



Alberta Greens AGM – Edmonton, October 2005

The Annual General Meeting of the Alberta Greens was held on the afternoon of October 1st at the Strathcona Community League in Edmonton. Jim Harris, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, was the guest speaker.

In his inspirational speech, Jim spoke of the tremendous results in Alberta at the last election, and how impressed he has been with Green activists in this province. At the last federal election, there was a full slate of candidates and some of the highest vote percentages in the country. With stable funding for the central party, the future is looking brighter than ever.

ELECTIONS

There was a vote of confidence in our leader, George Read. The result was 31 votes in favour, and none against.

Madeleine Oldershaw of Calgary was re-elected by acclamation to the position of Executive Secretary.

Due to the resignation of Allison Roth just before the AGM, the position of Communications Coordinator was left vacant. After the meeting three people came forward. Evan Sklarski was appointed by the executive to act in this position until the next AGM.

Ross Adshead, Evan Sklarski, Kim Warnke and Zane Lewis agreed to perform the functions of the Election Coordinator.

Al McCreary and Kitty Dunn were elected to serve on the Justice & Fairness Committee (JFC) for two years. John McDonald, Gus Gutaski and Moira Groeneveld are standby members for one year, and David Lange and Ron Ayotte volunteered to fill in if necessary. Susan Stratton will be the party executive's representative on this committee (which operates independently of the executive).

Donate Now!

The Alberta Greens needs your donations to help prepare for the election that will probably occur shortly after Ralph Klein resigns and a new Conservative Party leader is appointed.

Donate before the end of 2005 and get the tax credit, up to 75% of your donation, on your 2005 taxes!

Next year, consider giving some or all of your \$400 Klein Kickback to the party. Donating the entire amount would give you a tax credit of \$237.50 on your 2006 taxes!

See page 3 for our mailing address.

Ron Ayotte was later appointed as acting Election Readiness Coordinator by the executive. He will therefore not be able to be a standby member of the JFC.

Mark MacGillivray was appointed as federal liaison, a non-voting position.

REVENUE SHARING

At the Alberta Greens' October 2005 AGM a revenue sharing agreement was reached for use between the central party and EDAs (Electoral District Associations) when the central party receives funds designated for an EDA, or vice-versa. In this situation, it was agreed that the recipient organization will keep 20%, and forward 80%.

This allows the central party to receive donations for a specific EDA, while ensuring that some money is reserved for the many ways in which the central party supports the EDA, and to cover the cost of producing and mailing income tax receipts. EDAs can also receive donations for the central party and be reimbursed in this fashion for their time and expenses.

Membership revenue is designated to fund the party newsletter so 100% will be retained by the central party.

The EverGreen fund money (monthly donations via automatic withdrawals from bank accounts) will also be allocated to the central party. See page 4 for a form to enter this program.

It was also agreed that when this kind of arrangement is in place, transfers of money will not normally take place more than once a month, although during an election they may be more frequent.

Federal Green Funding

The Green Party of Canada will be receiving \$1.78 for each of the many votes cast for the party in the last federal election. What should it do with this money?

The proposal that was eventually agreed was to split the money into three even piles: One-third for the central party, one-third for provincial divisions and one-third to Electoral District Associations (EDAs).

Some people, including Deputy Leader Tom Manley disagreed with this. They felt that EDAs should raise money locally, that having a reliable source of funding from the central party will make them less reflective of local needs. They feel that the central services and resources of a strong federal party will, in the end, do the EDAs more good, combined with their locally raised funds.

A bit of a compromise was reached, using a 'Roll Up' policy. When there is no EDA in a province, the money reverts to the region (e.g. a provincial organization) and when there is no regional organization, the money reverts to the central party.

Save Pekisko

*Shelley Willson
Calgary Herald*

If you've ever driven down the highway south of Longview and gazed at the unspoiled vistas of blue sky, rolling native grasslands, acres of wildflowers, and cowboys and cattle backed by jagged mountain peaks, you probably had to catch your breath, realizing that you are somewhere very special indeed, somewhere sacred. This is Pekisko country, its untouched landscape emblematic of Alberta's beauty and its people the heart of our proud ranching heritage. The Pekisko rangelands are the birthplace of the Calgary Stampede, the largest

remaining intact grassland ecosystem in all of North America, and truly the soul of Alberta.

Now it has become the background for Alberta's last stand, pitting Compton Petroleum against a growing grassroots movement to conserve this unparalleled natural wild space, led by the ranching families who have been the stewards of Pekisko since before Alberta itself was born. This year, our province's one hundredth birthday, it is time for all Albertans to encourage the government to save this priceless part of our culture, history and land, by designating Pekisko as a Heritage Rangeland and stopping oil and gas activity.

