



It's Donation Time!

'Tis the season to donate to your favourite political party. That would be the Alberta Greens, the voice for environmental sanity and social action in this province's political life.

If you donate before the end of the year and pay Alberta taxes, your tax credit will be included on your tax return.

For example, if you donate \$150 to the Alberta Greens in 2003, you would receive an income tax credit of \$112.50, meaning that the donation actually only cost you \$37.50! Above \$150 the credit declines. It is 50% of the next \$675. The total credit cannot exceed \$750.

The Alberta Greens use donations to fund party activities. They will assist candidates at future general elections and by-elections. The party has no employees, so no money goes to salaries.

To donate, send a cheque to our mailing address shown on Page 2.

Alberta Greens Membership Fee Instituted

A voting membership fee of \$10 per year (not tax-deductible) was instituted at the recent AGM. It will be waived for people without the ability to pay.

The voting membership is now required to vote at a general meeting, be on the party executive or run as an Alberta Greens candidate.

Non-voting-members can continue to receive this newsletter and participate in most party activities.

New Executive Members

At the November 1st 2003 Annual General Meeting, the following new executive members were elected for two year terms:

- George Read – Leader.
- Mark MacGillivray – Treasurer.
- Madeleine Oldershaw – Secretary.

David Crowe was re-appointed as President of the party.

All executive members are now from Calgary. This is not desirable, so it was decided to allow the executive to appoint *ex officio* members to the executive to provide representation from other regions as well as from Campus Green societies.

New Website!

The Alberta Greens have a new website:

www.AlbertaGreens.ca

This is an alias to our real website:

www.calna.ab.ca/politics/province/abgreens/abgreens.html

We are still trying (and have been for over a year) to obtain "green.ab.ca" which would be more consistent with other Canadian green parties, but the current bureaucratic Gods of the Canadian internet have established a system that makes this virtually impossible. One day we might tell the full saga.

Leader's Message: Articulating the Dream

*George Read
Leader, Alberta Greens*

Many of you know me from the work I have done in the party. Many of you supported me in my bid for the leadership and I want to thank you all.

For the past three years, we have fought a holding and consolidating action. We have reconnected with lost members. We have rebuilt bridges. The work that we have done recently has been mostly maintaining the party.

Today is the beginning of a new direction. We need to speak about the Dream of a Sustainable Society. I will be beginning a speaker series to inform as many people as possible about the Green Dream. I cannot do it alone. I need your help. I need you to talk to your friends,

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 email address, along with a preference of 'Plain Text' or 'PDF' format, to our membership coordinator, at:

AlanMcCreary@shaw.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.

your families, your co-workers, even the people you meet everyday. Tell them about the Dream of a Sustainable Society.

Many Greens I meet say they support the ideas of the party in general, but do not know enough to talk about the Dream of a Sustainable Society. I believe that we can start by talking about what we know. We all understand the basic ideas.

I will be speaking at events listed below. Please come and meet me, talk about our dream and how we can realize it.

Upcoming Calgary Meetings

Roasterie Too Coffee Shop (227 10th St NW)

- Nov 19th 8:00 PM
- Dec 3rd 8:00 PM

Nellies Cosmic Cafe Upstairs (1001 17th Ave SW)

- Nov 26th 8:00 PM

Upcoming Edmonton Meetings

- Nov 29th or 30th, location to be announced.

Green Party of Canada National Meeting — Calgary, 2004

The Green Party of Canada will probably hold its national meeting in Calgary sometime during August in 2004. The location will probably be on the University of Calgary campus. As you can tell, planning is just in the early stages. More details will be published in future issues of this newsletter.

If you would like to help out, please contact Darcy Kraus at +1-403-244-3848 or by email at:

djkbuddha@yahoo.ca.

Tell Us If You Are Moving (or changing your email address)

If you are moving please let us know. Also, let us know if just your email address is changing.

You can send address changes to us at our address listed in the sidebar on this page or email them to Alan McCreary, our membership coordinator, at:

AlanMcCreary@shaw.ca.

ALBERTA GREENS INFORMATION

Address: Box 61251, RPO Brentwood
Calgary, AB, T2L 2K6, Canada

Web: AlbertaGreens.ca

Leader: George Read +1-403-230-9474
politics_of_ecology@yahoo.ca

President: David Crowe +1-403-289-6609
David.Crowe@aras.ab.ca

Treasurer: Mark MacGillivray +1-403-204-5400
Mark.Macgillivray@SuperPages.ca

Secretary: Madeleine Oldershaw +1-403-282-4788
molders@calcna.ab.ca

Membership: Alan McCreary +1-403-239-6768
AlanMcCreary@shaw.ca

MEMBERSHIP - ALBERTA GREENS

Voting membership in the Alberta Greens is only \$10 per year! Simply send payment, along with your name, address and other contact information to our mailing or email address above. You do not need to be a voting (paid) 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 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, contact the party secretary.

