



2002 Annual General Meetings

The annual general meeting for the federal and provincial Greens will be held on Saturday, October 19th, 2002 at the Red Deer Lodge. The Federal meeting will start at 9am and run until noon. The provincial meeting will follow after lunch.

Please let us know if you will be attending the AGM, so that we can book the right sized room. Contact Pat Gidora by email at patgidora@shaw.ca.

TRANSPORTATION

This location was chosen because it is relatively central and accessible by public transportation (bus). It is important that as many members make it as possible so if you need a ride or would like to car pool please contact:

Calgary

George Read (403) 230-9474 or email wightlight@aol.com

Edmonton

David Parker (780) 469-1448 or email voa@planet.eon.net

FEDERAL AGM AGENDA

The meeting will be held from 9am until noon. Items currently on the agenda are:

- De-freeze
- Approval of the Agenda and Additions
- Executive Reports: President, Financial officer, Secretary, Council Rep.
- Election of officers

- Membership drive report
- Montreal convention 2002
- Wrap-up

Federal Greens Elections

Elections may be held for the positions of President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. Elections will only be held if there is more than one nomination for a position.

Federal Greens Nominations

Nominations must be received for open positions by September 1st, 2002 to allow time for a mail out of ballots, if necessary. Nominations do not require a specific form, but merely a letter signed by the person being nominated, and one other person. Both must be members in good standing of the Federal Greens. If a mail out ballot proves necessary, nominees will be allowed to provide information about their candidacy that will be included with each ballot package. Voting will be by the "Single Transferable Vote" system if there are more than two candidates for any one position.

Federal Greens Memberships

Memberships in the Federal party are \$10 and to obtain one contact Michael Garfinkle. If a mail out ballot proves necessary, it will only be sent to those who register as members by September 1st, 2001.

TENTATIVE ALBERTA GREENS AGM AGENDA

The meeting will start at 1pm and run no later than 5pm. Items currently on the agenda are:

- Approval of the Agenda and Additions
- Executive Reports: Leader, President, Secretary, Financial officer, and Membership
- Election of New Officers
- Membership drive report
- Campus Greens, New Chapter development, Adrienne Carr's visit
- Membership fees
- Funding drive committee
- Policy development committee
- Wrap-up

ALBERTA GREENS ELECTIONS

Elections may be held for the positions of Chief Financial Officer and Secretary because their two-year term is up. Elections will only be held if there is more than one nomination for a position.

Alberta Greens Nominations

Nominations must be received for open positions by September 1st, 2002 to allow time for a mail out of ballots, if necessary. Nominations do not require a specific form, but merely a letter signed by the person being nominated, and one other person. Both must be members in good standing of the Alberta Greens. If a mail out ballot proves necessary, nominees will be allowed to provide information about their candidacy that will be

included with each ballot package. Voting will be by the *Single Transferable Vote* system if there are more than two candidates for any one position.

Alberta Greens Memberships

Since the Alberta Greens do not currently charge a membership fee, becoming a member simply involves notifying us that you wish to be one. If a mail out ballot proves necessary, it will only be sent to those who register as members by September 1st, 2001.

Wainwright Byelection

Colleen Biggs ran for the Green Party in the Wainwright by-election. Colleen and her husband Dylan live in a straw bail house on TK Ranch where they raise Holistic Cattle and sheep. Colleen has been an environmentalist for many years. She stopped the intensive livestock pig barns from coming to her area and also stopped garbage dumping by Edmonton in the town of Coronation. The Green Party is lucky to have a candidate of her caliber running in a rural riding. The overall showing in the riding was 74 votes out of approx. 6000 voters. The Greens are growing in rural Alberta.

TK RANCH

The Green Party took a trip to TK Ranch to visit Colleen and learn more about holistic farming. Colleen and Dylan have over 10,000 acres of endangered fescue grassland the lies in the transition zone between short grass prairie in the south and Aspen Parkland in the North. Holistic practice allows them to maintain their proper and the quality of the grasslands. Holistic practice is simply making decisions about ranch management that take into account the environmental, social and economic consequences of a decision. Dylan Biggs pointed out that the intensive livestock operations make economic sense but they are not socially acceptable and damage water supplies. Managing holistically is in many ways similar to the type of government the Green party is interested in promoting.

Greens Rise in BC polls

Andy Shadrack

The Green party has reach 31% on Vancouver Island, 22% in Vancouver-Burnaby, 20% overall in BC, 18% in the Interior, 17% in the Lower Mainland and 14% in SLM.

On Vancouver Island Greens lead the NDP by 4% and are now only 2% behind the Liberals, which means statistically with a margin of error of +/-3.5% that the three parties could be in a dead heat. Elsewhere the Green Party is 5% behind the NDP in Vancouver /Burnaby, 6% in the Interior, 12% in the Lower Mainland and 17% in the SLM.

