

Ottawa West-Nepean **NDP** Association



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“In our OWN Words” Newsletter August 2014



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Notice

of the Annual General Meeting of the Ottawa West-Nepean New Democratic Party Riding Association (Federal & Provincial)
To hear reports, elect the Executive of the OWN NDP, and conduct any other business

Thursday Sept. 11 @ 7 pm
The Atrium
Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre
102 Greenview Ave. (in Britannia Park)

Positions to be filled:

President
Vice-President Federal
Vice-President Provincial
Secretary
Treasurer (CFO) Federal
Treasurer (CFO) Provincial
Youth Director
Women's Representative
Membership Officer
4 Directors at Large

For more information, or to volunteer to fill one of these positions, please contact Marlene Rivier at marlene_rivier@rogers.com, or 613 828-8392.

Little gained in provincial election

In the recent provincial election the Ottawa West-Nepean NDP was able to execute its game plan: we had a credible candidate in former municipal councillor Alex Cullen; the campaign raised \$23,000 (1/5th the limit); some 30 volunteers were engaged in the campaign, signs were purchased and installed; two brochures were produced: one dropped at residences and the other distributed via postal walk covering the riding; one voice-broadcast covering over 75% of the riding was done, and of course we knocked on doors. And we had a party, too!

Unfortunately the results were not what we wanted. While the NDP across Ontario increased from 17 seats (from the 2011 election) to 21 seats in this election, this was tempered by the loss of 3 seats in Toronto. The Liberals won a majority government with the PCs losing seats (and their leader Tim Hudak, too). In Ottawa West-Nepean we retained our vote (6,670 people voted for us!) and came in third at 14.3%, while victor Liberal Bob Chiarelli increased his margin over PC rival Randall Denley (44.2% vs. 33.4%).

Congratulations to our campaign team for a fine effort: Marlene Rivier, Marilyn Davis, Jim Patterson, Dan O'Hagan, Zora Jackson, Calvin Climie, and Shelley Rivier, and to all our volunteers who helped out!

And in other camps!

With Conservative MP John Baird moving to the new riding of Nepean, the OWN federal Liberal nomination race is crowding up, as former Ottawa Centre candidate Richard Mahoney is joining Anita Vanderbeld and Deborah Coyne in this contest.

Michael Chong's Reform Act 2014 – democratic progress or power grab by MPs?

Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong (Con.) has prompted considerable debate about his Reform Act 2014 – more formally known as Bill C-586: An Act to Amend the Canada Election Act & Parliament of Canada Act (candidacy & caucus reforms). His Private Member's bill seeks to remove the power of party leaders to appoint candidates (leaving the selections of candidates solely to the riding association), to appoint caucus chairs (leaving that to the MPs), and to permit 20% of a caucus to provoke a leadership review and have caucus appoint an interim leader (to read the bill, please go to <http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=6507421>).

Tom Mulcair, NDP Leader & Leader of the Opposition, has called this bill "interesting", is encouraging debate about it, and has suggested a free vote on it. But is it really a positive reform?

At first blush, having the power of party leaders so curtailed seems appealing and even more democratic. But the provision to permit 20% of a party's parliamentary caucus to provoke a leadership review runs diametrically counter to the party membership basis for leadership selection (and review) in the NDP Constitution. In the NDP, only the party membership, through direct vote, can select the leader of the New Democratic Party, and only the party membership, at a duly-called convention, can cause a leadership review by a vote of 50% plus one. Even the selection of an interim leader is in the hands of the NDP Federal Council (composed of party representatives), not the parliamentary caucus. It is not without reason they call our party the New DEMOCRATIC Party – democracy involving the party membership is our watchword.

Mr. Chong's bill has survived 2nd reading and is now before Committee, and will return to the House of Commons for a vote. What should NDP MPs do? This matter will be discussed at the OWN NDP AGM on September 11 and a motion may be proposed! Come out and be part of the discussion - it is *your* party!

Ottawa West-Nepean **NDP** Association
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www.ownndp.ca



The 2014 Ontario NDP Convention will be held November 14 to 16 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto.

- Hear inspiring guest speakers
- Network with New Democrats from across the province
- Learn new ways to organize and grow the party's roots
- Debate policy
- Meet Andrea Horwath and our caucus, including new MPPS Joe Cimino, Jennifer French and Lisa Gretsky
- Hear the report on the provincial election and vote on the question of a leadership review (*a required action!*)

A delegate selection meeting for the OWN NDP will be held in October – stay tuned!

Canada's New Democrats under Tom Mulcair are standing up for Canadians:

- ✓ Saving Canada Post home delivery
- ✓ Fighting cuts to the CBC
- ✓ Fighting anti-climate change policies
- ✓ Working to abolish the Senate
- ✓ Fighting pay-to-pay billing

To learn more about these (and other) campaigns, please go to www.ndp.ca.



Coming soon!
Surveys!



We want to know what you think!