



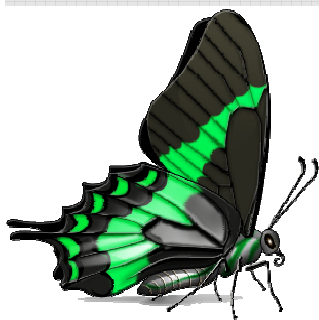
January 2010



Inside this issue:

Annual General Meeting to be held Feb. 11	Pg 2
Mike Schreiner confirmed as GPO Leader	Pg 2
Green Party denounces unconscionable attack on Christian Charity	Pg 3
KAIROS responds to CIDA Funding Cuts	Pg 3
Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament: Rally to be held Jan. 23rd	Pg 4
A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness	Pg 5
Rebecca Harrison to attend Dish On Dignity Feb. 1 in Ottawa	Pg 5
January Community Events Calendar	Pg 6
Rebecca Harrison to attend Prorogation Rally Feb. 1 in Whitby	Pg 6

Contact us:
Rebecca Harrison
Candidate and CEO
 (905) 999-5479
 rebecca.harrison@greenparty.ca
Doug Anderson
CFO/Financial Officer
 (905) 668-5040



whitby-oshawa greens

january newsletter

Prorogement: Cynicism and Calculation

Elizabeth May

Posted December 31st, 2009

The Prime Minister's latest move, to pick up the phone and ask the Governor General to shut down parliament until early March, proves once again his extreme cynicism and mastery in political calculation. As commentators, from

Jeffery Simpson, to John Ibbitson, to Andrew Coyne have pointed out, there is no excuse for this affront to democracy. But as Ibbitson noted, Harper is probably right in guessing that in the week between Christmas and New Year, on New Year's Eve, not enough people will be outraged. As Kady O'Malley pointed out, you cannot

even dream up the talking points for this one. Parliament gets in the way of Olympic games? Athletes will find Question Period an artificial performance enhancer? There is no precedent for this. Amazingly other nations have managed to have government continue during the Olympics. PMO flak

(Continued on page 4)

Rebecca Harrison chosen as Poverty Elimination Critic



20 November 2009 - 2:31 pm
 WHITBY-OSHAWA --The Green Party of Canada is pleased and proud to announce Rebecca Harrison as our Critic on Poverty Elimination and nominated candidate for Whitby-Oshawa. "Rebecca Harrison is an indispensable part of our Green Team. She works diligently as an organizer for the party, helping other candidates and EDAs, even as she organizes for her own campaign. I am very pleased to

announce that she will be joining the Green Cabinet, helping to develop and enunciate the Green approach to the issue of poverty elimination," said Green Leader Elizabeth May. "We are thrilled to have such an inspired and articulate woman as a candidate in this important riding,"

Rebecca Harrison is dedicated to positive change for a better tomorrow in her home of Whitby-Oshawa. From social justice to green jobs and fiscal responsibility, she feels that the Green Party of Canada can lead this country towards a brighter future. Ms. Harrison is determined to bring the philosophy of municipal politics to the Federal level, increasing constituent input and community development. She firmly believes it's time for a Green voice for Whitby-Oshawa. Ms. Harrison is also a full time organizer for the Green Party of Canada in South Western On-

tario.

"Less than a year ago, as I advocated for the inclusion of a national poverty elimination strategy in the 2009 Federal Budget, I was faced time and time again by MPs from various parties, telling me that no political party would ever commit to eliminating poverty," said Ms. Harrison. "Today, as I humbly accept the appointment as the Green Party of Canada's Poverty Elimination Critic, I can't help but feel as though that has finally changed. Now I can say that one Party will commit to a long term plan to eliminate the greatest threat to human rights in this country--poverty."

"Poverty Elimination is about building and supporting healthy communities and a sustainable economy," said Ms. Harrison. Source: www.greenparty.ca

Annual General Meeting to be held Feb. 11 at Whitby Central Library

The *Whitby-Oshawa* Federal & Provincial Green Party Association will be hosting our Annual General Meeting on February 11, 2010.

