



Prince Edward Hastings Federal Liberal Association December 2011 Newsletter

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Biennial Convention



CONGRÈS BIENNIAL LIBÉRAL
LIBERAL BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Delegates to the Liberal Biennial Convention held in Ottawa January 13-15 are: Brandon Bell, Mike Bossio, Bob Cottrell, John Duggan, Robert Fair, Odila Hoye, Diane Magee, Cory Mulvihill, Graham Stewart, Peter Tinsley, Theresa Van Luven, Margaret Walsh, Eric Wilkinson

Holiday Train Nov. 28, 1.20 pm



Don your Red Shirt, your Red Scarf or your Red Toque and join up with fellow Liberals for the

passage of the Holiday Train through Belleville at 1.20 pm, Nov 28th. Bring along an item for donation to the food bank and embrace the Christmas spirit with your fellow Liberals. Join us afterwards at the Winchester Arms for a beverage and cheer.

Dear Members and Volunteers,

I hope this letter finds you well and flourishing. Since our October newsletter, your directors have been hard at work on a number of issues and events.

- -The board held a day of reflection where directors had a chance to deliberate upon their Liberal principles -- part of the rebuilding process.
- At the same event, the "Reflecting Forward" Project was launched. This survey-based project is meant to capture the institutional memory of the Association from the last election. Please see our policy report for more.
- The directors representing the north part of our riding held a kitchen party hosted by John McLellan. Discussion focused on issues faced by constituents in their locale. This input is invaluable to the Association and the Party.
- Sales of Lynn Ogryzlo's cookbook, The Ontario Table, have gone extremely well. We are officially sold out. Many of us took "The \$10.00 Challenge" to purchase \$10 worth of local produce every week. By keeping our food dollars close to home, we benefit the local economy. Thank you to our supporters and cooking enthusiasts.
- Delegate selection for the Biennial Conference in Ottawa in January 2012 is complete. Thank you to those who will attend this very important policy conference. Please visit the convention web site at <http://convention.liberal.ca>. A list of the resolutions can be found there as well as links to the on-line discussions. Add your ideas to the debate!
- **You are invited to "Celebrate 2011/Volunteer Thank You", re-located to the Core Centre, (Former Library) 223 Pinnacle Street, Belleville. Enjoy the music and reconnect with fellow Liberals and Supporters. We look forward to seeing you upstairs in the Gallery November 30th from 5 pm to-7.30 pm.**
- Be sure to join us on Monday November 28th when the

Meet at 1.p.m at the South Church St. Railway Crossing, located south of Dundas St. E. You will see us in Liberal Red!

To place an order for your Red Shirt or Red Toque, please call 1- 888- 554- 2372 or email pehliberals@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If your membership needs to be renewed, be aware that December 31 is the date for renewal. Go to action.liberal.ca/en/membership Difficulties? Contact John Brisbois at 1-888-554-2372

SURVEY



REFLECTING FORWARD

We are starting to accumulate responses to the survey and would welcome more. Please check <http://peh.liberal.ca/> for an opportunity to complete a survey. You can send it to pehliberals@gmail.com.

The introductory and more general questions are:

- 1 What was the high point of your involvement in the campaign, where you connected with the sense of purpose and felt that what you were doing added real value, contributing to the campaign?
- 2 Think about what worked well in the campaign. In your opinion what were the top three items and why do you think these worked well?
- 3 Think about what should have been better?

Holiday Train stops in Belleville bringing music and seasonal greetings. The Train will be loading up on your donations to the food bank. We will be there with our red shirts, hats and scarves. You will find us at 1.p.m at the bottom of Church St. See the notice for more details.

There is much more to report but space is limited. Until the next time, please take care of yourselves and those around you. It is a very Liberal thing to do. :-)

Sincerely,

Lenore Begley (President, PEHFLA)

"Just some thoughts" from Peter Tinsley...



Liberals are in a period of active reflection; some are seeking to define the very nature of liberalism -- what makes us Liberals. The discussions are occurring everywhere - on websites, blogs, at massive telephone "virtual town halls" and, even the old fashioned way, face to face, and at what are now popularly called "roundtables".

All of this is a constructive process to reaffirm our collective values! But, do we need to re-invent the wheel in terms of defining core values? Perhaps we can learn something from our history.

Even as a lawyer, I will admit to being reticent to jump into documents labeled "Constitution", particularly one as ponderous as that of the Liberal Party of Canada at 79 pages when compared to the 19 pages of the United States Constitution. But, the preamble alone is mercifully brief in summarizing the historical principles of the Party and I think it is a good place to start the process of reflection. It's worth a look -

<http://c3357298.r98.cf0.rackcdn.com/files/2010/05/lpc-2009-constitution-en.pdf>

The preamble defines "the dignity of each individual man and

What are the top three items, and what would you recommend to improve on these items?