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

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Treasurer Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788
Secretary Pat Gidora (acting) +1-403-686-0703
Membership Alan McCreary +1-403-239-6768

MEMBERSHIP - ALBERTA GREENS

Membership in the Alberta Greens is free! Simply send your name, address and other contact information to our mailing or email address above. Members have the right to vote at Alberta Greens meetings and will receive this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP - GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

Memberships in the Green Party of Canada are available for \$10 to individuals, or \$15 to families from:

Michael Garfinkle
Secretary, Green Party of Canada in Alberta
PO Box 52023
Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 1C9, Canada
Email: abel@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca
Web: green.ca

DONATIONS

If you cannot give us your time, we could certainly use your money! 75% of your first \$150 in donations to the Alberta Greens are returned to you on your next Alberta tax return. You can also receive this tax break on donations to joint projects between the Alberta Greens and other environmental and social action groups. Contact us for details.

MEETINGS

For information on meeting dates, times and locations, call Madeleine Oldershaw in Calgary, or David Parker in Edmonton.

COMMENTS

We welcome submissions for the Alberta Greens Newsletter. Please send them to the editor, Box 133, Station M, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2H6, Canada, by email to crowed@cadvision.com or by fax to +1-403-289-6658.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let us know your new postal or email address before it changes. Include your name, both your old and new addresses as well as the effective date of the change.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Madeleine Oldershaw, Alan McCreary, Erica Crowe and Julia Crowe for their valuable assistance with the distribution of the newsletter.

Greens now have 29% support among households earning less than \$30,000 annually (tied with the NDP, but just 4% behind the Liberals), 28% support among 18-34 year olds (just 1% behind the NDP) and 23% support among women. Our weakest level of support is among men (17%), members of private sector unions (16%), those earning over \$60,000 a year (15%), and those over 55 (10%).

Federal Byelection

James Kohut ran in Calgary Southwest and managed to get 3.7% of the vote. This is a very good result considering that Calgary Southwest is one of the most conservative ridings in Canada, James was running against a party leader and there was almost no press coverage of the race. Out of the 3 by-elections that the Green Party participated in James had the highest percentage of the vote.

The race in Calgary Southwest was important because the Greens were able to let the big parties know that they will not go unchallenged. Stephen Harper's unwillingness to debate and the major parties stepping aside made the race a less than democratic one but it also allowed us to pull together as a party. James managed to raise almost \$2000 in donations for flyers and signs. Over 20 people helped on the campaign.

In other federal byelections Chis Holt received 2% in Windsor West and Chris Bradshaw got 0.6% in Bonnavist-Trinity-Conception in Newfoundland.

GREEN URLS

The Alberta Greens website can be reached via:

green.ca/ab

The Green Party of Canada is at:

green.ca

What is Going On?

The Green Party in Alberta is expanding rapidly and we will need even more help in the months ahead. If you are interested in helping out come out now we are building a party today.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Green Party will be beginning a membership drive in September. Expect a phone call to renew your membership. We will need volunteers to help with the phone outs and mail outs if you are interested in helping contact George Read wightlight@aol.com.

Meetings

CALGARY

General meetings are held the Second Wednesday of the month at Pat Gidora's house. Contact Pat Gidora for more information and for directions (patgidora@shaw.ca).

Kensington Pub the third Wednesday of the month is 'beer night' for Greens. Everyone is welcome. Come out and meet the Greens in a social setting. Contact George Read at wightlight@aol.com for more information.

EDMONTON

The next quarterly meeting will be held July 13th at the AEN in Edmonton from 10:00 to 3:00 all are welcome. Contact Betty Paschen for more details (780-436-4913).

CAMPUS GREENS

There are Campus Green chapters at both the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta in Edmonton. They will be inactive during the summer but both have plans to start again in the fall.

FEDERAL

The bi-annual conference will be held at Center 7400 in Montreal from August 15th to 18th. Everyone is welcome. Registration is \$35 before Aug 1, 2002 and \$45 afterwards. Checks should be made payable to the "Green Party of Canada Convention 2002" and sent to the Green Party of Canada at 244 Gerard St E Toronto, Ont. M5A 2G2.

INTERNATIONAL

Cody Torgerson from the University of Calgary campus Greens will be attending a meeting of U.S. campus greens the weekend of June 21st, 2002.

Fahrenheit 911

Michael Moore
mike@michaelmoore.com

Dear Friends;

I'd like to tell you a little tale, a personal story of what it is like to fear losing your freedom of speech, how it feels to be drowned in a wave of patriotism which threatens with all its might to suffocate your ideas and stifle dissent.

For nearly four months, from September through December of last year, I did not know whether the book I had just written for HarperCollins – STUPID WHITE MEN – was ever going to be read by the American public.

HarperCollins, one of the major publishing houses in the world, was trying to decide whether the words I had written were now "too offensive" to a nation which had suddenly fallen in love with George W. Bush.