Local associations, called Electoral District Associations (Federal), and Constituency Associations (Provincial) are the mechanisms behind all successful campaigns, and are made up of local citizens filling both official (CEO, Financial Agent, etc.) and unofficial roles. The EDA gives us a concrete foundation and will give future Green Party candidates a much needed support group. It also ensures continuation between campaigns, and creates a Green Party presence in our area year round.

Please join myself, and other area supporters for our an-

nual general meeting, where we will elect our local Green Party executive for the upcoming year, and discuss a direction and plans for the future.

Please note you must be a member in good standing for 15 days to vote at the AGM. If you are currently a member of only one of the two associations you will need to process your membership online at least 15 days prior to AGM if you intend to vote for both executives. If your membership has lapsed you may renew that membership on site at the AGM.

The executive may include the following positions, the first two being most essential:

Chief Executive Officer

(CEO): organizes regular meetings, builds the executive where needed, and oversees the operation of the EDA. Ensures there is a candidate.

Financial Agent: maintains the books, issues the tax receipts, and files the annual financial report

Membership Chair: maintains relationships with members; increases membership.

Fundraising Chair: organizes fundraising events; asks for financial contributions

Organizing Chair: prepares for upcoming elections, coordinates campaign team, etc

Communications Chair: builds relations with media and maintains EDA's visibil-

ity; ensures EDA press releases are sent to appropriate people and that constituents hear about and see the GPC in their riding.

If you are interested in filling one of these roles, please let me know as soon as possible.

There will also be a video presentation of the new video from the creator of the Story of Stuff: The Story of Cap & Trade.

Please join us at the following time and location:

Date: February 11, 2010

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Whitby Central Library

Room near the rear doors.

Please RSVP to [Rebecca Harrison](mailto:Rebecca.Harrison@whitbygreenparty.com), 905-999-5479

Mike Schreiner confirmed as GPO Leader at Convention in London

Published Nov. 18, 2009

The provincial Green party picked a new leader last weekend – Mike Schreiner, a Toronto-based entrepreneur who recently ran a non-profit agency dedicated to promoting the use of local food. He replaces Frank de Jong, a teacher. The media and political establishment greeted the news with a shrug. That may be a mistake. Like their federal counterparts, Ontario's Greens don't yet have a seat. But they did win 8 per cent of the vote in the last provincial election. Their ttals influenced the outcome in many ridings.

The Greens take votes from all three major parties with an eclectic platform that combines environmentalism with support for small

business and opposition to big government. Schreiner, 40, intends to be a fulltime leader, which would be a first for the provincial party. Schreiner does not plan any big departure from Green orthodoxy. Under him, the party will still support carbon taxes, local empowerment, family farms, and the phasing out of nuclear power. One notable exception: Schreiner will not emphasize defunding of Catholic schools and creation of a single public school board, an issue he considers divisive.

The Greens' platform seems to appeal more to younger voters. The major parties ignore them at their peril.

Source: www.thestar.com



Green Party Denounces Kenney for Unconscionable Attack on Christian Charity

22 December 2009 - 3:39pm

OTTAWA -- Immigration Minister Jason Kenney confirmed last week that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) decision to end its 35-year relationship with KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives was indeed politically motivated.

"Accusing KAIROS of being an anti-semitic group is truly reprehensible," said Stephen LaFrenie, Green Party's International Cooperation Critic. "Worse is the fact that the human rights work sponsored by KAIROS will be compro-

mised by these irresponsible comments made on an international stage."

The Jewish community in Canada was also recently the target of a highly controversial Conservative mailer that painted the Liberal Party as anti-semites after attending Durban 1 a 2001 UN conference on racism.

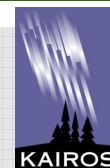
"Not only are they wrong in their actions towards KAIROS, a group I fully support, but in an effort to further pander to and exploit the fears of my fellow Jews around the survival of the State of Israel they have shown an utter lack of leadership, as they di-

vide Canadians along ethnic and religious lines," said Ralph Benmergui, Senior Advisor to the Green Party of Canada and creator of the Vision TV mini-series *My Israel*.

"We need to ensure that these types of slanderous allegations by Ministers do not go unpunished," said Elizabeth May, Leader of Canada's Greens. "It begs the question, what does a member of Harper's cabinet need to do to be dismissed?"

