



February 2011



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Suggestions for March newsletter:
Deadline: Feb. 25th



whitby-oshawa greens

february newsletter

Bradley Gibson nominated as Provincial Candidate for October 2011 election

The Whitby-Oshawa Green Party riding association is excited to announce that Bradley Gibson has been selected as our provincial candidate. He was confirmed at a nomination meeting that took place on January 27th at the Whitby Central Library. "I am very

run under the leadership of Mike Schreiner, who was elected as party leader in 2009. The Greens are poised to challenge for seats in many ridings, and provide a viable alternative for fiscally conservative voters with a social and environmental conscience.

Oshawa, alongside federal candidate Rebecca Harrison. "I am excited to work with Brad to represent residents in Whitby-Oshawa," said Harrison. "Brad's enthusiasm and dedication will be an asset not only to our team but to the rest of our community."



Federal candidate Rebecca Harrison, Green Party of Ontario leader Mike Schreiner, and provincial candidate Bradley Gibson

excited by the challenge of representing the Green Party of Ontario's unique vision in the next election," said Gibson. "There is so much more we could be doing to make our community more enjoyable, prosperous, and sustainable."

Gibson will run in the provincial election, which will take place on Oct. 6, 2011. He will

"Bradley makes another great addition to the green team," said Green Party of Ontario Leader Mike Schreiner. "I am pleased that someone so committed to working in his community has been nominated to represent the Green Party in the riding of Whitby-Oshawa."

Gibson will be the face of the Green Party in Whitby-

"My desire is to be a part of a responsible, sustainable government that will leave a lasting legacy," said Gibson, "a government whose policies match the needs of humans with the needs of the environment, creating a positive lasting change for our children and their children."

For Brad's bio, see page 3.

Elizabeth May's blog: What attack ads actually attack

By Elizabeth May on 19 January 2011 - 8:08am

Here we go again. The Harper Conservatives are chafing at the bit, unable to wait until the writ drops before launching the latest round of attack ads.

The Conservative mantra is that they do not want an election, but their actions suggest they do. A minority government interested in maintaining the confidence of the House works in collaborative fashion. Remember the minority Liberals under Paul Martin? The budget preparations involved extensive consultations with the NDP. In fact, [Jack Layton boasted](#) that he had written the 2005 Liberal budget.

A Prime Minister in a Minority government preparing a budget should be meeting with Opposition leaders. The Finance minister should be doing the rounds with opposition finance critics. Key stakeholders should be getting a lot of time for their pro-

posals to fight the deficit, while continuing economic recovery and creating full-time, well-paying jobs.

But collaboration and olive branches are not in Mr. Harper's repertoire. Attack ads clearly are.

A lot of them were unleashed today. I think it sets a new record for political attack ads in one day. Some attack Jack Layton, with Gilles Duceppe thrown in as though he was some sort of Rasputin, cast as an evil sidekick. The primary villain in the Harper attack ad narrative is Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.

Clearly Mr. Harper is in no mood to make Parliament work. These ads are the Parliamentary equivalent of a declaration of war.

On November 2, 2010, we issued a [press release](#) calling for the banning of political television ads. The worsening political climate in this country stems, in

large part, from the nastiness of the political rhetoric found in attack ads. Learning that many countries around the world prohibit the airwaves carrying paid political advertising, it seemed we should at least raise the idea.

In that press release, I warned:

"We are on a very dangerous trajectory, as it is well understood in public opinion research that attack ads 'work' by reducing voter turn-out. Those who use attack ads have the goal of reducing voter turn-out. It is a deliberate strategy of their campaigns."

Attack ads are anti-democratic by definition.

It turns out they are also anti-Canadian. Thanks to Toronto Star journalist [Susan Delacourt's blog "Ad standards"](#) I read the [plea from Advertising Standards Canada to political](#)

[parties](#).

Political parties are exempt from "truth in advertising" requirements of the Canadian Code of Advertising Standards.

The Code says advertisements "must not contain inaccurate or deceptive claims..." And that they must not "demean, denigrate or disparage any identifiable person ... or attempt to bring them into public ridicule."

The ASC asked that "political parties adhere to the principles contained in the Code to help maintain public confidence in Canadian advertising."

Attack ads are anti-democratic and anti-Canadian. So what are we to make of a Prime Minister who resorts to using the nastiest of slurs when the House is in recess, there is no election and there is work to be done?

Source:

www.greenparty.ca

Green Party of Canada: "End Attack Ads"

2 November 2010 - 9:38am

OTTAWA -- As the US electorate turns out today to vote, Canadians have been horrified by the vicious television ad campaigns waged as part of the mid-term elections. "We recognize that our own political culture is increasingly being contaminated by the same kind of poisonous manipulation seen in the US. Before Canadians next go to the polls, we want to propose sweeping new changes to protect our political commons," said Elizabeth May, Canadian Green Party Leader.

