



### Alberta Provincial Election: November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2004

The Alberta Greens did better than ever before in this provincial general election. More candidates, more votes, more third places finishes, and even one second place!

Enormous thanks go to the candidates, their financial agents, campaign managers, and all those who helped them. This could not have happened without the commitment of leader George Read and membership chair Mark MacGillivray.

Overall the party received 2.8% of the vote (24,588), averaging 4.7% in each of the 49 ridings with candidates. By comparison, our highest percentage of the vote in the 2001 election in any one riding was 3.7%!

This election saw a continuing fragmentation of the right wing, mainly due to the Alliance Party. Although it only won one seat, it received about 9% of the popular vote. The Alberta Party, Social Credit and Separation Party of Alberta received less than 1% each.

Most Albertans were happy that the election strengthened the ranks of the opposition Liberals and NDP, although the legislature does not come close to representing the electoral wishes of the population. This made life difficult for the Greens in Edmonton, where the Liberals and NDP are both strong.

The vote again illustrated the flaws in our electoral system. Klein's PCs received 47% of the popular vote, but 73% of the seats! Every other party was robbed of seats.

With proportional representation the Greens would have won two seats with their votes. Probably the party would have had a full slate, which would have translated to 3 or 4 seats. Plus, the popular vote may well have doubled if people had known that the votes would result in the election of MLAs.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VOTE

So many Green records were broken in this election that it is hard to keep track. This shows that people are hearing our message!

**Candidates.** With 49 candidates, almost 60% of Albertans had the choice of voting green.

**Vote Totals.** Three candidates broke the 1,000 vote mark – Susan Stratton in Calgary-North Hill, Chris Foote in Banff-Cochrane and Shelley Willson in Foothills-Rocky View. 14 of the 49 candidates exceeded our highest vote count in the 2001 provincial election – 581 for Julie Walker in Highwood.

**Vote Percentages.** Chris Foote in Banff-Cochrane received 15% of the vote. Candidates in Calgary-North Hill, Foothills-Rocky View and Drayton Valley-Calmar exceeded 10%. Another 9 broke the 5% mark.

All told, 31 out of 49 candidates made at least the 3.7% that was the high water mark in 2001!

**Position.** In this election, for the first time ever, a Green candidate came in second place in an Alberta Election – Edwin Erickson in Drayton Valley-Calmar! 9 candidates came in third, 13 in fourth, 22 in fifth and 4 in sixth place. In the 2001 election our best showing was third.

**Persistence.** Two candidates, James Kohut and Ian Hopfe, also ran in the 2001 election. Other 2001 candidates, including Margaret Marean, Darcy Kraus and Julie Walker, were active in the campaign in other ways. For a full report on the 2001 election, see our Spring 2001 newsletter, archived at:

[DavidCrowe.ca/Green/Newsletter/GreeNews2001-2.pdf](http://DavidCrowe.ca/Green/Newsletter/GreeNews2001-2.pdf)

#### NEXT TIME

In the next election the Alberta Greens should be able to field a full slate, win at least one seat, and obtain a handful of seconds. This means that we have to keep the momentum going through awareness raising and fund raising. Alberta deserves at least a few MLAs that truly care about the environment, and that see how it and the economy are intertwined.

