

Winnipeg South Federal Liberal Association

Winnipeg South Federal Liberal Association Newsletter Winter 2012

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Liberal Party News

Recent news on the Liberal Party of Canada and the January Convention.

New Board

Information on the new Board of Directors that will help guide our party on the path to renewal.

Humour

Outtakes from Bob Rae's appearance on This Hour has 22 Minutes.

Quotable Opinions

Important thoughts and analyses from noted political commentators

Get involved!

Join the Victory Fund, Volunteer to help, and join our email distribution list

Links of Interest

Internet resources from noted Liberal Party bloggers and commentators.

Message from the President:

Winnipeg South Federal Liberals were certainly well represented at the Liberal Biennial Convention in Ottawa January 13-15th with 20 committed delegates attending on behalf of the constituency. It was a rich experience for us all. We appreciated the opportunity to learn from the MP Critics about the issues of the day from their perspectives and from experts in the areas where policy resolutions were being considered. I think I speak for all of those who attended when I say it was an amazing experience to be among 3300 delegates from across the country, delegates who were so willing to debate today's issues, then come together so well to support the party.

We came back with a sense of commitment to reach out to our communities, share our ideas, and double our association membership and fundraising. Winnipeg South was among the top ranked Electoral District Associations (Riding

Associations) in this area, but we are still committed to expanding our membership. At our first executive meeting following the conference, a community event committee was struck to organize an event toward the end of April that will include the community at large. We are still looking for volunteers to help manage our webpage and participate on the Liberalist committee devoted to improving our supporter and membership tracking.

With the new resolution on opening the party leadership selection to "supporters", there are lots of our friends, neighbours and family members that we can engage in the Liberal Movement. Let's reach out all the Liberal-minded Canadians concerned about our country and our future.

-- Jacquie Field

Did you know...

that our candidate in the last federal election, Terry Duguid, was a member of the organizing committee for the 2012 Liberal Biennial Convention?

VICTORY FUND

The Victory Fund is the simplest and most affordable way to support the Liberal Party and help pursue our goals both nationally and locally.

The Victory Fund works like this:

- You make small, monthly contributions of \$10 dollars or more;
- Part goes to the national office and part goes to the riding of your choice.

Your personal contributions not only help the Liberal candidate in your riding but also allow the party to develop the policy that will help build a better Canada and share our vision from coast to coast to coast.

After a year-end tax credit of up to 75 per cent, your minimum \$10 monthly donation to the Victory Fund will cost you as little as \$2.50 per month – less than 10¢ a day! – to help build the Canada you want.

Give to the Victory Fund and help build the Canada of tomorrow, today.

<https://action.liberal.ca/en/VictoryFund>

*All Victory Fund contributions include a membership to the Liberal Party of Canada.



Did you know...

that the late Honorable Reg Alcock, MP, was given the Science Advocacy Award in 1999 by the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies for promoting science awareness and support for research and innovation in Canada.

<http://www.cfbs.org/grants-saa1999.html>

News from the Liberal Party of Canada

www.liberal.ca

The new **President** of the **Liberal Party of Canada** is Mike Crawley. For the full slate of executive officers elected at the Biennial Convention see: <http://www.liberal.ca/party/national-board-of-directors/>

Victory Fund: From January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, the number of Victory Fund members increased from 34, 620 to 67,229. Winnipeg South reached the \$10,000 dollar mark, making us one of the top achieving ridings in the country. Keep up the good work!

Holiday Season Reunion

Approximately 50 people attended the Holiday Season Reunion in December. Terry Duguid spoke at the event, thanking, once again, all the many volunteers and supporters who came out during the last campaign and urging everyone to take heart and move forward towards rebuilding.

Wanted...

Volunteers for the Website Development & Management Committee

Volunteers for the Liberalist Committee

For more information, please contact Jacquie Field at 269-7822 or jacquiefield@shaw.ca

Did you know...

that the 2012 Liberal Biennial Convention was the largest in the history of the party, with more delegates than the NDP and Conservative conventions combined?

Did you know...

that Manitoba had more delegates per capita than any other province at the convention?



FROM CONSULTATION TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Your input matters!

During the fall 2011, the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) sent out a consultation form to all its ridings. In total more than 1,500 individuals – both members and friends – from across the country submitted their answers to three questions. These comments were compiled into a final report and presented at the Ottawa 2012 Liberal Biennial Convention.

In Winnipeg South, 27 people filled out the consultation forms. Not only were some of the most frequent answers aligned with those of Liberals across the country, but they were also aligned with many of the recommendations, policy resolutions, and constitutional amendments adopted at the convention!

1. Why are you a Liberal?

Winnipeg South: Social justice, a party of caring, the Charter of Rights; participatory democracy; inclusive, listens to people

National Summary: Liberal governments provide a good balance between the economy and social justice; Liberal governments are compassionate

Policy resolutions: Reaffirming women's right to reproductive health services; northern economic vulnerability; early childhood development and child care; democratic renewal; supporting Canada's Aboriginal peoples; and many more.

2. How should the Liberal Party of Canada re-build?

Winnipeg South: Grassroots involvement; keep in touch with members and friends; build our Financial Resources; strengthen the riding associations.

National Summary: Strengthen & support riding associations; increase member engagement and participation; strengthen accountability in the Party.

Constitutional Amendments: Creation of new supporter category; participation of supporters in leadership vote (see <http://convention.liberal.ca/files/2012/01/Constitutional-Amendments-Results.pdf>)

Recommendations: Maintaining a permanent virtual and real-time policy development process accessible to all Members and Supporters through its website; that each riding to undertake a comprehensive and nationally-supported voter registration drive between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013; development and growth of Victory Fund donor program.

