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## Newsletter March/ April 2012

Dear Members and Supporters:

I am not sure where to start with this current update. So much has taken place and so much more is about to happen in the Riding. Fast on the heels of our Director's Heritage Dinner which we were told was a very tasty event, came the Citizen's Rally for Democracy. The latter was a multi party protest spearheaded by the PEH Federal Liberal Association against the Voter Suppression strategy of the Federal Conservatives. Held in Market Square Belleville on March 7th, this was the first focused event to highlight the irregularities that marred the past Federal Election. We continue to monitor this concern.

On a more positive note, we are pleased to tell you that our membership numbers have doubled since last year and they continue to rise. I like to think that it is because of the efforts of all Liberals in our two counties. I know how hard our Association directors are working to reach out with the timeliness of the Liberal message of fairness and equality and the idea of who we are as Canadians and who we are in the world community. That image has been damaged in recent years by the assault on Canadian values by those who currently hold power in Ottawa. We are here to change that and we are doing it with increasing numbers of people from Prince Edward Hastings who have added their voices to ours.

Upcoming events in the Riding/ Association include the launch of the first of the Bridge Forum speaking events. Our first speaker is **Dr. Kirsty Duncan**, MP for Etobicoke North on April 19th at the **Belleville Club**. Speaking time is 7 pm. This event is free to all level 1 and 2 Bridge Forum donors. All others may hear the speakers by making a donation at the door.

Other Association sponsored events include the **Red Pot Plant Sale** to be held **Saturday May 5th from 8 pm to 1 pm at 220 Charles Street, Belleville.**

On May 25th, we have our second **Bridge Forum speaker, Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP for St. Pauls, critic for Aboriginal Affairs.** Heading into June, we have a **Red Tie Trunk sale on and our Association AGM on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Belleville Yacht Club.** Events will be announced with greater detail in the next newsletter.

Until next time  
 Lenore Begley  
 President Prince Edward Hastings Federal Association

## Maynooth Liberals Promote Local Cheese at Farm Market



**I'll have Cheese please with my Liberal Democracy!**

Directors Eva Busse and Marian Soper Severinac sold Maple Dale cheese at the Farmers' Market in Maynooth on a recent Saturday. With their recognizable red shirts and Liberal logo, there was no doubt who was promoting the buy local option in the Northern part of the riding. Cheese sales were brisk and their sale will continue throughout Prince Edward Hastings. For information or ordering, email [info@pehliberal.ca](mailto:info@pehliberal.ca) or call 1-888-554-2372

## Red Pot Plant Sale



When you do up your garden this spring, set aside those extra Irises, Peonies and other desirable perennial stock. Take them to 220 Charles Street on May 5th, for the Association to sell in the identifiable Red Pots. Buy some Everbearing Raspberry canes from your Liberal neighbours. Have a burger, coffee and a chat. See you at 220 Charles Street Belleville (entrance off Ann St. too!) on Saturday May 5th from 8 am to 1 pm. Follow the signs and look for the Red Pots.

## Red Tie Yard/ Trunk Sale



**Save your Best Used  
Articles for this Event**

**Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup>  
Belleville**

**Details to Follow**

**LPC (O) Annual General Meeting May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Sheraton Toronto**

**Delegate Selection Meeting April 16th at 6.30 at the Picton Town Hall on the  
Corner of King and Ross Streets Picton. This time is set aside for Delegate  
selection of members wishing to attend the Federal Liberal Party of Ontario  
AGM on May 4th, 5th, 6th in Toronto.  
<http://ontario.liberal.ca/lpco-agm-2012-2/>**

## Defend Democracy

With the Robo-Call scandal, the integrity of Canada's electoral process is at stake. Will Members of Parliament stand up for Canada? Will MP Daryl Kramp ask the House of Commons for a full judicial inquiry into the allegations of 31,000 Canadians who believe that their right to vote has been compromised?

Those who want to hide in the shadows will quote us Stephen Harper's line that this is a smear campaign conducted by 31,000 people from across the country. Mr. Kramp is our elected official and he is to represent the interests of the citizens of the riding and not the interests of suspected



wrongdoers. Let the inquiry determine what the truth is. Our democracy is too important for political games. We need to know where Daryl Kramp and all our members of parliament stand.

We are asking for a full judicial inquiry into the role that Robo Calls may have played in suppressing the voting of Canadians in the last federal election. Every citizen needs to be deeply alarmed at how far our democratic rights have been eroded.

All concerned citizens in Prince Edward Hastings area were invited to a Rally for our Rights on Wednesday March 7th at 5 pm at Market Square Belleville. Give Daryl Kramp a call. Do your part to hold our politicians accountable for the integrity of the electoral process.