**Table 1: Go 49'ers! Green Candidate Performance in Alberta Election 2004**

Riding	Total Votes	Our Votes	Percent	Comments
Airdrie – Chestermere (Angela Scully)	11844	434	3.7%	Equalled previous high %.
Athabasca – Redwater (Luke De Smet)	11976	252	2.1%	
Banff – Cochrane (Chris Foote)	8034	1205	<b>15.0%</b>	Third Place
Calgary – Bow (Marie Picken)	12664	713	5.6%	Exceeded previous high count/%.
Calgary – Buffalo (Grant Neufeld)	7677	656	8.5%	Third Place
Calgary – Cross (Ryan Richardson)	6525	271	4.1%	Exceeded previous high %.
Calgary – Currie (Kim Warnke)	11023	810	7.3%	Third Place
Calgary – East (Rick Michalenko)	8340	367	4.4%	Exceeded previous high count/%.
Calgary – Egmont (George Read)	11232	914	8.1%	Beat NDP
Calgary – Elbow (Allison Roth)	13515	666	4.9%	Third Place
Calgary – Fish Creek (Chris Sealy)	11765	561	4.8%	Exceeded previous high %.
Calgary – Fort (Tyler Charkie)	7744	440	5.7%	Exceeded previous high %.
Calgary – Glenmore (John Sklarski)	12405	531	4.3%	Less than 20 votes behind NDP.
Calgary – Hays (Bernard Amell)	8664	378	4.4%	Beat NDP
Calgary – Lougheed (Ryan Boucher)	10586	471	4.4%	Third Place
Calgary – Mackay (David McTavish)	9926	443	4.5%	Beat NDP
Calgary – McCall (Sean Brocklesby)	7357	359	4.9%	Beat NDP
Calgary – Montrose (Kevin Colton)	6432	355	5.5%	Exceeded previous high %.
Calgary – Mountain View (Mark MacGillivray)	13425	912	6.8%	Third Place
Calgary – North Hill (Susan Stratton)	10128	<b>1264</b>	12.5%	Third Place
Calgary – North West (Jeff Krekoski)	14032	636	4.5%	Third Place
Calgary – Nose Hill (John Johnson)	9346	584	6.2%	Beat NDP
Calgary – Shaw (Brian Papineau)	10576	380	3.6%	Beat NDP
Calgary – Varsity (Rich Larson)	14147	753	5.3%	Beat NDP
Calgary – West (James Kohut)	13404	732	5.5%	Beat NDP
Cardston – Taber – Warner (Lindsay Ferguson)	8830	225	2.5%	Beat NDP
Drayton Valley – Calmar (Edwin Erickson)	8812	927	<b>10.5%</b>	<b>Second Place!</b>
Edmonton – Beverly – Clareview (Benoit Couture)	10374	141	1.4%	
Edmonton – Centre (David Parker)	11103	332	3.0%	
Edmonton – Glenora (Peter Johnston)	13118	272	2.1%	
Edmonton – Manning (Ross Adshead)	10775	240	2.2%	
Edmonton – Meadowlark (Amanda Doyle)	10748	245	2.3%	
Edmonton – Mill Creek (Eric Steiglitz)	12047	386	3.2%	
Edmonton – Riverview (John Lackey)	15684	355	2.3%	
Edmonton – Strathcona (Adrian Cole)	12260	287	2.3%	
Foothills – Rocky View (Shelley Willson)	11177	1186	10.6%	Third Place
Grande Prairie – Wapiti (Allan Webber)	7892	348	4.4%	Exceeded previous high %.
Highwood (Sheelagh Matthews)	10636	547	5.1%	Beat NDP
Leduc – Beaumont – Devon (Stephen Lindop)	12908	381	3.0%	
Lesser Slave Lake (Ian Hopfe)	6009	254	4.2%	Exceeded previous high %.
Lethbridge – East (Erin Matthews)	12733	360	2.8%	
Lethbridge – West (Andrea Sheridan)	11081	368	3.3%	
Livingstone – Macleod (Chris Watts)	10051	468	4.75	Exceeded previous high %.
Olds – Didsbury – Three Hills (Sarah Heckel-Sutmoller)	12249	469	3.8%	Beat NDP
Red Deer – North (Colin Fisher)	8710	244	2.8%	
Rocky Mountain House (Jennifer Isaac)	10259	337	3.3%	Beat NDP
Sherwood Park (Lynn Lau)	15137	362	2.4%	
St. Albert (Conrad Bitangcol)	15188	407	2.7%	
West Yellowhead (Monika Schaefer)	8209	360	4.4%	Exceeded previous high %.

## Candidate's Corner

*Susan Stratton  
Calgary Nose Hill*

I am happy that I achieved 12% of the vote. An early fund raising party gave me confidence that I could afford to have flyers printed commercially (Thanks, Grant, for making them so attractive.)