See <http://convention.liberal.ca/files/2012/01/Sense-of-the-Convention-Results.pdf>

3. What should the Liberal Party of Canada do that it is not currently doing?

Winnipeg South: Think tanks; cultivate media; more social events to inform members and help network; differentiate ourselves.

National Summary: Promote a vision; engage members; provide better communication to members and public; help ridings foster community engagement.

Recommendations: See number two above.

Those who completed the consultation forms were also asked to identify issues important to them. The top four selected were

1. Health
2. Environment
3. Economy
4. Accountability and democratic renewal

Policy resolutions passed at the Biennial Convention were very much in line with these priorities.

See http://convention.liberal.ca/files/2012/01/Ottawa-2012_Policy-Resolutions-OUTCOME.pdf

Quotable Opinions

From noted political analysts...

The new federal health strategy: give the money and run [CMAJ editorial] "Rather than having the courage to show leadership in carrying out this responsibility [the establishment of national standards and equity of health care across the country], the federal government has instead treated the health accord renegotiation as merely a distasteful chore to be dispatched as expediently as possible." **Dr. Matthew B. Stanbrook**, January 23, 2012 www.cmaj.ca

Harper's Looming Health Care Fiasco "No matter what, health care reform is going to require a federal government that has a vision and that is willing to work with the provinces. Mr. Harper's "watertight compartments" approach to federalism demonstrates neither of these qualities. **Zach Paikin**, http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/zach-paikin/health-care-transfers_b_1240383.html

Can Canada get on with national pharmacare already? [CMAJ editorial] "Despite some improvements in health and quality of life, Canada's drug costs are rising faster than any other member country of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, at a rate close to 10% per year. Our disorganized management of pharmaceutical care makes drugs one of the most substantial cost drivers in the health system and a serious threat to medicare over the long term. All these problems are well understood, and in response the National Pharmaceuticals Strategy was created as part of the 2004 federal-provincial health accord. [...] Yet by 2011, shockingly little has been accomplished toward these goals." CMAJ, December 13, 2011
Matthew B. Stanbrook and others

"....federal pension and income support programs for seniors and transfer payments to the provinces for health and social services have a significant influence on the availability and accessibility of seniors' care." From Summary, IRPP Study, No. 24, November 2011 by **Harvey Lazar**, on *The Federal Government's Role in Care for Seniors*.

"The world needs our commodities, energy and otherwise. [...] We need to understand, though, that if we do poorly on innovation and productivity, it is because we focus our national energies – political and economic — on this commodity-based approach to prosperity."

Alexander Wood, January 30, 2012 http://business.financialpost.com/2012/01/30/canadian-vs-american-perspective-on-energy/?_lsa=15b35702



Quotable Opinions...continued

"In his day, Mr. Chrétien was often condemned, by yours truly in particular, for running a dictatorial-styled government. With his authoritarian, *l'état c'est moi* approach, Mr. Harper is starting to make Mr. Chrétien look like Twinkletoes." **Lawrence Martin**, Dec 27 2011, Globe and Mail <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/opinion/a-banner-year-for-the-new-conservative-agenda/article2281515>

Tories have put Canadians in a hole: "Canada has ... "the best net debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7". It sounds good, but he [Harper] is choosing the numbers he cites carefully. According to the International Monetary Fund's Fiscal Monitor, Canada's **gross** debt-to-GDP ratio, which includes other levels of debt [provincial as well as federal], is 84 per cent, much better than Japan (220) and Italy (119), a bit better than the United States (91.6) but worse than France (81), Germany (80) and the United Kingdom (77)." **Stephen Maher**, Postmedia news, January 26, 2012. www.calgaryherald.com/business/Maher+Tories+have+Canadians+hole/6064408/story.html

Truculent moralizing for a domestic audience: "In climate-change negotiations, the government's attitude of palpable disdain for the Kyoto Protocol, coupled with its own deplorable record of inaction against greenhouse-gas emissions, shredded whatever credibility Canada might have aspired to enjoy." **Jeffrey Simpson**, Globe and Mail, Saturday, Feb. 04, 2012 <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/jeffrey-simpson/truculent-moralizing-for-a-domestic-audience/article2325825>

Stephen Harper's old-age pension cuts unnecessary: "Nonetheless, the myth of pensioner excess provides an easy talking point for those anxious to cut social spending in Canada." **Thomas Walkom**, The Toronto STAR, Jan 27 2012 <http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1122622--walkom-stephen-harper-s-old-age-pension-cuts-unnecessary>

Extra special...

22 Minutes CBC TV: Bob Rae Can't Stop Laughing (Bloopers from Liberal Convention Skit)

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/01/18/22-minutes-bob-rae-liberal-convention_n_1212616.html?1326895061

Events

The **Winnipeg South Liberal Riding Association** will hold its **Annual General Meeting** on Saturday, March 24 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Waverley Heights Community Centre, 1885 Chancellor Drive. All are welcome to attend.

The **Liberal Party of Canada - Manitoba** will hold its **Annual General Meeting** on May 11 & 12 at the Norwood Hotel. Delegates will be selected at the riding AGMs (see above). Check <http://manitoba.liberal.ca/> for updates

Add me to the list!

Sometimes the executive receives information of interest to members in Winnipeg South, information that might not be widely distributed to the Federal Liberal Membership.

If you would like to receive timely updates and information, please email chanlon@mts.net, indicating in the subject line: "Add me to the List!"