"The control of television ad

content is not possible, but it is possible to regulate the way elections are waged. The 2008 election had more vicious attack ads than 2006, and 2006 was worse than 2004. We are on a very dangerous trajectory, as it is well understood in public opinion research that attack ads 'work' by reducing voter turn-out. Those who use attack ads have the goal of reducing voter turn-out. It is a deliberate strategy of their campaigns," said May.

Many countries ban the use of television advertising for political parties, including the U.K., South Africa, Brazil, Belgium, Switzerland, Chile, Sweden, and

Ireland. Attack ads are widely recognized to discourage democratic participation and cost an incredible amount of money, creating an enormous imbalance between the different parties.

In order to have open, fair and participatory election campaigns, Canada should ban the use of television for political advertising before and during the writ periods. Current Elections Canada rules limit political party spending on television ads during a writ period, but there are no controls at all on television ads outside a writ period. "We should rely on

free access to the airwaves, organized by networks to allow candidates to explain their own views and policies, not attack the character and personal foibles of the opposition," said May.

"The banning of political advertisements would be an important first step in the renewal of democracy in Canada. I don't see why every party in Canada would not agree to this proposal - after all, it would be an excellent chance to speak about what really matters, policy and governance," said Deputy Green Leader Adriane Carr.

2011 AGM and APC at Delta Grandview in Huntsville

The Green Party of Ontario Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Policy Convention (APC) will be held at the Delta Grandview near Huntsville from April 15- 17, 2011.

Win a free weekend getaway to Delta Grandview for two including breakfast by registering before the Early Bird deadline of February 28, 2011!

This three day affair in beautiful Muskoka will include exciting speakers, voting on policy, electing our Provincial Executive representatives, and training sessions on fundamental campaign tools such as fundraising, canvassing, budgeting and media.

There will be plenty of time to get outdoors and enjoy the area. Representatives from Parry Sound-Muskoka Constituency Association have special events planned to keep you busy and enjoy the weekend away.

All convention and accommo-

dation fees are **fully tax-deductible** political contributions.

Weekend packages include Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch and Gala dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch.

You can also choose to register only for certain days instead of the whole weekend. [Click here to register.](#)

Below you'll find the draft agenda for the 2011 Annual General Meeting and Policy



Conference.

Please note that the agenda will be updated as speakers and presentations are confirmed and is subject to change. Please feel free to contact admin@gpo.ca for more information.

AGENDA

Friday April 15

1:00pm Provincial Campaign Training - (*Members only*)
5:00pm Fun with Parry Sound Muskoka
7:00pm Dinner & Social

**GPO
Annual
General
Meeting**



Saturday April 16

9:00am Opening and Plenary
10:30am Break 10:45am
Workshops & Plenary
12:00pm Lunch
1:00pm Workshops
2:15pm Presentation: Engaging
Communities
2:45pm Break
3:00pm Campaign 2011
(*Members only session*)
5:00pm Fun with Parry Sound
Muskoka
7:00pm Gala Dinner
9:30pm Hospitality Suite

Sunday April 17

9:00am Plenary
10:30am Break
10:45am Workshops 12:00pm
Lunch 1:00pm
Plenary
2:00pm Break
2:10pm Speaker and Plenary
4:00pm Closing Remarks & PE
Elections Announced

Biography: Provincial Candidate Bradley Gibson

Bradley Gibson was born and raised in Trenton, in the Quinte region of Ontario. His father is a well-known Quinte region journalist while his mother dedicated her time to charity work and advocating for social justice. It was through their example that he developed his desire to affect positive change in his community. The common thread in Bradley's careers and volunteer work has been advocating for other people's needs.

Bradley and his wife Monique have lived together in Durham for almost twenty years, and settled in Whitby 9 years ago, where they found a home to raise their family. He began his career in youth ministry, where he worked for the better part of 10 years, before going back to school to get his degree as a Child & Youth Worker. He currently works in the York Region District School Board as a CYW, and for the last 6 years he has been the chairperson for his daughter's School

Community Council (SCC).

Bradley has participated in many community initiatives including the Community Service Offenders program, Big Brothers & Sisters, Apple House Woman's Shelter (now YWCA), World Vision, H.O.T.T. Music Festival, Abo-



original Awareness Day, The FAITH Project, and various youth groups. He also coaches at his school where he finds much joy in their success on and off the field of play.

Bradley Gibson will be a strong voice and advocate for the citizens of Whitby-Oshawa. He will stand for the values of social justice, community, and sustainability that are core principles of the Green Party of Ontario.