Recruiting Green Party volunteers from the federal election plus friends gave me a group of nearly 30 helpers, which made a flyer drop over two-thirds of my district possible. Early in the campaign, I door-knocked along major routes and asked enthusiasts if they would like lawn signs – over 70 people in my riding did, many of them on major roads. I loved seeing them spring up like flowers across the district.

My favorite response to door knocking early in the campaign was somebody who opened the door, looked at my button and before I could say a word exclaimed, “The Greens! Oh, thank God!” My best quick conversion line was (spotting a child anywhere in the background), “Oh, I see you have reason to vote Green. My husband has a sign on our door that says ‘Vote Green for your kids.’” (Jeff Kreskoski thinks that would make a good bumper sticker, and I agree.)

What did I learn in the campaign? Well, the three polls that I door-knocked solidly a couple of days before the election yielded a vote of 24%, so I would say that door knocking is a good idea!

*Lynn Lau  
Sherwood Park*

We had the most fun and success with our moving sign campaign the weekend before the election. For nine hours, split over two days, we rode all around Sherwood Park on two bikes towing big Green Party highway signs attached to bike trailers. We got plenty of smiles, honks, and waves, as well as the occasional look of stunned disbelief from motorists in this car-centric suburb.

Some of our best cheers came from PC volunteers who saw us as we rode past Iris Evan's office (I didn't know whether to laugh or hang my head – evidently, we are not perceived as a threat to those PCs just yet!) The moving signs definitely raised our visibility – my campaign manager reported overhearing bus commuters talking about us the following week.

## ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Address:	Box 61251, RPO Brentwood Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada
Web:	<a href="http://AlbertaGreens.ca">AlbertaGreens.ca</a>
Leader	George Read +1-403-230-9474 <a href="mailto:leader@albertagreens.ca">leader@albertagreens.ca</a>
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Membership Coordinator	Mark MacGillivray +1-403-204-5400 <a href="mailto:membership@albertagreens.ca">membership@albertagreens.ca</a>
Communications Coordinator	Alan McCreary +1-403-239-6768 <a href="mailto:AlanMcCreary@shaw.ca">AlanMcCreary@shaw.ca</a>
Election Readiness Coordinator	<i>vacant</i>

**MEMBERSHIP – ALBERTA GREENS:** Voting membership in the Alberta Greens is only \$10 per year! Mail us a cheque or pay with a credit or debit card at [AlbertaGreens.ca](http://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](mailto:alanmccreary@shaw.ca)  
Web: [green.ca](http://green.ca)

**DONATIONS:** If you cannot give us your time, we could certainly use your money! 75% of your first \$150 in donations to the Alberta Greens are returned to you on your next Alberta tax return. A \$100 donation will probably only cost you \$25 in the end.

**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](mailto: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) and Alan McCreary (mailing labels and emailing).

## 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%!).**

*Shelley Willson  
Foothills-Rockyview*

I'm really glad I ran. The best part was the way that running a campaign for the Green Party drew great people from the community out of the woodwork to support me. It felt more like I was part of a citizens movement or a community group than of a political campaign.

It is not easy, by any stretch of the imagination, though. Running a campaign is like a 14-hour a day job interview, 7 days a week, that lasts a month. The stress is considerable on all but especially, I think, the candidate.

The one thing I would do differently, is take lots of pictures! People putting up signs, the forums, the meet-and-greets, and more. It was at least as memorable as any holiday I've been on and yet not documented visually.

Overall I'm really glad I ran and am looking forward to helping take the party forward in the future.

*Evan Sklarski  
Calgary – Glenmore*

I'd like to start by emphasizing the power of door knocking. For rural areas this may not be possible, but in an urban setting, face to face is how our message spreads best.

Next time round I plan to spend at least 30 minutes each day, or even more if necessary, answering e-mail. A lot of people use it for communication.

In my riding I was mostly talking to higher income oil employees. They did not want to hear about increased spending but they listened when I talked about education and social welfare as investments.