Source:
www.greenparty.ca

Who is KAIROS?



KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is a web of people and partnerships dedicated to a faithful and decisive response to God's call for respect for the earth and justice for its people. A faith-based ecumenical organization, inspired by a vision of God's compassionate justice, KAIROS effects social change through advocacy, education and research programs in: Ecological Justice, Economic Justice, Energy and Extraction, Human Rights, Just and Sustainable Livelihoods, and Indigenous Peoples. These programs are informed by, and networked with, approximately 21 partner organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East; about eighty local grassroots groups across Canada; as well as with countless other organizations, churches and individuals.

KAIROS responds to CIDA Funding Cuts

On November 30, KAIROS received notice from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that our project proposal for 2009-2013 had been declined. We were not given an explanation for this decision, other than that our program did not fit CIDA priorities.

Our 2009-2013 proposal was developed within two priority sectors of CIDA: promoting good governance (human rights) and advancing ecological sustainability (reducing the impact of climate change and addressing land degradation). It was approved at every level of CIDA before being declined on November 30.

This decision terminates a 35-year history of cooperation between CIDA and KAIROS and its predecessor organizations, and compromises the work of human rights and ecological integrity in the developing world. (For

possible impacts on specific partners, please see the background materials below.) This decision also negatively affects the ability of Canadians to develop skills and knowledge in the exercise of their global citizenship.

Please contact your MP to discuss this urgent matter. Please, respectfully and politely,

- Speak about your own positive involvement with KAIROS;
- Express grave concern about this decision;
- Ask that CIDA restore its long-standing relationship with KAIROS;
- Emphasize the impacts of this decision on global partners and our work in Canada;
- Ask them to call on CIDA to reverse this decision.

PLEASE CONTACT

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, pm@pm.gc.ca, or harper.s@parl.gc.ca; phone 613 992 4211, fax 613 941 6900

The Hon. Bev Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, oda.b@parl.gc.ca; phone 613 992 2792, fax 613 992 2794

Margaret Biggs, President of CIDA, Margaret.Biggs@acdi-cida.gc.ca and info@acdi-cida.gc.ca; phone 819 997 7951, fax 819 953 6088

Please copy your letters to KAIROS at info@kairoscanada.org.

MEMBER CHURCHES:

- * Anglican Church of Canada
- * Christian Reformed Church in North America
- * Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- * The Presbyterian Church in Canada
- * United Church of Canada
- * Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- * Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
- * Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops
- * Canadian Religious Conference
- * Mennonite Central Committee of Canada
- * The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

Rally to be held Jan. 23rd in Whitby & Oshawa

"When a government starts trying to cancel dissent or avoid dissent is frankly when it's rapidly losing its moral authority to govern." (Stephen Harper, Canadian Press, April 18, 2005)

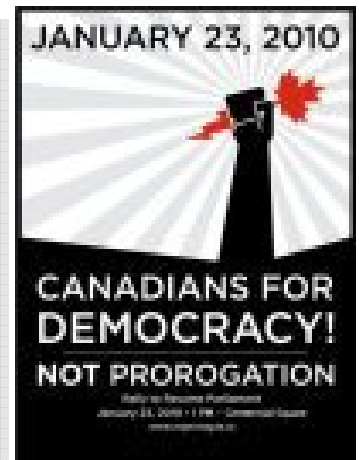
On January 23rd, 2010 you can stand up and make your voice heard Canada- and tell the government to get back to work..

Citizens of Whitby-Oshawa are disgusted by the Prime Minister's lack of respect for our parliamentary system. A rally has been planned to take place on Jan. 23rd. At the same time, many other rallies will be held across the country protesting the prorogation of Parliament.

Join us at the following locations:

MP Jim Flaherty's Office: Whitby 701 Rossland Road East- Unit 204.
Whitby, Ontario L1N 8Y9

MP Colin Carrie's Office: Lord Simcoe Place • 57 Simcoe St S, Suite 2B • Oshawa, ON • L1H 4G4



Prorogation threatens our Democracy: Elizabeth's blog

Dimitri Soudas, last seen in Copenhagen haranguing and wrongly accusing Stephen Guilbault of a prank that embarrassed Canada, announced that prorogation was necessary as the government's economic approach required "recalibration." "Recalibration"-- there's a word to conjure. Obviously having Parliament in session would exude vibrations interfering with the total stillness required for recalibration. As Coyne said, this is "bilge."

