and the *lowest* percentage of the vote was 2.7%, the highest was 11.2% by Mark MacGillivray in Calgary North Centre. The party received 6.2% of the total vote in Alberta versus only 1.7% of the vote in the ridings in which it had candidates in 2000.

The percentage of the vote received reflects many things, and is not a reflection on the quality of the candidates, which was uniformly superb. Some candidates definitely could put more effort into their campaign, some had deeper roots in their community. In other places, the ground was considerably more hostile. But, everywhere the ground was more

The party candidates never did worse than a fourth place finish, beat the NDP for third place in a few ridings, and beat every other small party – Canadian Action Party, Canadian Heritage Party, Marijuana Party, Communist Party and Marxist Leninist – whenever they had candidates.

Table 1 gives a complete summary of the candidate vote counts and their percentage of the vote. Note that there are some inconsistencies in the numbers because final, validated vote counts were not always available .

An independent summary of Alberta results has been compiled by Dave Ferguson at:

[members.shaw.ca/dave.ferguson/
alberta.html](http://members.shaw.ca/dave.ferguson/alberta.html)

Campus Green News

*Cody Torgerson
Youth Coordinator
Green Party of Canada*

An international network of Young Greens is being established, connecting the new Federation of Young European Greens to the rest of the world. Several different countries have signed up, including Canada.

More details can be found in a Campus Greens article in the spring newsletter of the Green Party of Canada, also been published in the FYEG newsletter, available at:

[www.fyeg.org/ecosprinters/2004/
ecos-july2004.pdf](http://www.fyeg.org/ecosprinters/2004/ecos-july2004.pdf)



June 17, 2004 © IRICE 04. nationally self syndicated cartoonist

Table 1: Green Party of Canada Candidates in Alberta

Riding	Candidate	Votes	%	Comment
Athabasca	Ian Hopfe (780) 891-2220	1571	5.3	1540 behind NDP.
Calgary East	Dean Christie (403) 627-1133	2529	7.1	More votes than Communist candidate.
Calgary North Centre	Mark MacGillivray (403) 667-4695	5735	11.2	Best performance in Alberta!!
Calgary Northeast	Morgan Duford (403) 819-4136	1660	4.7	More votes than CAP candidate.
Calgary – Nosehill	Richard Larson (403) 282-7278	2898	6.0	Within 400 votes of NDP.
Calgary South Centre	Phillip Liesemer (403) 619-4505	5080	9.9	Third place finish. Almost broke 10%.
Calgary Southeast	George Read (403) 230-9474	3142	6.1	Within 300 votes of NDP.
Calgary Southwest	Darcy Kraus (403) 541-1694	3210	6.2	Third place finish.
Calgary West	Danielle Roberts (403) 289-3252	4275	7.6	Third place finish.
Crowfoot	Arnold Baker (780) 904-1755	1798	3.8	Bettered Marijuana Party candidate.
Edmonton – Beaumont	Michael Garfinkle (780) 436-9677	1911	4.7	About 2,000 votes behind NDP.
Edmonton Centre	David Parker (780) 469-1448	2584	4.9	Fourth out of eight candidates.
Edmonton East	Harlan Light (780) 471-4216	2471	5.6	More votes than Canadian Heritage Party.
Edmonton – Leduc	Bruce Sinclair (780) 986-0813	3028	6.2	1528 votes behind NDP.
Edmonton – St. Albert	Conrad Bitangcol (780) 722-0146	3387	6.6	
Edmonton – Sherwood Park	Margaret Marean (780) 469-1448	3146	6.7	
Edmonton – Spruce Grove	Jerry Paschen (780) 436-4913	2672	5.3	1833 votes behind NDP.
Edmonton – Strathcona	Cam Wakefield (780) 484-5211	3146	6.5	Beat Marijuana and Marxist candidates.
Lethbridge	Erin Matthews (403) 328-9839	1294	2.7	Beat Marijuana and Canadian Heritage.
Macleod	Laurel Denise Fadeeff	2866	6.6	Third place finish.
Medicine Hat	Kevin Dodd (403) 544-3960	1521	3.8	
Peace River	Benjamin Morrison Pettit	2073	4.8	
Red Deer	Peter Borsch (780) 429-2962	2137	4.8	More votes than CAP candidate.
Vegreville – Wainwright	Jim Kenney (780) 842-6727	2976	6.5	813 votes behind NDP.
Westlock – St. Paul	John McDonald (780) 923-3548	2034	5.1	Within 1500 votes of NDP.
Wetaskiwin	Thomas Lampman (780) 985-2837	2642	6.2	Beat CAP candidate.
Wild Rose	Chris Foote (403) 762-3111	3903	8.3	106 votes behind NDP.
Yellowhead	Eric Stieglitz	2534	6.6	Beat Canadian Heritage candidate.
Total	28 candidates in 28 ridings	78095	6.2	All third or fourth place finishes.

Green Party Takeover in the United States?

According to Jeffrey St. Clair, writing for Counterpunch, the Green Party of the United States has been taken over by the Democrats and is now performing an assisted suicide. Instead of nominating Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo, the convention appointed the obscure Pat LaMarche/David Cobb ticket. Obscurity is not a bad thing, but Pat LaMarche has stated that she might not even vote Green.