Pekisko country is the stuff of legends, and its landscape unique – pure water, sharp mountain air, vast pristine vistas, and teeming with wildlife like grizzlies, wolves, elk, cougars, and moose. Underpinning this ecosystem is the native fescue grass, whose roots reach 2-3 metres deep into the soil. Unlike other grasses, fescue survives all manner of drought or flood, and unfailingly nourished vast herds of buffalo for thousands of years.

Once oil and gas wells have been drilled and roads built, the fescue is destroyed – and there is currently no proven way to restore it. Once it's gone, it's gone. Drilling has other effects too, which could consign what is now a sustainable local economy to nothing but history. Soil erosion, loss of forage, air and water contamination number high on the worried ranchers' list, who are gathering public support through the Friends of Pekisko group and in the Calgary business community through the Pekisko Gang (www.pekisko.ca).

In addition to just cattle production, Pekisko country has many economic and social values valuable to all of us Albertans which outweigh the short-term benefit of high risk

hydrocarbon development. For a start, the fescue grass and native forest supports the critical watersheds which supply water to southern Alberta through the Highwood, Willow Creek and Oldman Rivers, necessary to agriculture, industry and communities near and far. The area is critical recreationally for a range of groups including hikers, horse riders, and hunters. Its economic value to tourism and the guiding and outfitting industry cannot be underestimated, neither its impact on provincial identity and pride.

On the ecological front, the beef production of the Pekisko rangelands sustains the natural grass grazing cycle formerly completed by the buffalo. It does this without any additional feed inputs or fossil fuel usage, and produces some of the finest beef in the world. The fescue grass is also a better global carbon sink than most other ecosystems in the world. The grassland can sink up to 200 tonnes of carbon per hectare or more, exceeding that in all above-ground parts of a temperate forest. This is valuable indeed in this day of global warming and we must be vigilant to safeguard these critical ecological services.

In Montana, last year an attempt by energy companies to sink some wells in similar territory – the Blindhorse canyon – drew nearly 50,000 letters of public protest, 99% opposed to the drilling – and in November a stop order was placed on the proposal. Will Albertans also take the initiative to protect our own land and culture here?

There are glimmers of hope – the provincial government has wisely decided to initiate a province wide land use strategy, similar to the 'Water for Life' plan, and the Canada West Foundation is now beginning to spearhead some initial research. Land use planning in Alberta has been for too long piece-

meal with no overall vision or planning, and this step forward is to be applauded. Let's hope that protection for the Pekisko will come at the top of the agenda.

A recent Calgary Herald poll showed that three quarters participants felt not enough is being done by the government to celebrate Alberta's Centennial. What better and more visible way to achieve this than by preserving Pekisko country, the heart of our natural, cultural and economic heritage? Why not follow the excellent example of the preservation of the Whaleback in 2003 as Alberta's first 'Heritage Rangeland', retaining it as a working landscape while gifting it with the muscle of protected status.

Cheviot Gets Go-Ahead :(

Sierra Legal Defence Fund, Sierra Club of Canada, Nature Canada, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, Jasper Environmental Assoc., Alberta Wilderness

Assoc.

August 18, 2005

Canada's Federal Court released a disappointing decision in August that will allow a massive open-pit coal mine development on the doorstep of Jasper National Park to proceed; despite serious concerns from conservation groups from across the country and officials within the federal government. The conservation groups are now reviewing the 45-page decision to determine if there are grounds for appeal.

Sierra Legal Defence Fund launched the court case on behalf of five Canadian conservation groups opposed to allowing the substantially revised Cheviot mine project to proceed without undergoing a new environmental assessment. The project changed significantly since it was first proposed in 1996 and an updated environmental assessment should be required to address its effects.

"We asked the Court to ensure that the glaringly obvious environmental concerns regarding this project are appropriately mitigated," said Sierra Legal lawyer Justin Duncan. "Simply put, the federal government authorized activities that will result in the destruction of the habitat for grizzlies and thousands of migratory birds and the Court was unable to correct this oversight."

The case was launched on behalf of Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, Sierra Club of Canada, Nature Canada, Jasper Environmental Association and Alberta Wilderness Association. The groups argued that the federal government's authorization of the first section of the mine should be quashed because it would result in the destruction of migratory bird habitat and contravene the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act.

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

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MEMBERSHIP – ALBERTA GREENS: Voting membership in the Alberta Greens is only \$10 per year! Mail us a cheque or pay with a credit card at AlbertaGreens.ca. You do not need to be a voting member to 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:

Alan McCreary

Secretary, Green Party of Canada in Alberta

#46 - 6915 Ranchview Dr. NW

Calgary, Alberta, T3G 1R8, Canada

Email: alanmccreary@shaw.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 will be reimbursed on your next Alberta tax return. A \$100 donation will cost you only \$25.