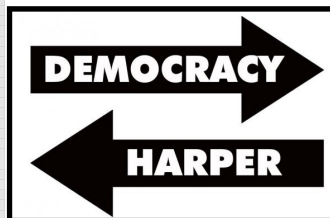
What now? We need to expect the unexpected. We need to kick and scream at this insult to democracy -- because that is what it is. We need to support each other, efforts by other parties, non-political leadership. Whenever a clear and compel-

ling call for democracy emerges, that voice must be supported.

When I wrote my last book ("Losing Confidence-Power, politics and the crisis in Canadian democracy") I thought we had seen the most outrageous abuse of our system of government. But this is worse. Harper's move this week is premised on the assumption that enough Canadians simply do not care about democracy or the role of Parliament. It presumes that Parliament can be shuttered for trivial political reasons; that legislation, committees, government accountability, a climate plan, progress on pensions, the investigation of the alleged cover-up in the treatment of Afghan civilians and other detainees --- that none of that matters

enough to have consequences for Mr. Harper.

In the interests of democracy, let's hope this time his cynicism has miscalculated.



Source: www.greenparty.ca

UPDATE Jan 5, 2010:

[Since I posted my last blog](#) on New Year's Eve, urging Canadians to demand respect for democracy and accountability from their government, I have been heartened to see so many actions launched. People who have never been political in their lives are orga-

nizing.

January 23 has been chosen as a day for rallies for democracy. I am going to post all those sites where actions are proposed. These efforts are not those of the Green Party. I want to be clear that we are not trying to claim "credit" for this grassroots movement, neither do we necessarily support every call for action. But the word needs to spread and greens from across Canada should support local actions in their area. The list grows daily, so let me know if we have missed any.

Join the Facebook groups:

[Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament](#)

[Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament-Rally for the Cause!](#)

[Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament](#)

A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness

11 December 2009 - 2:36pm

OTTAWA – On Tuesday, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology's Subcommittee on Cities released a report indicating that Canada's system of social development is in dire need of reform. **Entitled *From the Margins: A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness*, the Report is the summation of two years of cross-country consultations with people living in poverty, community organizations and academic groups as well as provincial and local governments.**

"We began this study by focusing on the most vulnerable city-dwellers in the country, those whose lives are marginalized by poverty, housing challenges and homelessness," stated Senator Art Eggleton, Chair of the Subcommittee. "As our research evolved, so too did our frustration and concern as we repeatedly

heard accounts of policies and programs only making living in poverty more manageable -- which essentially entraps people."

The Report makes a variety of key recommendations, but most clearly it urges for national commitment to lifting Canadians in every province and territory out of poverty. The key to achieving this goal is a multi-faceted social support system requiring federal-provincial-territorial cooperation.

The Report also notes that several groups in Canada are currently suffering from high rates of poverty. Aboriginal people, newcomers to Canada, single parents and people with disabilities are seeing the least amount of positive growth despite the specialized programs currently in operation.

"This shows that our current system is marginalizing the most vulnerable amongst us," said Poverty Elimination Critic Re-

becca Harrison. "Often, many individuals in this group are forced to work twice as hard for the same amount of money due to social systems that use claw backs. The only way to mitigate this marginalization is to break down the stigmas and barriers by enhancing services and offering universal support for all Canadians."

The Green Party of Canada is committed to creating healthy communities across Canada through a national affordable child care program, programs to eliminate the financial barriers to post-secondary education, programs for affordable housing and the adoption of a genuine progress indicator (GPI) that includes measures of unpaid and voluntary work.

The Green Party also believes it is time to revisit a major policy initiative -- the use of a negative income tax, or guaranteed liveable income (GLI) for all. The use of a GLI could eliminate poverty and allow social services to concentrate on

problems of mental health and addiction.