Green Party Position on Pension Reform

5 January
2011 -
11:27am



Approximately 35% of elders are dependent upon the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) to keep them out of poverty. This is partly because, currently, the CPP objective of just replacing 25% of the average industrial wage is too low. A 50% income replacement ratio would dramatically reduce the reliance on GIS to keep the elderly out of poverty and reduce the cost of GIS to the federal government by billions annually.

The Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) should be raised to at least \$90,000 and consideration should be given to raising it to the full Income Tax Act limit for registered pension plans of \$122,222 (as of 2009) pending a evaluation/review in a decade.

Subject to an actuarial evaluation, it is expected that these benefit could be achieved with a phased in increase of CPP contribution rates from the current 9.9% to approximately

14.5%. Most if not all of which would be offset by reductions in workplace pensions for those with them. Redirected GIS savings could be used to offset some of the required contribution increase.

Defined benefit plans are much more efficient than defined contribution (DC) plans in that they produce significantly higher pensions for the same contributions, yet DC

plans get the same tax support.

Prorating tax expenditures to the value of projected pension would bring fairness and equity back into the system.

RRSP's are very tax inefficient and median asset values too low to provide a meaningful pension supplement.

Source: benefitscanada.com



Expanding the CPP would be the most effective means of pension reform

April 14, 2010

A new report by pension expert and CCPA Research Associate Monica Townson argues that expanding the Canada Pension Plan is the most effective way to address Canada's pension difficulties. [Options for Pension Reform: Expanding the Canada Pension Plan](#)

also provides an analysis of options for expanding the CPP. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

This is the final report in a series on pension reform released by the CCPA. [What Can We Do About Pensions?](#), pro-

vides an overview of the issue and [A Stronger Foundation: Pension Reform and Old Age Security](#) examines the Old Age Security system.

Source: www.policyalternatives.ca

Ontario Greens Open House: Feb 25th

With only eight months left until the Ontario provincial election on October 6th, the GPO is thrilled to announce the grand opening of our new office and election headquarters located at [14 Isabella Street, upper level](#) (at Yonge and Bloor).

I'm so energized by our new space that I would love for you to come by and check it out! All are welcome to visit our new office, meet other Greens, and kick off the weekend with some delicious refreshments. I realize that it might be far for many to attend, but I wanted to let you know about the event just in

case you're in the area.

The open house will take place on **Friday February 25th, from 4-8pm at 14 Isabella St, upper level**, in Toronto.

Our leader, Mike Schreiner, will be present to say a few words of welcome at 7:00 pm.

WHAT: Ontario Greens' Office Opening Celebration
WHEN: Friday, February 25th (4pm-8pm)
WHERE: 14 Isabella Street, Toronto, ON, M4Y 1N1, upper level
WHY: Get the chance to meet your Ontario Greens!

Greens Applaud Church Opposition to Harper's Prison Expansion Project

28 January 2011 - 12:52pm

OTTAWA – The Green Party is applauding the Church Council on Justice and Corrections for its opposition to the Conservatives' incarceration and prison expansion project.

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections represents eleven of the largest Christian denominations in Canada. In a recent letter to the Prime Minister, the Council expressed its opinion that spending billions of dollars to throw more Canadians in jail will not make our streets safer.

"The Green Party is pleased to see churches all across the country oppose the Harper's government plan for prison expansion," said Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada. "Empirical evidence and research confirms that we create safer communities through early childhood education and development and support for families, not from building jails to handle speculative unreported crimes."

Despite decades of declining crime rates and record high federal deficits, the Conservative government is pressing ahead with its multi-billion dol-

lar incarceration project and asking Canadian taxpayers to pay for it all.

"Canadians want our correctional services to focus on meaningful rehabilitation coupled with real supervision for offenders upon their release," said Jared Giesbrecht, Green Party Justice Critic. "Taxpayers want effective crime prevention measures, not a big-spending government sinking billions of borrowed dollars into failed incarceration projects. Victims of crime want genuine recognition and support, not an obsessive and ideological government fixated upon simply throwing

more and more Canadians into prison regardless of the social cost."

"The Conservatives' grossly irresponsible incarceration project is criminal. Not only is this government borrowing money to build more prisons, but they do nothing to ensure the safety and security of our families," said Mr. Giesbrecht. "Victims must be given a stronger voice in the criminal justice system and meaningful steps must be taken to effectively reduce reoffending rates. Canadians are demanding nothing less."

Source: www.greenparty.ca

Coalition of churches condemns Ottawa's justice plan

GLORIA GALLOWAY

OTTAWA—

Published Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2011 9:04PM EST

Congregations of Christian churches across Canada are being asked to tell the federal Conservative government they don't want to pay for its justice agenda.

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections, a 39-year-old coalition for justice reform that represents 11 of the largest Christian denominations, has written a strongly worded letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper condemning legislation that is expected to increase the number of convicts dramatically and require billions of dollars worth of prison construction.