4 If you could have three wishes that would have positive impact on the next campaign, what would they be?

5 Are there any other issues or concerns you would like to share?

MORE SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO DEALT WITH THESE ISSUES INCLUDE: Office Layout; IT, telephones, printers, scanners; Liberalist; Communications; Volunteers Training; Canvassing (Door, Lit, Phone); E-day & Get-out-the-Vote; Candidate Involvement. We look forward to hearing from you.

LIBERAL DISCUSSIONS AT MINK LAKE



Peter Tinsley writes: "A belated thankyou to John McLellan for hosting a 'kitchen party" on Mink Lake last Sunday afternoon. A small group attended, but, nonetheless, a beautiful venue and a great opportunity to chat in a relaxed environment about local issues and our future! I think we may even have made some inroads with those in the group with NDP leanings! And, it was a good reminder of the "distance challenges" and the commitment of our colleagues in the north!"

woman" as the "cardinal principle of democratic society and the primary purpose of all political organization and activity". It then commits the Party to the following operating principles and goals:

- Individual freedom
- Responsibility and human dignity in the framework of a just society
- Political freedom in the framework of meaningful participation by all persons
- The pursuit of equality of opportunity for all persons
- The enhancement of our unique and diverse cultural community
- The recognition that English and French are the official languages of Canada
- The preservation of the Canadian identity in a global society

These defining principles and goals are, when liberally interpreted (no pun intended), rich in meaning and have been critical to the building of our country. They have withstood the test of time and will continue to do so, if cognizance is taken of another most significant line in the preamble; that is, the commitment to "the protection of these essential values and their constant adaptation to the needs of modern Canadian society".

I believe that this last line is key and that it is where we should be devoting our efforts in re-building - to the definition and articulation of policies that uphold and further these core values in ways that are truly relevant to Canadians today. In so doing we must eschew being labeled as "the centre" - the leftover ground between the polarized left and right.

The fact is that the Liberal Party has historically, through bold initiatives, defined the centre, not been defined by it. Moreover and most important, the Liberal Party has done so by being the only party that is both socially conscious and fiscally responsible. Let's let our fellow Canadians know who we are, what we stand for and how we will give testament to those values through policies that will once again bring Canadians together ... at the centre ... respecting the dignity of each individual man and woman!

GOOD STUFF!



Ian Batt, VP Finance, reports that his recent experiences talking with people suggest that the fortunes of the Federal Liberals are on the way up. He writes: "I was doing phone follow-up to people who had received our first Newsletter. It took a lot longer than I planned. Every person I spoke to was positive and encouraging...It took me 2 evenings to complete my call allocation.

This was a very encouraging experience ... lots more to come!!

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



John Duggan reports on an event he attended at the Mohawk Community Centre on Tyendinaga Mohawk First Nation: "We attended the 5th Annual Restorative Justice Symposium - "An Indigenous Look at Social Justice" -- presented by FNTI and funded by The Ministry of Children & Youth Services with Tontakaierine Tyendinaga Justice Circle. Jonathan Rudin of Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto (ALST) spoke the first afternoon on "Trying to Achieve Social Justice." Rudin was an engaging speaker leading us through a significant learning experience. In the range of two hundred

Tax Information for Donations to the Liberal Party

Amount of Your Donation	Tax Credit You Receive	Cost to You
\$50	\$37.50	\$12.50
\$100	\$75.00	\$25.00
\$150	\$112.50	\$37.50
\$200	\$150.00	\$50.00
\$250	\$187.00	\$62.50
\$300	\$225.00	\$75.00
\$350	\$262.50	\$87.50
\$400	\$300.00	\$100.00
\$500	\$350.00	\$150.00
\$600	\$400.00	\$200.00
\$700	\$450.00	\$250.00
\$750	\$475.00	\$275.00
\$800	\$491.67	\$308.33
\$900	\$525.00	\$375.00
\$1000	\$558.33	\$441.67
\$1100	\$591.67	\$508.33

- Under the Canada Elections Act, if you have taxable income, you will receive a tax credit of 75% for contributions up to \$400. If you have a family member or spouse with taxable income, we encourage each to contribute \$400, to maximize the tax credit benefit of your combined \$800 contribution. Such a contribution will cost just \$200. After the tax credit. The maximum donation to the Prince Edward Hastings Association is \$1,100, per individual, per year, with a tax benefit of \$591.67

Together we're stronger



Please consider a donation to your local riding association in your year-end giving. We will use your gift wisely!

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potential Aboriginal cases are diverted each year through Aboriginal Legal Services Toronto.