Although some feel that voting Green is unpatriotic, because it could result in the re-election of George Bush, others feel that the Greens are the only thing keeping the Democrats honest. It is notable that Democrat Presidential hopeful John Kerry voted for the Iraq war and is avoiding commenting on it, straddling the fence between patriotism on one side and morality on the other.

The full story is at:

[www.counterpunch.org/
stclair07022004.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/stclair07022004.html)

A related story by Alan Maass is at:

[www.counterpunch.org/
maass07012004.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/maass07012004.html)

Stop the Cheviot Mine (again)!

Mike Hudema

Spanning a width equivalent to that of Alberta's capital, Edmonton, the Cheviot coal mine would strip the heart out of a nationally significant wildland adjacent to Jasper National Park.

In a joint letter with Canada's major conservation organizations, and local and provincial groups, SCC and Mining Watch have asked the federal ministers of Environment and Fisheries and Oceans to imme-

diate initiate a full review, including hearings, on the new mine project. The mine for the extraction and export of metallurgical coal was announced by the Fording Canadian Coal Trust (CCT) this March 16th 2004 even though construction of the haulroad for the mine was underway before then, despite there being no federal authorizations for the mine.

The campaign is also focusing on the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan, part owners of Cheviot, and is supporting an appeal of the permits issued by the Alberta Environment Department. Major owners of Fording CTT are the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan (OTPP) and Vancouver based Teck Cominco, along with the former shareholders of Calgary-based Fording Inc.

"This mine will be an ecological nightmare," said SCC's Alberta Wilderness Director Dianne Pachal. "With the shape of a giant 'L' paralleling the east boundary of Jasper National Park, their Cheviot mine would be perched astride the continental divide between the waterways of the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans, on provincially designated critical wildlife habitat."

As documented by Parks Canada, its impacts include harming the ecological integrity of Jasper, which together with Banff, Yoho and Kootenay national parks were designated by the United Nations' UNESCO program as a World Heritage Site in 1972. The proposed mine area is prime habitat for grizzly bears, which also roam through the national park.

"As we speak, huge bulldozers and dump-trucks are constructing the major coal haulroad, without any of the required federal authorizations in place for the mine," said Elizabeth May, Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Canada. "Now, it's up to Paul Martin's government and

the Ontario teachers to act. Will we trade jewels like Jasper and Mountain Park for a lump of coal?"

Joan Kuyek, National Coordinator for Mining Watch Canada points out, "This new project, while requiring a larger area of public land for the mine and potentially causing more environmental damage, will only create one-quarter of the jobs promised earlier and produce one-half as much coal."

Below is an action call to stop the Cheviot Coal mine. As we speak chainsaws are blaring, and bulldozing are clearing the way for the haul road to the mine so that trucks can go up and down the road every 6 minutes 24 hours a day hauling coal to be exported abroad. The mine will rip up an area the size of Edmonton right off the edge of Jasper National Park.

This is one fight that we have the power and need to win, we have stopped the Cheviot before. In order to win though we need you. We need your brain power, your ideas and your bodies to make these gears stop moving.

Please let me know if you want to be involved as we are in the early stages of developing a plan to stop construction. E-mail me at:

itstimeriseup@hotmail.com

and let me know how much time you have and what you are interested in. From handbilling, to puppet making, to blockades.

Below are a few web resources to give you some extra info. but please as a minimum do three things:

1. Go to the first site and fax a letter off
2. Call Anne McLellan and tell her you don't want the Cheviot. (The mine would be stalled if the Federal Liberals would do an environmental review).

3. Phone any friends, relatives or arch-enemies that you have in the Ontario Teachers Federation and tell them to put pressure on the higher ups to pull their pension funds out of the Cheviot.

WEBSITES:

[www.wildcanada.net/cheviot/
fax.asp](http://www.wildcanada.net/cheviot/fax.asp)

[prairie.sierraclub.ca/Action/
Cheviot2.htm](http://prairie.sierraclub.ca/Action/Cheviot2.htm)

Emerald Awards Failing to Promote Environmental Excellence

AWA

The annual Emerald Awards, supposedly aimed at ‘environmental excellence’, appear to have missed the mark. The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) believes that they have failed to live up to their mandate of promoting “environmental stewardship and sustainable development” in the large business category.

The winner of the category was Weldwood of Canada for its “Special Places in the Forest Program”. AWA considers Weldwood’s forestry practices to be environmentally unsustainable. Even with the program the company has failed to ensure conservation of critical wilderness habitat and biodiversity.

“Important habitat for large-ranging mammals, such as grizzlies and woodland caribou, is not being protected from continued logging,” notes Jason Unger, AWA Conservation Specialist. The choice of recipient illustrates how the award process ignores broader business practices and focuses on limited environmental projects. This the mission of promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

One of the other finalists for the large business category, Nexen Inc., was cited for reclaiming a contaminated site, something that AWA feels a responsible company should

be ethically, if not legally bound to do. “It’s like giving recognition to a company for not ripping off their shareholders...not an exception worthy of recognition,” says Unger.

“The Emerald Awards do recognize very deserving individuals and organizations in the environmental field,” says Unger. “AWA’s concern, however, is with the recognition given to projects that are primarily PR driven and do not really promote environmental stewardship and sustainable development. In these cases the award is basically supporting and promoting an unsustainable status quo.”

For further information contact Jason Unger, AWA Conservation Specialist by phone at (403) 283 2025.



June 16, 2004 © Steve Nease. Oakville Beaver