I would advise using language the voters can sympathize with. At first this felt like cheating on key green principles but as one of my professors told me, changing the wording does not change the intention. The things we stand for are in everyone's best interests, but some words have a major stigma associated with them (the Crazy Joe Tree-Hugger stuff especially), that can make it hard to get through to people.

I agree with Susan Stratton, for the next election we need to develop an Alberta interpretation of the 10 Key Green Principles. I often found myself doing this on the door-step, and winging it (badly perhaps). If we could come up with some universal interpretations it would help keep the myths about the party down, and help spread our message.

In this election we did wonderfully with the media. All of those who dealt with them deserve a huge hand for getting us as much attention as we did. Thank you.

The media will be key to us breaking through and getting some seats. Part of our planning to win will have to be a detailed and comprehensive media strategy, with good sound bites and messages that will spread well through various media. This is,

I think, a problem faced by the Green Party everywhere, as the media is constantly trying to push our messages into the 'left-right' misinformation spectrum. How can we get them to see us as something different?

If I could have changed one thing about my campaign, I would not have been in school; the election took too much away from my studies even though I only have two classes. But in the end I would more than likely do it again.

*Amanda Doyle  
Edmonton – Meadowlark*

I had a grand time running for a party that so firmly represents what I value. The company was excellent and fellow Green members were always willing to lend a hand. It was truly a grassroots experience. Every Green member had his or her own reasons to participate in this election, which brought a lot of interesting ideas to the table.

The highlights of my campaign were in speaking with younger Albertans in schools and while out door-knocking. I was amazed at the

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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](mailto: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.

interest that youth had in the Green Party ideas and outlooks, and I was so pleased that many of them will have the opportunity to vote in the next provincial election and that they showed an interest in doing so. These are the ones who are going to see many changes happen over their lifetimes, and it was refreshing to know that they are considering how our society should act now to ensure that those changes are for the better.

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent the Greens

*Adrian Cole  
Edmonton – Strathcona*

Early on in the campaign I got a call from a fellow who wanted to make a donation. I went to his place the next day to pick up the cheque and have a chat with him. It turned out that he was an oilfield worker! He said that he had to support our party because we represent a vision for the future that is sustainable. It is precisely because he sees the harm that the oil industry is doing that he had to switch parties – he used to vote PC! Although his short-term economic interests would be better served by a conservative agenda, he had to vote with his conscience. He was thinking about his future children and their quality of life. He described for me the political climate at his jobsite – vote PC. Period. There is no discussion. It is because of this fact that he has to be a ‘closet’ Green. This is truly a shame. Perhaps next time around things might loosen up a bit so that he can be proud to show his true colours. If an oilfield worker steps forward in support of the Alberta Greens, surely it is a sign that the tide is turning and we are becoming more mainstream.

## **Congrats from Ontario**

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*Frank de Jong  
Leader  
Green Party of Ontario*

Congratulations on the huge growth and excellent results in your provincial election. You’ve done all of us across Canada proud!

You all must be exhausted. First a federal election, then the Calgary GPC conference, then the provincial election! Wow.

It’s a pleasure for making you fine, fanfold. From all of us in Ontario, thank you, and best wishes.



## **Alberta Greens AGM: Red Deer, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004**

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At the Alberta Greens Annual General Meeting in Red Deer on the afternoon of October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004 a number of new executive positions were created by modification to the party constitution: two Deputy Leader positions, Membership Coordinator, Communications Coordinator and Election Readiness Coordinator.

It was also decided to stagger elections so that in even years, such as this year, the Leader, Executive Secretary, Communications Coordinator and Elections Readiness Coordinator would be elected. The remaining positions would be elected in odd years.

The current executive members are listed on Page 2 (right hand column).

The only vacant position is that of Election Readiness Coordinator, although there are regional coordinators for Edmonton, Calgary and rural areas. Anyone interested in this executive position should contact the leader, [George Read](#).

New members of the executive are Deputy Leaders [Susan Stratton](#) and [Peter Johnston](#) and Communications Coordinator [Allison Roth](#).