One of the earliest of the restorative justice initiatives, ALST has managed to convince the Crown prosecutors to dismiss charges against these clients at the point they are diverted to ALST. With no threat of punishment the Aboriginal client can accept full responsibility for crimes and enter a serious process of restorative justice. This is key to the ongoing success of ALST's dealing with clients. In 20 years of operation ALST's programs and staff have earned the respect of the Crown.

When asked how a Crown prosecutor or judge can ensure that the diversion to restorative justice is responsibly carried out, Rudin notes that judges and prosecutors in smaller towns want to retain control. The process needs the courts to relinquish control. The Crown has to let go of the worry that things can go seriously wrong and prosecutors and judges should let go of concern for their careers. The lowered rates of repeated offense are proof of the value of this approach.

We learned about "over-representation" of

Aboriginals in the prisons -- 1 in 4 men, 1 in 3 women. Ontario's population is only 2% Aboriginal but Aboriginals comprise 10% of the prison population. Rudin is of the view that the omnibus crime bill currently going through Parliament will affect diversion programs negatively and that the "over-representation" phenomenon will be intensified. He holds that constitutionality of mandatory minimum sentences should be challenged. The current government "likes" police and prosecutors and is shifting power away from judges to this group. The problem is that Crown prosecutors, unlike judges, do not have to give written reasons for their decisions. It is very difficult to appeal prosecutors' decisions. Rudin's view is that there are difficult times ahead.

Update on Responsible Mining bill for the Prince-Edward Hastings Federal Liberal Association Newsletter from John McKay, M.P.



In October of last year my Private Member's bill C-300, or the Responsible Mining Bill was defeated in the House by a mere 6 votes. It was a disappointing day for all those who worked hard on this bill, which would have set out standards of practice for Canadian mining companies operating overseas. However, since the defeat of this bill the interest around this

issue and this now defeated bill has only grown. I have done countless interviews, spoken at dozens of events and have had enquiries continue to pour in from around the world. It is clear that Bill C-300 sparked a debate which has continued on even in the absence of a legislative solution. Individuals from civil society and industry alike agree that something must be done to address the poor behaviour of Canadian companies operating overseas. If this behaviour is allowed to continue, the reputation of Canadian companies will be irrevocably damaged. Given this continued interest, I plan on introducing a new Private Member's bill which will focus on transparency in the extractive industry. Although this is a different approach from my previous bill, it will address a number of issues which are attributed to the continued existence of the resource curse that plagues countries rich in mineral resources. I hope that with this legislation we continue on the discussion that Bill C-300 sparked and find a way to improve the reputation and practice of Canadian companies operating internationally.

Feed back

To provide feedback on anything in this newsletter, please email pehliberals@gmail.com or call 1-888-554-2372. We want to hear from you.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES FOR PEOPLE IN OUR RIDING?

These are some of the questions (in random order) that were posed to John McCallum when he spoke on October 19th to a group of Liberals in Belleville. To hear his responses, please check <http://peh.liberal.ca/> for a link to a pod cast.



1. Young people from our community are migrating to more urban areas where jobs are more abundant than locally. How can the government reverse this trend and help keep young people in our community?
 2. In the future, what changes will the federal government need to undertake in retirement and pension legislation to respond to demographic pressures? How would a Liberal approach compare to a Conservative approach?
 3. In 2014 Canada Health Act negotiations, how do you think the Harper government will deal with our health care in view of the current economic situation?
 4. Maclean's magazine recently ran an article about people's personal savings in banks losing value to inflation. With the markets being volatile and unstable, what should people do with their money to protect their future?
 5. In the past Natural Resources come from areas which have been deemed Crown Land, some of which are now under land claim. If the natural resources are part of the Canadian economy, how will this benefit Native First Nations communities?
 6. Do you agree that the Harper government has embarked on a relentless campaign of eroding democracy? If so, what can be done to stop them over the next four years?
 7. It feels like the elimination of child poverty is a historic concept which disappeared with the onset of the 21st century. What can be done to re-ignite interest and what policies are feasible?
 8. Does the federal government have an ongoing role in infrastructure development including transportation and public transit?
 9. What are your thoughts on student minimum wage? Should it be raised/maintained?
 10. Losses in the insurance industry could affect their ability to pay annuities. Is this a function of interest rates and should we, elderly people be concerned?
 11. The federal government doesn't have an overly comprehensive communication plan for rural Canada. What are your thoughts on how the government should address the need for rural broadband?
 12. We hear that the Canadian economy is doing well, yet we have a higher personal debt load (\$1.49 owed for every \$1.00 earned) than Americans. Does this not put us at risk if there is a recession and how can the government regulate asset inflation?
 13. Canadian access to the new Pan Pacific Trading groups is restricted by our supply management programs. How would you resolve this dilemma?
 14. What can be done economically to stop the shrinking of the middle class?
 15. Pensioners and baby boomers will soon be cashing-in a large way their pensions. How can the liberal party address this issue and give young people hope to maybe someday look forward to having a retirement?
 16. The Harper government has imposed back-to-work legislation for Canada Post and Air Canada. How do you think that this will affect our ability as workers to negotiate fair and competitive labour standards?
 17. What can we do to increase manufacturing in Canada when we have to compete with cheaper goods
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- imported due to free trade? Is there a way to protect the manufacturing section?
18. Globe & Mail editorial noting that the "war on drugs" has been an abject failure, in terms of human and financial cost, recently recommended that the Liberal Party take the bold and pragmatic step of proposing the legalized and controlled distribution of drugs as the best way of harm reduction. Thoughts?
 19. Do you see the role of China increasing in the world or will the Chinese monetary policy alienate their current trade partners?
 20. The United States is proposing the so-called fortification of the Northern Border to Canada. What are your views on how this move will affect trade between our countries and our domestic sovereignty?
 21. Do you foresee a time when manufacturing jobs return to Canada from China and Vietnam?
 22. What are your views on wage parity for farmers?
 23. What is more effective: email or letters?
 24. Will the euro zone survive?
 25. Were Income Trust Funds detrimental to the economy?
 26. Is there a model that could be developed to create a balance between over paid executives and social needs?
 27. What can ordinary Canadians do to convince the Tories not to cut?
 28. What would you do to improve economy when you come back to power?