Now the group is trying to convince its congregations that laws to end conditional sentenc-

ing, impose mandatory minimum prison terms for non-violent offences, and prevent early parole will actually make streets more dangerous while draining tax dollars.

The council has created a graphic titled Prison Facts: The Co\$ts to demonstrate the savings it says could be achieved by keeping non-violent offenders out of jail. The graphic is being distributed through church e-mail networks with an accompanying message that urges people to express their opinions about the issue.

"We are trying to educate the public and the people in our churches about this," said Lorraine Berzins, co-ordinator of analysis for the CCJC, who worked in Canada's federal penitentiaries for 14 years. "It goes so much against all the evidence about what keeps communities safe, and it does so

much harm, and they are going to spend so much money, that it's really surprising that there isn't more opposition."

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, which is a member of the council along with other 10 other faith groups including the Anglican and United churches, has joined the CCJC in opposing Mr. Harper's crime bills, Ms. Berzins said.

In October, Bishop Gary Gordon of the Diocese of Whitehorse voiced his concerns to the Prime Minister. Bishop Susan Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has written to Public Safety Minister Vic Toews to protest against the planned prison expansion.

And, in December, Laurent Champagne, the president of the CCJC, wrote to Mr. Harper

to say the strategy of locking up more people for longer periods has been repeatedly proven neither to reduce crime nor to assist victims.

"Your policy is applying a costly prison response to people involved in the courts who are non-violent offenders, or to repeat offenders who are mentally ill and/or addicted, the majority of whom are not classified as high risk," Mr. Champagne wrote.

"These offenders are disproportionately poor, ill-equipped to learn, from the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups," he wrote. "They require treatment, health services, educational, employment and housing interventions, all less expensive and more humane than incarceration."

(Continued on page 6)

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Drinks	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Free Skate	22	23	24	25 Open House	26
27 Free Skate	28	29				
Monday Feb 21st 10am Scotiabank FREE Family Day Skate Iroquois Park Arena 500 Victoria St. Whitby		Friday, Feb 25th 4pm-8pm Ontario Greens' Office Open- ing Celebration 14 Isabella Street, Toronto upper level		Sun Feb 27th 2:00pm Brooklin Spring Fair Free Family Skate Day Luther Vipond Memorial Arena, Brooklin		

**Wed. Feb 9th 6-8pm
Durham Green Drinks**
On The Rocks
227 Brock St. S., Whitby
Do you want to meet a lively group of people interested in environmental issues from academia, business, government & NGOs for good conversation? If so, join us for drinks!

SAVE THE DATE

**April 15-17, 2011
Green Party of Ontario
Annual General
Meeting and Policy
Convention**
Delta Grandview Hotel,
Huntsville, ON
This three day affair in beautiful Muskoka will include exciting speakers, voting on policy, electing our Provincial Executive representatives, and training sessions on fundamental campaign tools.

Volunteer Jobs Available

At the Green Party, volunteer support is recognized as an essential resource! There are many opportunities available, especially with a provincial election taking place later this year, and a federal election potentially around the corner.

Right now we are looking for individuals who can do the following jobs:

Video producer - to produce short campaign style videos for our candidates

Researcher - to find useful information that will help plan our campaign

Communications - to help with press releases, newsletters, and other public relations

Policy developer - to assist in poverty elimination & status of women portfolios

Fundraiser - to develop plans to raise funds for campaigns
Event planner - to plan various events such as socials, public appearances, and town halls

Campaign planner - to make strategic decisions relating to the campaign

Volunteering is a great way to get valuable work experience, make a difference in your community, meet great people, and have fun!

Please contact Chris White at 905-621-0116 or chris@whitbyoshawagreens.ca if you are interested.

Prison Expansion Condemned

(Continued from page 5)

Public safety is enhanced through healthy communities that support individuals and families, Mr. Champagne wrote. "We, therefore, respectfully ask you to modify your government's policy, taking into consideration the impact it will have on the most disadvantaged, its lack of effectiveness, and its serious budgetary implications."

But it will take much to sway Mr. Harper, who said in a speech this month to mark the fifth anniversary of his government: "Canadians want to be able to feel safe in their homes and communities, and that means that the bad guys need to be taken out of circulation. Does that cost

money? Yes. Is it worth it? Just ask a victim."

When asked about the letter from the CCJC to the Prime Minister, a spokesman for Mr. Toews said part of keeping communities safe is keeping dangerous criminals behind bars.

"Under the previous system, criminals – including convicted terrorists – were sometimes released the day after their sentencing. This is unacceptable to Canadians," said Christopher McCluskey, who added that the government has extended financial support to victims.

Source: www.globeandmail.com