**Saturday evening, the Downtown Doc Fest showing of the powerful video, If I Should Fall, charted the lengths to which our soldiers have gone to protect and to ensure the right to vote. 158 Canadian soldiers gave their lives to secure the democratic rights of the people of Afghanistan. Surely the sacrifice and memory of these soldiers and so many more before them must not be tainted by an attack on free and fair elections by any political party in Canada.**

**There is a time to step away from political squabbles and fight for our democratic principles and way of life. The RCMP and Elections Canada need to be given full rein to investigate and pursue wrongdoing wherever it occurred. They need to reveal their findings openly in order to restore confidence in our electoral process. Stephen Harper, as our Prime Minister, has the power to mandate a proper inquiry. He is supposed to serve the people FIRST and his party second. Let us all stand up as Canadians together for fair elections whatever our political affiliation.**

## **Aboriginal Concerns Sent to Call Centres**

### **Press one for Stephen Harper**

On June 9, 2011, the Honourable John Duncan, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Shawn Atleo, announced the creation of a Canada-First Nation Joint Action Plan to improve the lives of First Nation people across Canada. The plan was designed to improve the long-term prosperity of First Nation people and all Canadians. In principle, the idea is wonderful since it would allow improvements in First Nation education, accountability, transparency, governance, economic development, and negotiations. In reality, however, the Conservative Government has shown little or no real commitment to improving the lives of First Nation people. Aboriginal people on reserves across Canada still live in third world conditions. Negotiations to settle comprehensive and specific claims remain unresolved, and the Indian Act still exists as the colonial "dagger" that keeps the First Nation people subordinate to their political masters in Ottawa. As for communicating their disgust with such policies, First Nation people are now faced with a new problem, an inability to communicate with the very people that administer the affairs of day to day operations on reserves; the civil servants within the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. When phoning department officials, aboriginal people soon find themselves talking to persons staffing call centres. Over the span of two days, I, myself, attempted to obtain information pertaining to when a status and security card would be mailed out, only to be told that a department official would contact me within 3 to 5 business days, and that they, themselves, did not have the authority to access the information. This story only becomes more frustrating when one realizes that the regional application centre

responsible for the issue of Bill C-3 status cards had both its staffing and its budget reduced so that funds could be redirected to the Conservative Government's bicentennial War of 1812 celebrations. How ironic, that the Government of Canada is celebrating a war that ended with the Crown abandoning both its military and its economic alliance with First Nation people who also shed their own blood for the same purpose. This celebration will see the Government of Canada spend money to present ceremonial medals to First Nation people whose ancestors fought with the Canadian militia and British regulars, while other aboriginal people, outside the lime light of the media still live without water or proper housing.

Peter Nayler Director PEHFLA

## For Fair Elections



On March 7 at 5 p.m. a large crowd of concerned Canadians gathered at the Belleville Market to call for a Judicial Inquiry into illegal tactics used during the 2011 federal election. As the evidence builds of widespread voter suppression activity, anger builds among citizens who believe that this illegal and immoral behaviour must stop. Your PEH Federal Liberal Association considers the possibility of interference with the right to vote an extremely serious attack on democracy and fair elections. Let Elections Canada and the RCMP be proactive in identifying and apprehending wrongdoers! Let there be a Judicial Inquiry that will restore confidence in the electoral process here in Canada!

## Bridge Forum

### Bridge Forum Speaker Line UP Confirmed

<b>Dr. Kirsty Duncan, MP Etobicoke</b>	<b>April 19th</b>
<b>Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP St. Paul's</b>	<b>May 25th</b>
<b>Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae</b>	<b>September 14th</b>
<b>Unconfirmed Guest</b>	<b>October 19th</b>
<b>All Events are Planned at the Belleville Club commencing at 5 pm.</b>	
<b>For more information on the Bridge Forum, contact Ian Batt at 613-399-1414 or 1-888-554-237</b>	

### The Budget and You

The following is a statement by Interim Leader Bob Rae on his reaction to the Federal Budget released yesterday by the Conservatives. Conservatives Present a Jobless, Divisive Budget to Canadians

OTTAWA- The Conservatives have saddled Canadians with a divisive budget that fails to make real investments in job creation, and short-changes baby-boomers and seniors, said Liberals today.

"After Canada experienced zero job growth during the last six months, we expected this budget to have one focus - jobs," said Liberal Leader Bob Rae. "Unfortunately, this budget has no real measures to grow jobs, and address youth unemployment and Canada's skills shortage. Moreover, it will worsen income inequality by increasing the qualifying age for the Old Age Security from 65 to 67, and by failing to make tax credits refundable for family caregivers, volunteer firefighters, children's activities and the disability tax credit."

In addition to cuts to the Old Age Security, Budget 2012 makes deep ideological cuts to the CBC, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Canadian International Development Agency and Regional Economic Development Agencies. Meanwhile, the government is imposing growing costs on the provinces,

territories and municipalities while spending hundreds of millions of dollars on polling, advertising, bigger jails and expensive fighter jets.

"This is a budget of division that not only pits one generation against another, but also prosperous regions against regions that are suffering," said Liberal Finance critic Scott Brison. "For example, in Atlantic Canada, this Conservative budget kills the Atlantic Investment Tax Credit, and cuts the Department of Fisheries and Oceans by \$79 million a year and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency by 19% of its operating budget. Federal budgets should bring our country together, not pit one region against another."

### **Later Life Lecture Learning Lectures**

Thought provoking lectures about important current issues

### **Spring Series**

**A series of 4 lectures 10 am-12 noon Wednesdays**

**April 11,18,25,May 2**

**Series \$40 Individual \$15 at door**

**St. Thomas' Church 201 Church St. Belleville**

## **Earth Hour is March 31<sup>st</sup> from 8.30 to 9.30 PM**

Earth Day this year is observed on March 31st from 8-9 PM. Why not invite your neighbours over for a candle lit or solar lit visit? Have a chat about the best options for protecting our fragile environment. Let us know what you come up with on this issue. Does the budget address your concerns? [info@pehliberal.ca](mailto:info@pehliberal.ca)



We are always happy to hear from you. Please call us at 1888 554 2372 or email us at [info@pehliberal.ca](mailto:info@pehliberal.ca)