## **Green Party of Canada in Alberta AGM**

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The Green Party of Canada in Alberta also held its AGM in Red Deer on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The President remains [Cam Wakefield](#). [Margaret Marean](#) is the new Alberta representative on Federal Council. [Robert Wilde](#) remains the GPC Financial Agent in Alberta. [Darcy Kraus](#) is still the federal organizer, although his contract currently only extends until the end of October. [Alan McCreary](#) was re-appointed as Secretary.

As with the provincial party it was agreed to stagger elections. In even years the Council Representative and Financial Agent will be elected and, in odd years, the President and Secretary.

## Green Party of Canada Council

At the Green Party of Canada convention held in Kananaskis Country in August 2004, the following council members were elected or appointed by acclamation.

- Chair – Bruce Abel
- Leader – Jim Harris
- Chief Agent – John Anderson
- Secretary – Roger Benham
- Francophone Secretary – Sharolyn Vettese
- Communication Chair – Ken Ashdown
- Organizing Chair – Kevin Colton
- Fund raising Chair – Kate Holloway
- Administration Chair – Melanie Ransom
- Membership Chair – Steve Kisby

- International Secretary – Elio Di Iorio

- Treasurer – Lise Racicot

Provincial Representatives:

- Alberta – Chris Chyphya
- BC – Dave Ferguson
- Manitoba – Catherine Johannson
- Nova Scotia – Sheila Richardson
- Nunavut – Nedd Kenny
- Ontario – Mike Nickerson
- PEI – Jeremy Stiles
- Québec – Julie Baribeau
- Saskatchewan – Dave Greenfield

The position of New Brunswick representative is vacant.

## BC Electoral Reform

*Dave Ferguson*

There is a large scale experiment in quasi-random selection going on in British Columbia. The BC Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform has chosen one man and one woman from each of 79 constituencies in the province plus two first nations people and a chair appointed by the provincial government. See:

[www.citizensassembly.bc.ca/public](http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca/public)

The efficacy of this assembly will be clear by the end of 2004 – or at least after a probable referendum on May 17, 2005. BC could actually vote for a more proportional electoral system.

My own submission to that process is posted at:

[www.citizensassembly.bc.ca/public/get\\_involved/submission/F/FERGUSON-1019](http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca/public/get_involved/submission/F/FERGUSON-1019)

In it I stated “It might be a good idea to just retain the Citizens’ Assembly to make decisions and eliminate the Legislature. Perhaps the qualities required to get elected – lying with a straight face, raising large quantities of money without questioning the strings attached, spending large sums of money with little diligence – are not the qualities that we want in our elected decision makers. The way the Citizens’ Assembly was chosen makes for a much more representative assembly than the beauty contest we call democratic elections. But while I do not believe that the voter is ready to do this yet, I do hope that in the Assembly’s final report there will be reference to how the Assembly process could be improved upon and, perhaps, some indication of which tasks would be appropriate to a Citizens’ Assembly.”

### Global Green Websites Worldwide

ALBERTA	<a href="http://AlbertaGreens.ca">AlbertaGreens.ca</a>
B.C.	<a href="http://GreenParty.bc.ca">GreenParty.bc.ca</a>
SASKATCHEWAN	<a href="http://votenga.ca">votenga.ca</a>
MANITOBA	<a href="http://GreenParty.mb.ca">GreenParty.mb.ca</a>
ONTARIO	<a href="http://GreenParty.on.ca">GreenParty.on.ca</a>
QUÉBEC	<a href="http://PartiVertQuebec.org">PartiVertQuebec.org</a>
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	<a href="http://peigreens.isn.net/default.htm">peigreens.isn.net/default.htm</a>
NEWFOUNDLAND	<a href="http://infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/providers/green/index.html">infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/providers/green/index.html</a>
CANADA	<a href="http://GreenParty.ca">GreenParty.ca</a>
USA	<a href="http://gp.org">gp.org</a>
MÉXICO	<a href="http://pvem.org.mx">pvem.org.mx</a>
EUROPE	<a href="http://europeangreens.org">europeangreens.org</a>
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	<a href="http://web.greens.org/ams.shtml">web.greens.org/ams.shtml</a>
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	<a href="http://web.greens.org/oceana.shtml">web.greens.org/oceana.shtml</a>
AFRICA	<a href="http://web.greens.org/africa.shtml">web.greens.org/africa.shtml</a>
ASIA	<a href="http://web.greens.org/asia.shtml">web.greens.org/asia.shtml</a>