COMMENTS

We welcome submissions for this Newsletter. Please send them to the editor by email to David.Crowe@aras.ab.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.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

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

Jim Harris at AGM

Jim Harris, Leader of the Green Party of Canada, spoke at the November 1st 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Green Party of Canada in Alberta.

Jim spoke of the importance of achieving 2% of the total vote in the next federal election. If this level is achieved the party will then be funded by the federal government to the tune of about \$500,000 every year! This will pay for a fully staffed Ottawa office, plus full time regional staff. This will undoubtedly have spin-off benefits for the provincial party as well.

Jim stressed the importance of Alberta in this election. BC and Ontario will run a full slate of candidates and might, by themselves, push the party over the 2% limit. Alberta, however, has the highest number of voters per riding, so a full slate (or close to it) in Alberta would be very important at ensuring this victory.

Jim spoke of the Green Party being the wave of the future, with particularly high support among youth. Analysts believe that four ridings will elect Greens in BC in the next provincial election, and Ontario will not be far behind.

In order to ensure that all candidates can run, Jim Harris is proposing that the Green Party obtain a loan, at election time, of about \$100,000 to cover deposits. The cost of this is estimated at about \$6,000. This could help achieve the required level to achieve funding.

Green Party of Ontario Excluded from Campaign Debate

*Michael Pilling
September 25, 2003*

Despite a huge outpouring of public support the TV network consortium refused to allow Frank DeJong to participate in the Ontario party leaders' debate. In the last few days before the debate, the campaign team called upon prominent Ontarians to express their belief that this kind of censorship was undemocratic.

www.greenparty.on.ca/news/press_release/fulltext.shtml?x=220

The list included CEOs, activists, artists, authors, naturalists, broadcasters, politicians of all stripes, a former chairman of the CRTC, and university presidents. This indicates how far our message has reached and how important people feel it is that we take our place in the debate.

The campaign team felt that a demonstration at the studio was not the most effective way to express our displeasure. Since some of the media still believes that we are a protest party, we were not going to give them a protest to reinforce this view. Our strategy is now to pursue a legal challenge - hold those responsible to account, and ensure it never happens again. In this, Ontario is behind us. - Even the Toronto Sun expressed the opinion that exclusion was wrong. Thanks to everyone who phoned, emailed and wrote to the broadcasters.

Green Party of Ontario in the October 2003 Election

Green Party of Ontario

*"After consulting with the public, we will hold a referendum on whether we should keep our winner-take-all voting system or replace it with another."
Ontario Liberal Party Platform*

After the October, 2003 Ontario election, Frank de Jong, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario, congratulated Premier-designate Dalton McGuinty and said his party will support the government in its electoral reform efforts. He also praised the members of his own party, which made historic gains in this election.

"I want to congratulate Mr. McGuinty for running such an excellent campaign and for sticking to the high road," said de Jong. "Our party especially looks forward to the binding referendum on electoral reform that was promised by the Premier-designate. If the Liberal Party wishes to take a multi-partisan approach to electoral reform, the Green Party stands ready to provide its resources and expertise."

"I also want to thank our candidates and volunteers for running such an excellent campaign. The Green Party has made history. It is now firmly established as a force in Ontario politics. I am fully confident that if Mr. McGuinty follows through on his promises, becoming the first winner of a massive majority under the 'first past the post' system to have the

Table 1: Green Party of Ontario Performance: 1985-2003

Election Year	Candidates	Ridings	Votes	%	Votes / Riding
1985	9	125	5,345	0.15	594
1987	7	130	3,398	0.09	485
1990	40	130	30,097	0.75	752
1995	37	130	14,108	0.34	381
1999	58	103	30,749	0.70	530
2003	102	103	127,015	2.80	1,245

integrity to reform the way Canadians vote you will see Greens in government after the next election.”

Highlights for the Green Party in this election include:

- Placing third in the riding of Dufferin-Peel-Wellington-Grey (Frank de Jong);
- Placing third in the riding of Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburgh (Tom Manley);
- More than tripling its province-wide support from 37,370 votes in 1999 to 127,000;
- Increasing its percentage of the popular vote from 1% in 1999 to 3%;
- Electing a member to parliament in the Kids Voting Canada Secondary School Campaign (Parry Sound-Muskoka) and receiving 10.9% of the student vote province-wide; and
- Garnering 7.3% of the student vote in the Kids Voting Canada Elementary School Campaign.