Table Topics for Winter Evenings

Why not enter into the discussions that are taking place across the county on the subject of rebuilding the Liberal Party?

Below are a couple of resolutions that you, your family and or your dinner guests may want to explore. We would like your feed - back. After all, your delegates will be voting upon these resolutions at the convention in January.

Priority Resolutions

79. Preferential Balloting System

WHEREAS it is recognized that first past the post voting systems do not properly reflect the will of the people in a multiparty country;

WHEREAS the current system does not produce clear electoral victors (candidates seldom win with more than 50 percent);

WHEREAS the Liberal Party of Canada already uses a preferential balloting system in its own leadership and riding nomination contests;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada implements a preferential ballot for all future national elections.

99. Accelerated Development of Clean, Renewable, and of conservation and energy efficiency in Canada

WHEREAS the non-exploited potential of clean, renewable, conservation and efficient energy is of utmost importance (wind energy, solar, biomass, energy conservation, energy efficiency, etc.);

WHEREAS the development of this potential is a means of creating collective wealth all the while respecting the environment and the principles of sustainable development;

WHEREAS the development of this potential will encourage innovation, technological and industrial development and high value-added job creation. Moreover, it will mobilize all Canadian citizens in the fight

against pollution, climate change and create long-term prosperity;
WHEREAS the development of this potential falls in line with the development of Canada's Northern Territories, the implementation of industrial poles in remote areas, as well as the participation of First Nations;
WHEREAS M. Ignatieff's declaration "Canada is falling behind in the new renewable energy economy. The U.S. is set to invest eight times more per capita in renewable energy and energy efficiency than Canada. This must change - and the Liberal Party will lead that change." (Michael Ignatieff on July 15, 2010);
BE IT RESOLVED that the LPC ask the government of Canada to quickly implement a vast and robust development programme of clean, renewable, of conservation and efficient energy, including provisions for the development of small and medium-scale clean energy projects and matching grants to encourage the use of passive and active solar energy, water use reducing devices, wind power where applicable, and geo-thermal technology to help construct sustainable communities.
Liberal Party of Canada (Quebec) Liberal Party of Canada (Saskatchewan)
Respond to pehliberals@gmail.com

WHERE CAN WE MAKE AN IMPACT IN ECONOMICALLY CHALLENGING TIMES?

As I listened to the solutions suggested for Italy this morning on the CBC, I realized how distorted our economic sense is. The solutions include freezing public sector wages, cutting social programs, and other austerity directed measures.
Nowhere is there talk about why Europe and by association North America is in this predicament. Multi National Corporations and banks seem to be free of any responsibility. It is ironic that the world seems to be looking to individuals from these sectors to lead the recovery. It is like asking the Titanic to lead the way across the Atlantic. I believe the Liberal party as it rebuilds must step back and evaluate how we have contributed to the present crisis. We must include those amongst us to whom we generally do not listen. The Wall Street Occupiers, the socially motivated Churches, those who have given up on voting, and the youth should be encouraged to participate. The Liberal Biennial Convention in Ottawa is an excellent place to start. As membership VP, I encourage lapsed members and new members to join and push the agenda to include more just solutions.

John Brisbois
November 2011

Contact

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