MEETINGS: For information on meeting dates, times and locations, see our website or contact the party secretary.

COMMENTS: We welcome submissions for this Newsletter. Please send them to the editor by email to

cfo@albertagreens.ca.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please let us know your new phone, address or email contact information *before* they change. Include your name, both your old and new information as well as the effective date of the change. Send updates to our address above.

THANKS: Thanks to Julia and Erica Crowe for helping with the mailout.

EverGreen Campaign

The EverGreen campaign helps to provide core funding for the activities of the Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta). Your monthly gift allows us to continue to campaign inside and outside of election periods.

You will receive a tax receipt after the end of every year in which you participate in this program. When included with your Alberta tax return, you will receive a credit of up to 75% of your donation. \$10 a month amounts to \$120 a year, but your cost is only \$30!

Monthly Donation	Annual Total	Alberta Tax Credit	Net Cost to You
\$5	\$60	\$45	\$15
\$10	\$120	\$90	\$30
\$15	\$180	\$135	\$45
\$25	\$300	\$200	\$100
\$75	\$900	\$500	\$400
\$100	\$1,200	\$633	\$567

Please give generously.

Authorization for Automatic Bank Withdrawals

This form is used to request that the Alberta Greens withdraw the specified amount of money on the 15th of every month, and use it as a donation.

Full Name:

Street Address:

City:

Alberta Postal Code:

Note: donations cannot be accepted from people outside Alberta.

Email:

Telephone:

Fax:

Bank Name and Address:

Transit # (5 digits):

Bank # (3 digits)

Account # (7 or more digits):

Amount of withdrawal

Check box if we should use \$10 of the donated funds to pay for your annual membership

I authorize the Alberta Greens (Green Party of Alberta) to debit my bank account as indicated above:

Signature:

Date:

Please give this form to an authorized representative of the Alberta Greens, fax to (403) 289-6658 or mail to the Alberta Greens at Box 61251, RPO Brentwood, Calgary, T2L 2K6. If possible, include a void cheque (some banks will supply these even for non-chequing accounts).

“They expanded the mine site, taking in the McLeod River valley and severing wildlife habitat, including that required by the region’s threatened grizzly bear population,” said Dianne Pachal of the Sierra Club of Canada. “That the Court and the federal government would allow this type of development without an environmental assessment is devastating for the land, watershed and wildlife habitat.” [nor does it say much for the ability of Canada’s legal system to protect the environment – ed.]

The open-pit coal mine, comparable in width to the city of Edmonton, is proposed for a mountain area that has been designated by the federal and provincial government as “Nationally Significant” for its unique natural features. One-fifth of the mine was approved by the federal authorization challenged in court. If the open-pit mine is fully developed, the Canadian Wildlife Service estimates that habitat for up to 5,000 songbirds will be lost. Serious concerns were raised by both Environment Canada and Parks Canada officials with regards to the modified project’s environmental impacts.

“It is terribly unfortunate that the court failed to recognize how this decision will adversely affect the region’s songbirds, as well as one of the largest breeding populations of Harlequin ducks in Alberta,” said Julie Gelfand, president of Nature Canada. “The Cheviot area is rich in biological diversity and we are very disappointed that an open-pit mine will exist less than three kilometres from Jasper national Park, which is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

For maps, photos and background see:

www.cpaws-edmonton.org/cheviot

Save us Money; Receive your Newsletter by email!

It costs about \$3 to mail out one newsletter. We can email the same information at almost no cost. If you are willing to receive this newsletter electronically, send your name and email address to our membership coordinator, at:

membership@albertagreens.ca

Include your mailing address and at least one phone number as well. It is common for people to change their email address and this ensures that we can still communicate with you.

Too Hard to Bear

AWA

Ten more grizzly bears were killed in the province’s spring grizzly bear hunt, according to new figures released by the Alberta government. Conservation groups say that this is totally unacceptable in a province developing a Recovery Plan process for a threatened species.

“This is ten bears too many,” says Nigel Douglas, Conservation Specialist with Alberta Wilderness Association. “The evidence is clear now that grizzly bears are in serious trouble in Alberta and this hunt shames Alberta both nationally and internationally.”

Calls to suspend the hunt come not just from conservation groups but also from concerned hunters and even from the government’s own scientists. The provincial Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan reports, “Because hunting is the largest source of grizzly bear mortality, an immediate, temporary suspension of the hunt is necessary to significantly reduce mortality while recovery actions are implemented.”