“In the years ahead, Ontarians should expect to hear from the Green Party on a whole range of issues. We will work hard to promote our vision for Ontario, develop new and practical alternatives to the status quo, work co-operatively with the three other major parties and help keep our new government accountable for its promises,” said de Jong. “We owe it to each and every one of the 127,000 people who voted for us and to all our fellow citizens to continue working hard to build A Better Way to Live.”

Table 1 summarizes the performance of the Green Party of Ontario in this election compared to previous elections that it has participated in.

Proportional Representation and the Ontario Election

On October 2, 2003 the Liberals won a landslide majority in Ontario... with 46% of the popular vote.

If Proportional Representation (PR) had been the electoral system in Ontario there would have been a Liberal minority government with the support of either the Conservative or New Democratic party.

Many more people would have voted Green because their vote would have counted even if the party did not win the majority of votes in a single riding.

It is important to compare the results with those under the more fair electoral system of Proportional Representation, as shown in Table 2.

Dear MPs: Just Say Yes to PR!

*David Parker
Past Leader, Alberta Greens*

Dear Parliamentarians,

Canadians are desperate to have their democratic votes equalized. They want their vote to be of equal value to that of every other Canadian citizen. Whether we live in urban or rural districts, staunchly conservative or socially democratic constituencies, we want each vote to count for the same value.

As you are aware, our current system gives the appearance of the west being conservative, central Canada strongly Liberal and the east more mixed. This breakdown does not reflect the proper distribution of political values in Canada.

Our existing system precludes new parties and their new ideas taking hold. The British parliamentary system, which ours is based on, is designed to entrench the established 2 or 3 parties as if they were dynasties.

People in a *First Past The Post* system like ours are forced to vote against a party as opposed to voting for the party they really support. A vote for a Green Party is usually seen as a vote wasted. In the last BC election 12.4% of votes cast were effectively useless since zero Greens were elected. This meant that 1 in every 8 voters performed their civic duty, created CO₂ travelling to the polling station, but had no impact on the outcome.

In the 1993 election the PC, Reform and Bloc were approximately equal in popular vote tallies but the Tories were humiliated by being reduced to 2 seats while the Bloc and Reform fought over who should become the official opposition.

You are probably aware of other aberrant elections due to our FPTP system where parties obtain massive majorities of seats with often less than a majority of votes.

You have a choice to begin to move Canada in the same democratic direction as the vast majority of the rest of the democratic world. Please take it. Don't stay with the regressive system that out of all developed countries, only the UK the USA and Canada still use.

Table 1: Party Standings in 2003 Ontario Provincial Election

Party	% of vote	Seats awarded	Seats under PR
Liberal	46	72	47
Conservative	35	24	36
New Democrat	15	7	15
Green/Other	4	0	5

MPs Say No! to P-R

*NDP Media Centre
September 30, 2003*

NDP Leader Jack Layton today congratulated NDP MP Lorne Nystrom for presenting a votable motion in Parliament to explore replacing Canada's first-past-the-post electoral system with a proportional representation system. It was Parliament's first vote on the issue in 80 years.

The federal Liberals, including Paul Martin, voted against electoral reform and used their House majority to defeat the NDP motion 145 to 76.

"Paul Martin talks about a democratic deficit in this country, but when he has a chance to do something about it, he opts not to," said Layton.

The Liberals, who won their federal majorities with only 40% of the vote, used that "majority" to defeat today's PR vote. Most of the Alliance and Bloc Québécois voted with the NDP as did two Liberal MPs. The Tories voted with the Liberals.

Every industrialized democracy in the world except the U.S. and Canada has adopted some form of proportional representation in their voting systems. Even the Liberals' own political cousins in B.C. and Quebec, and P.E.I.'s Conservatives, are studying this kind of electoral reform.

The NDP motion read: "That this House call upon the government to hold a referendum within one year to determine whether Canadians wish to replace the current electoral system with a system of proportional representation and, if so, to appoint a commission to consult Canadians on the preferred model of proportional representation and the process of implementation, with an implementation date no later than July 1, 2006."

JOE CLARK RESPONDS

*David Crowe
President, Alberta Greens*

When Joe Clark, former leader of the Progressive Conservatives, and member for Calgary Centre, was asked why he did not support the NDP P-R motion, he referred to a speech by M.P. Inky Marks on the NDP motion.