By the morning of September 11, 2001, the HarperCollins printing presses, located in Scranton, Pennsylvania, had already printed 50,000 copies of an announced 100,000 copy first printing of my new book – and then the world, for all of us, came to a standstill.

The next day, I spoke to the people at HarperCollins, and I was told that they were going to put most of their books on

hold for the moment. I thought that was a good idea. “We’ll take this a day at time,” my editor told me, just as the siren in his building went off, the first of many bomb scares that emptied the buildings of Manhattan that week.

I was in no mood to think about a ‘book’ when all that was on my mind was how my wife and I were going to get across this country and back home to be with our daughter in New York. I had no desire to go on a book tour, and the only tour that concerned me at the moment was the rapid one I was on, in a rented minivan, for the 3,000-mile trek home.

Once back in New York City, the days turned into weeks, and I began to make calls to the publisher to inquire when my book would be coming out. The scheduled release date of October 2, 2001 had long since passed. It was then that I was informed that there were ‘problems’ with *Stupid White Men*. I was told that, unless I re-wrote large sections of my book (sections mostly dealing with my harsh but funny criticisms of George W Bush), plus change the title and the cover – and then, after all that, reimburse the publisher of up to \$100,000 out of my pocket (!) so this new version could be reprinted – then the powers-that-be might actually destroy the *entire* run of 50,000 copies that had already been printed! My book would be sent to the shredder and ‘pulped’. I would then have to wait for up to a year before I could take it to another publisher. In other words, the book would be toast.

I refused to rewrite a single word of my book. I was proud of everything I had written. In my opinion, *Stupid White Men* seemed even more relevant than before. Enron, Kenneth Lay, Arthur Andersen – it’s all there in my book – and I wrote those passages last spring! What if my book had been released when it was supposed to, on October 2nd? The stuff I had dug up on these guys – I would have been talking about them all over the airwaves long before they skipped outta Dodge with the cookie jar.

There’s lots more in the book that I wanted out in the public arena months ago: An open letter to Yassir Arafat on

how to really win and stop the bloodshed; a report on a chance run-in I had with Jeb Bush two weeks before the 2000 election on a deserted street in Tallahassee; my exploration of the three times (that I know of) that George W. Bush has been arrested and charged with crimes by the police – it’s all there, and I saw no need to change a single thing.

But I was told that “the political climate has changed in America” and that my attacks on Bush and his cronies would not be met with open arms by a Bush-adoring public. I then had a number of meetings, on the phone and in person, with executives, lawyers, and editors at the publishing house. They asked for some sort of compromise, for me to at least ‘tone down’ my dissent. Again, I responded that would not be possible, and that I could not, in good conscience, alter anything. I did this knowing full well it would result in the death of my book.

Word began to leak out about *Stupid White Men* being ‘banned’. Articles appeared in *Publishers Weekly* and Salon.com. I was trying to remain quiet about whole affair, but once a number of reporters found out (not from me), and a group of librarians organized a letter-writing campaign, HarperCollins, after weighing all their options (and the potential reaction to those options), decided finally to release the book *as is* – unchanged and uncensored, on Tuesday, February 19th, 2002.

They did the right thing, and I appreciated and admired their courage to do so when I know this was not an easy decision for them to make, considering the pressure they must have been under.

I have avoided writing this letter to all of you for weeks. In part, I did not want to say or do anything that might jeopardize the good working relationship I have now with the publisher. I have put nearly a year of my life into this book, and the thought of it not being available because of what you saw in this email just didn’t seem worth it.

HarperCollins is doing their best to get the book out there – but now, even they have run into resistance, with some bookstores telling them that they are not interested in having me come to their stores on the book tour “due to the controversial nature of the book...and the change in the country’s political climate”. Can somebody tell me why weather patterns have suddenly become everyone’s primal political fear?

Lately, I started getting a lot of mail from around the country (and the world) as this story spread. People wanted to know the truth about what had happened. Some had seen the issue of *Entertainment Weekly* a few weeks ago which had named me their Winner of the Week for succeeding in getting my book released. I decided it was best to let you know from me personally what has transpired – and that the outcome was a good one, a rare victory these days for our side, and for the cause of free expression.

For me, it really came down to the fact that, as an American living during a time where our own government (and a mostly compliant press) seeks to silence discussion and ‘manage’ the truth, it was important to tell you what I have seen, what I have been through, and to wonder what would have happened if I had not been a writer who was known and had an audience and an email list that on a good day reaches a few million people. I don’t like this feeling, and I would greatly appreciate it if this country would come to its senses and start acting like America again (or least our *idea* of America!).

I’ll be hitting a couple dozen cities on the book tour, and I’ll probably add a few more (if you’d like me to come to your town, let me or HarperCollins know!). 100% of whatever royalties I make on each book sold in every city on the tour will be donated to a local social-change group.