## A Green Letter Day in Nova Scotia

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*Michael Marshall  
September 17<sup>th</sup> 2004*

The signature-gathering phase of forming a provincial Green Party in Nova Scotia officially got underway today.

The Electoral Law in Nova Scotia requires only that a proposed new registered party get 25 signatures from 10 of the 52 ridings.

However the Nova Scotia Greens intend to get the required signatures each from *all* of the ridings, as part of the process of finding people to form 52 local riding associations and to becoming 52 provincial candidates in the next election.

Following the fielding of a full slate of candidates throughout the province in the recent federal election, some Greens, including two former federal candidates, are running municipally (as independents on green-oriented platforms) in various parts of the province.

Nova Scotia has also been selected as the site of the national Green Party's next biannual convention.

"Elizabeth May's Small Party here was the very first electoral green party in the Western Hemisphere, but then green party politics lapsed, but we're now back to stay – it's a **Green Letter Day**", Rebecca Mosher, former Green Party candidate in Central Nova and one of the people behind the signature initiative.

For more information contact:

Michael Oddy – (902) 857-2058

Rebecca Mosher – (902) 453-2011

## Green Party Member Wins Nobel Peace Prize

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*from Associated Press*

Kenyan Deputy Environment Minister and peace activist Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 2004.

Dr. Maathai is founder of the Mazingira Green Party and the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. In 2002 she was elected to the Kenyan parliament on the Green Party ticket in the first free elections held in decades.

"Wangari Maathai has been a good friend to Greens in the U.S. for many years," said Tony Affigne, co-chair of the International Committee of the Green Party of the United States. "Her recognition as this year's Nobel winner is no surprise to those of us in the Green movement who have seen her decades-long commitment to peace and ecological wisdom."

The 64-year-old Maathai, the first black African woman to win a Nobel Prize in any category since the awards were first handed out in 1901, gained recent acclaim for a campaign planting 30 million trees to stave off deforestation.

"Many of the wars in Africa are fought over natural resources," Maathai told AP. "Ensuring they are not destroyed is a way of ensuring there is no conflict."

Maathai, Kenya's deputy environment minister and a former presidential candidate, has worked for nearly half her life to protect the environment and human rights.

During the 1980s and 1990s, she also campaigned against government oppression and founded Kenya's Green Party in 1987.

She was repeatedly arrested and beaten for protesting former President Daniel arap Moi's environmental and human rights record.

U.S. Greens, sending their congratulations to Dr. Maathai, noted her long career of activism on behalf of human rights, especially equality for women, democracy, peaceful resolution to Kenya's internal strife, and the environment.

Dr. Maathai and the Green Belt Movement, which planted more than 30 million trees, have already received numerous awards, including the Petra Kelly Prize for Environment, named for the founder of the first Green Party in Germany.

"Wangari Maathai showed how planting a tree can be a gesture of peace and liberation," said Jody Grage Haug, national co-chair of the Green Party. "Dr. Maathai, who has defied dictatorships, corruption, and corporate greed on behalf of the Kenyan people and the land they live on, is an example for all of us in the Green Party."

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**Green Party Presidential Candidate Arrested in...Russia? No. Myanmar? No. Saudi Arabia? No. El Salvador? No... America? Yes.**

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*The Progress Report  
October 9<sup>th</sup> 2004  
[progress.org](http://progress.org)*

The US Green Party Candidate was arrested on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2004 for committing civil disobedience to protest being excluded from the televised presidential debates.

The debates are organized by the *Commission on Presidential Debates*, an organization formed by the two major parties. It denied repeated requests from Greens to participate in the debate, or even to attend it.

Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb was arrested after the start of the debate when he pushed

through a line of armed police preventing entry into the debate. Libertarian candidate Michael Badnarik also pushed through the line shortly afterwards and was also arrested.

There are precedents for third party candidates to participate in debates. Ross Perot participated in the 1992 debate and this helped put balanced budgets on the table. Jesse Ventura's victory in Minnesota was probably also due to his participation in the debate with gubernatorial candidates from the two major parties. The full story is at:

[progress.org/2004/debates08.htm](http://progress.org/2004/debates08.htm)

## **Aussie Greens are the 'Third Force'**

*Melissa Marino  
October 10<sup>th</sup> 2004*

The Australian Greens consolidated their standing as the third force in Australian politics behind the Coalition and Labor parties after preliminary counting, becoming a key player in its own right.

Before the election, Greens Leader Bob Brown predicted the party would poll more than 1 million votes for the first time, and last night it was well on its way.

It was anticipated the Greens vote would be about 10% nationally and, with early results showing a vote of 9.6% per cent in Tasmania alone, it could be expected to poll more than that nationwide.

Early figures showed the Greens had polled 7.1%, which, if maintained, would be just shy of the 1 million mark and a 2.22% increase on its vote in the last election.

The biggest gains were in the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, with gains of more than 3% achieved.

Senator Brown said the primary vote recorded by the party was "great" with prospects for the Senate looking "extraordinarily good".

Senator Brown predicted Christine Milne would win a Senate seat in Tasmania, joining him as that state's second Greens senator. "The majority of Tasmanians have voted to protect the forests," he said, denying the Liberal forest policy had helped to re-elect Prime Minister John Howard.

While the Greens' primary vote may not be enough to win any House of Representatives seats – with Michael Organ in a close battle for Cunningham, the New South Wales seat he holds – the Greens preferences were proving important to Labor.

In the northern New South Wales seat of Richmond that National Party front bencher Larry Anthony held by just 1.6%, a significant Greens vote of about 13% was helping Labor in what looked like one of the rare chances it had to take a seat from the Coalition.

Senator Brown said Mr. Organ was still in the race for Cunningham, which he won after a by-election in 2002 and that former public servant Andrew Wilkie had moved the Greens vote up by 13% in Howard's seat of Bennelong in Sydney.

State convener for the Greens in Victoria, Gurm Sekhon, was hopeful that the seat of Melbourne would go to preferences, with early results showing 80% of Liberal preferences flowing to the Greens. But he said it was likely the seat would remain with Labor's Lindsay Tanner.

Mr. Sekhon said while the Liberal Party appeared to be the biggest winner on the night, the Greens also enjoyed a big win. The biggest losers were Labor and the Democrats.

"We've done better than we've done before," he said. "In the inner-city of Melbourne and Sydney there's a ris-

ing tide for the Greens and the poor old Labor party just has to watch while it continues rising.

"We're now finding in some of the more conservative areas there's significant support for the Greens."

Mr. Sekhon said the party was pleased to have increased its vote in most electorates and in the senate. "We're still on target to be the third strongest party in Australia".

## **Justice Delayed is Not Justice**

*Southern Alberta  
Environmental Group  
November 5<sup>th</sup> 2004*

Five months after deciding to dismiss an appeal by the Southern Alberta Environmental Group (SAEG) of an irrigation district water licence amendment, Alberta's Environmental Appeal Board (the EAB) has yet to provide reasons. The Board has informed SAEG that it is "compelled to meet other time lines" [like maybe the provincial election? -- ed.].

Cheryl Bradley of SAEG said "This unreasonable delay leads to speculation that either the cabinet-appointed Board is extremely disorganized or that a hasty decision was made in the absence of clear and objective rationale."

On October 31, 2003 Alberta Environment granted an amendment to a water licence which will allow the Saint Mary River Irrigation District (SMRID) to use water for purposes other than irrigation to the long-term detriment of the southern tributaries of the Oldman River. In an April 2004 meeting before the EAB, SAEG sought standing to appeal the Director's decision.

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