He stated that their party supported electoral reform, just not the NDP motion "Upon formation of government, a commission will be immediately struck to hold public consultation on the most appropriate electoral system for Canada. The commission will be empowered to make recommendations to Parliament regarding any changes in the electoral system. Parliament, if possible, will implement changes in time for the next election."

In other words, even the Progressive Conservatives support some sort of electoral reform, but not necessarily Proportional Representation. They felt that a period of debate is necessary among Canadians and that the referendum should be simultaneous with an election to save money.

Green Candidate in Newfoundland Election

Steve Durant ran in the St. John's East provincial election. Although he was not on the ballot as "Green Party" he is a committed member of the Terra Nova Green Association.

Steve promoted a guaranteed annual income for all, the removal of barriers to post-secondary education, health promotion, replacement of the province's patchwork forestry permit system with an accountable and sustainable model and the continued fight against lax fisheries enforcement.

The campaign incurred expenses for advertising: 25 lawn/road signs, an ad in the Telegram's election supplement, a web-domain (stevedurant.com) and 2,000 brochures, which were handed out

at doorsteps and post-secondary institutions in the district. These dovetailed nicely with media interest by CBC, NTV, Out of the Fog and VOXM, and in-person campaigning. The response was overwhelmingly positive, people were more receptive to the Green message than in the past.

Steve Durant received 1.1% of the vote in St. John's East in the October 21, 2003 provincial election.

Greens Come Fourth in California Gubernatorial Fiasco

Green gubernatorial candidate Peter Miguel Camejo (3%) came fourth in California's October 7th 2003 fiasco, behind Arnold 'Terminator' Schwarzenegger (48%), Democrat Lieutenant Governor Bustamante (32%) and Republican McClintock (13%). Camejo was far ahead of Huffington (1%) who threw her votes to Bustamante.

1 in 4 Americans say Nader Should Run Again

According to a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll release on October 21st 2003 23% of US voters want Ralph Nader to run in the 2004 presidential elections.

WANT TO HELP?

You can help the Alberta Greens in many different ways. You can run as a candidate, act as campaign manager or chief agent for a candidate, or simply drop off flyers, host a neighbourhood coffee party to introduce the candidate or get on the phone and call prospective voters.

Even when an election is not looming you can, of course, donate money to the party and receive much of it back in Alberta tax credits. You can also help out in the development of policy, write articles for this newsletter, phone to expand and strengthen the membership or dream up your own way to help the party grow.

Another question on the poll was whether Nader's votes in the last election (3%) cost the Democrat's the election. 52% of those polled rejected this notion. Rumor has it that his vice-presidential running mate this time will be Erin Brockovich (yes, the one they made the movie about, starring Julia Roberts as Erin Brockovich. Nader's running mate will be the real Erin Brockovich).

Green Party of Poland Founded in September

The Green Party of Poland was founded in September, 2004. Known officially as *The Greens 2004*, it is more commonly known as *Zieloni (The Greens)*.

The chairwoman is Magda Mosiewicz who is a freelance filmmaker, active in both feminist and ecological circles. She can be reached by email at mosiex@poczta.fm.

The chairman (the party has strict gender equality) is Jacek Bozek, one of the most charismatic leaders of the ecological movement in Poland, who is also involved in human rights issues. His email is klub@gaja.most.org.pl.

The national council includes people from all over the country representing ecological organizations, feminist groups, national minorities, Lesbian-Bisexual-Gay-Transsexuals and human rights activists.

The party now needs to collect 1,000 signatures to be officially registered under Polish law.

Greens Grow in Switzerland

In an October, 2003 election, the Swiss Green Party won 14 seats, 5 more than it previously held. The unfortunate news was that an extreme right wing party ("xenophobic, populist, patriotic, anti-European and moralist") gained 11 seats.

Australian Greens Ambush Bush

During an October 2003 visit to Australia, US President George Bush was heckled both inside and outside parliament.

Bush defended his invasion of Iraq, referring to Australia as a regional 'Sheriff'. This angered Green politicians who twice interrupted his speech by heckling. Green party leader Bob Brown and colleague Kerry Nettle were banned from parliament for 24 hours, which conveniently kept them out during the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Also removed from parliament was Mamdouh Habib, 18-year-old son of one of two Australians held outside any nation's laws at the Guantanamo Bay concentration camp after he shouted out "Hey Bush, what about my Dad?".

Global Green Websites Worldwide

AREA	URL
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
OTHER INFORMATION	www.gruppom.com/gm/2003.html