"It was Hubert Humphrey who said: 'The moral test of a government is how it treats those who are at the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadow of life, the sick and the needy, and the disabled'", said Green Party Leader Elizabeth May. "Adopting a GLI in Canada sends a clear message to Canadians and our global partners that we value the contributions of every citizen, seeing them not as an expense but as an investment towards the future prosperity of our nation."

Source: www.greenparty.ca

Rebecca Harrison to attend Dish on Dignity Feb. 1 in Ottawa

On February 1st, ***Dish on Dignity*** will assemble a mix of persons in poverty, social justice advocates, parliamentarians and others for an evening of sharing – of coffee and deserts, insights on poverty, and inspiration to make greater progress in combating poverty in Canada. Organized by Canada Without Poverty and Citizens for Public Justice, ***Dish on Dignity*** will feature three main speakers: Alex Neve, Secretary-General of Amnesty International Canada; Joan Jessome, President of

the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union; and Dean Allison, Member of Parliament (Conservative) and Chair of the House of Commons' HUMA Committee (three other members of the committee, one from each of the Liberal, New Democrat and Bloc Québécois parties, will have brief speaking time after Mr. Allison).

Following each speaker, there will, at each table, be moderated dialogue among

participants, giving representatives insight into the issues at play when dealing with eliminating poverty.

Rebecca Harrison, candidate for Whitby Oshawa and the Green Party's Poverty Elimination Critic has been selected as the Party's representative at the event.

Prior to taking on the candidacy for Whitby Oshawa Rebecca was an advocate for poverty elimination. In 2009 she was the head

organizer of the Whitby Rally for a National Poverty Plan. She has teamed up with organizations such as Make Poverty History, Canada Without Poverty and Kairos.

If you are interested in learning more about Canada Without Poverty and their multi-year multi-partisan campaign, Dignity for All, please visit their website:

<http://www.cwp-csp.ca>

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Green Drinks	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 RALLY
24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Wed. Jan. 13th 6pm GREEN DRINKS
 Hosted by: Durham Sustain Ability
 Sports Garden Café
 @ Iroquois Sports Park in Whitby

Sat. Jan. 23rd 1-4pm RALLY:
Canadians Against Proroguing Parliament
 MP Jim Flaherty's office in Whitby
 701 Rossland Road East—Whitby

SAVE THE DATE:
 Thurs. Feb. 11th
Whitby-Oshawa Annual General Meeting
 Whitby Central Library

March 5th—March 7th
Green Party of Canada Economic Summit
 Toronto, location TBD

August 20 - August 22
Green Party of Canada Biennial General Meeting
 Toronto, location TBD

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT
 rebecca.harrison@greenparty.ca



Whitby Oshawa Green Party Candidate to Attend Prorogation Rally

Rebecca Harrison, the nominated candidate for Whitby Oshawa, is committed to working despite the prorogation of Parliament. She will be joining what is estimated to be a large group of local residents outside the office of Minister Jim Flaherty in Whitby as they express their displeasure over the Harper government's decision to prorogue the current session of Parliament.

"The prorogation of parliament has definitely hit a nerve in this area and across Canada. We find ourselves in a jobless recovery and our government officials have given themselves a 2 month holiday," Said Harrison from her home in Whitby yesterday. "Constituents seem to be repeating the same sentiment: 'the average person could never employ such a strategy to deal with issues in the real

world and why should our government be able to do so during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.' I keep hearing the current government speak of public consultation but I have yet to see any such events or public meetings scheduled in the local area."

Ms. Harrison will be attending the rally in an effort to learn more about the concerns of the community and how this prorogation is affecting the recovery effort at home.

As the Poverty Elimination Critic for the Green Party, Ms. Harrison is becoming increasingly concerned on how this delay in legislation will affect issues like the funding cuts to Kairos and the recommendations of the Senate Subcommittee's recommendations on a National Poverty Elimination strategy. "Continually this Government has

dodged sensitive issues and enough is enough. We cannot allow them to use our Parliamentary system as a campaign tool."

The Rally is scheduled to take place Saturday January 23rd 2010 on the sidewalks outside the constituency office of Minister Jim Flaherty on the South—East corner of Rossland and Garden in Whitby.