The plan, which was submitted to Minister for Sustainable Resource Development, David Coumts, in

December 2004 by his multi-stakeholder Recovery Team, is very clear on the matter. But the minister continues to prevaricate.

“It has been three years since the government’s own scientists and advisory committees began stressing the importance of suspending the hunt, and each year the evidence continues to mount,” says Tracey Henderson, Program Director of the Grizzly Bear Alliance. “It is time Premier Klein started managing grizzly bears in a manner that acknowledges the existing science and the values of all Albertans, not just those few who wish to have another trophy for their wall.”

Half of the bears, including three females, were killed in units already highlighted for excessive human-caused grizzly deaths. “Just ending the hunt will not save grizzlies,” says Jim Pissot of Defenders of Wildlife Canada. “But it is one provincial action that will be immediately beneficial to Alberta’s threatened grizzly population.”

In 2002, the government’s Endangered Species Conservation Committee recommended that the grizzly should be designated as ‘threatened’ in Alberta. “The government’s continued reluctance to suspend the hunt clearly demonstrates their lack of sincerity in recovering this important species,” says Henderson.

Arctic Green Parties Call on Leaders to Oppose Drilling

*Green Party of Canada
Green Party of the US
September 20th 2005*

Green Parties of the Arctic Council member countries are calling upon country leaders to oppose oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), said Green Party of Canada leader Jim Harris in a historic first joint

statement with the Green Parties of Denmark, Finland, and the U.S. today.

Harris made the comments on Arctic Refuge Action Day as thousands of concerned citizens gathered at the U.S. Capitol to voice their opposition to drilling in the refuge. The statements came just over two weeks before the U.S. Senate was expected to finalize a budget bill that could allow companies to begin leasing exploration tracts.

“In order to reverse global climate change, Arctic countries must immediately reduce their uneven share of greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels,” said Harris who noted the U.S. contributes nearly 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions with only 5% of the world’s population.

The Arctic Council has reported that temperatures in the Arctic are rising twice as fast as the rest of the world. Global climate change is causing habitats to melt away, wildlife to go extinct and new migration patterns that have eroded the livelihoods of Northern peoples.

The Bush Administration is also turning a blind eye to economic forecasters who warn that spikes in global oil prices will harm the world economy if renewable energy sources are not made more available. The price of crude oil skyrocketed beyond \$US70 per barrel after Hurricane Katrina hit the U.S. Gulf coast last month.

“Extracting the 11 billion barrels of oil thought to exist in the ANWR will do next to nothing to cushion spikes in oil prices due to supply interruptions on the U.S. Gulf coast, in Africa, the Middle East or Latin America,” said Harris.

“There is no good reason for the U.S. to jeopardize the world economy and the environment for only 17 months of oil – 10 years down the road.”The Green Party of Canada

calls upon the leaders of Arctic Council member countries to follow through on their commitment to protecting Arctic ecosystems and communities by pressuring the U.S. to abandon oil and gas exploration in the ANWR and ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

New Zealand Greens Oppose Water Fluoridation

Sue Kedgley MP, of the New Zealand Green Party has stated that their newly published health policy calls for exploration of “alternatives to the mass medication of our water supplies with fluoride”. This may be an issue in the country’s upcoming national elections.

Some of these ideas include promoting comprehensive oral health in schools and pre-schools, and reducing children’s exposure to high sugar foods and drinks by controlling what is sold in schools.

Their entire health policy can be viewed at:

greens.org.nz/searchdocs/policy4751.html

Opposition to water fluoridation is growing. Eleven US Environmental Protection Agency unions have called for a moratorium on fluoridation, pending a review of its risks and benefits. See:

mercola.com/blog/2005/aug/31/epa_unions_call_for_fluoridation_moratorium

The most complete anti-fluoridation website can be found at:

fluorideaction.net

Global Green Websites Worldwide	
ALBERTA	AlbertaGreens.ca
B.C.	GreenParty.bc.ca
SASKATCHEWAN	votenga.ca
MANITOBA	GreenParty.mb.ca
ONTARIO	GreenParty.on.ca
QUÉBEC	PartiVertQuebec.org
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	peigreens.isn.net/default.htm
NEWFOUNDLAND	infonet.st-johns.nf.ca/providers/green/index.html
CANADA	GreenParty.ca
USA	gp.org
MÉXICO	pvem.org.mx
EUROPE	europeangreens.org
CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA	web.greens.org/ams.shtml
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	web.greens.org/oceana.shtml
AFRICA	web.greens.org/africa.shtml
ASIA	web.greens.org/asia.shtml