

# Winnipeg South Federal Liberal Association

Winnipeg South Federal Liberal Association Newsletter Summer 2012

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### **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:

It was great to see so many people out to our Executive at Large meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. I appreciated everyone's active involvement in the discussions. The Executive Officers, Membership Chair (Allan Wise) and Liberalist Coordinator (Daniel McKenzie) will be meeting in June to go through the ideas that you generated and develop a membership drive strategy to present to you in at the September meeting. I am hoping to see our membership out in large numbers on September 8<sup>th</sup>, rested from the summer and ready to get involved in recruiting supporters, new members and victory fund donors.

For those of you who attended the Annual General Meeting May 11 and 12<sup>th</sup>, the Provincial Executive shared their strategic plan to date. Year one of the plan involves strengthening and supporting the EDAs and growing membership, supporters and donations. Winnipeg South is well on its way in that regard.

## Did you know...

...that, in 1998, former Winnipeg South MP Hon. Reg Alcock brought forward a private member's bill to overturn Louis Riel's conviction for high treason and recognize him as a Father of Confederation?

Winnipeg North MP Kevin Lamoureux has begun working with EDA's like ours to assist us is growing our supporter group. Several people from Winnipeg South will be involved in his training sessions.

On that same theme, a special thank you to the Special Events committee Neil Johnston (chair), Pat Ferguson, Robin Dowsett, Bob Stokes, Steve Turner, and Terry Duguid for the amazing work they did bringing Justin Trudeau in to meet new members and reconnect with Winnipeg South Liberals. Thanks also the Pony Corral for their part in making it a successful evening.

I want to wish everyone a relaxing and enjoyable summer, whatever your plans. I look forward to working together with all of you in the fall.

*--Jacquie Field*

# News from the Liberal Party of Canada

[www.liberal.ca](http://www.liberal.ca)

**Become a supporter... or encourage your friends to sign up!**

You may already be a member of the Liberal Party of Canada – or not. Because you are alarmed at where the Conservative government is taking Canada and share a similar vision as the Liberal party, you want to become a member – or not.

**Now, there is another option.**

The Liberal Party of Canada is inviting all Canadians to become **supporters** of the Liberal movement. Anyone can sign up for free online at <http://www.liberal.ca/supporter/>. When confirmed as eligible, **supporters can participate in choosing the next Liberal Leader** by voting in the upcoming leadership convention.

For all those who feel like, at some point, Canadian politics stopped being about working together to solve our common challenges, there is an alternative. Liberals stand for fairness, responsibility, and equality. We believe that individual freedom is only possible in a just society. And we believe that good government can bring us together to build a more prosperous, more sustainable, more united Canada - a Canada that leads by example on the world stage.

Our commitment to you is to build upon the momentum generated at the Convention and to grow our Party into the most inclusive, progressive, forward-thinking political movement in Canada – to build trust with more and more Canadians every day. This shift will allow us to share the whole Liberal vision with more Canadians than ever - Canadians who are getting tired of ideology and who crave a return to evidence-based policy.

For more information about what it means to be a supporter see <http://www.liberal.ca/supporter-faq/>

**10,000 people signed up to be Supporters in the first month after the category was launched.**

## 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.

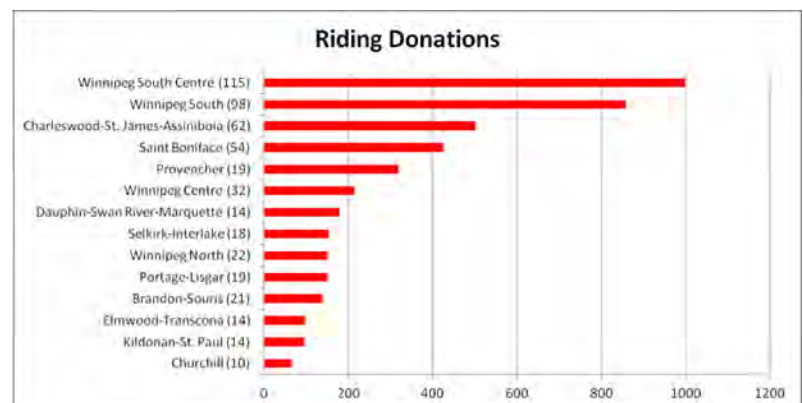
After a year-end tax credit of up to 75 per cent, your minimum \$10 monthly donation to the Victory Fund will cost you as little as \$2.50 per month – less than 10¢ a day! – to help build the Canada you want.

**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.

Overall there are now over 500 Victory Fund members in Manitoba contributing \$4,350/month at the riding level and \$4,875/month to the Party. Winnipeg South Centre continues to lead all ridings with respect to the number of contributors (115) and the total funds raised per month (\$998) – but Winnipeg South is catching up.



# News from the Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba)

## Celebrating the Charter

On April 12, 2012, Liberals in Manitoba gathered at Molgat Place, Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba) – LPC(M) – headquarters to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



## LPC(M) Annual General Meeting

On May 11 and 12, the Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba) held its Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the Manitoba Liberal Party. Guest speakers included Bob Rae and Kevin Lamoureux (Keynote) as well as MPs Ralph Goodale, Jim Karygiannis and Hedy Fry, and Senators Maria Chaput and David Smith. The newly-elected President of the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) was also in attendance.

Well-attended Critics Corners covered such topics as Healthcare & Pensions, Democracy & Accountability, Western Caucus Issues, and Immigration/Multiculturalism. The AGM closed with a tribute to the Honorable Reg Alcock, former MP for Winnipeg South (1993-2006) who passed away on October 14, 2011.



## Did you know...

...that Liberal MP Dr. Kirsty Duncan received the Pioneer in Healthcare Policy Award by the Society of Brain Mapping & Therapeutics for being one of the best advocates of brain research in Canada?

## SEVEN PILLARS OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

During the Democracy & Accountability Session at the LPC(M) AGM, Senator Maria Chaput discussed the toll the current Conservative government is taking on democracy in Canada. The following is a summary of the points she made.

**Seven Pillars of a Democratic Society** - Can the Canada of today claim it is a democratic society?

Pillar of Democracy	Events in Canada Today
1. Free and fair elections	Robo calls and in and out donation scheme. Negative campaign ads.
2. Strong opposition	All debate moved to committee behind closed doors Calling for closure to limit any debate before the vote.
3. Independent judiciary	Mandatory sentences limiting judges' discretion
4. Freedom of the press	Controlled messages; closed doors on most committee debates and hearings.
5. Strong and Vocal Civil Society	Funding for small parties cancelled. Funding for women's advocacy groups cut. Decision-making based on supporters, not evidence.
6. Constitution	Contravention of the Charter in immigration changes. Proroguing Parliament to avoid defeat.
7. Accountability and transparency	F -35 Fighter costs, Health Accord consultations, OAS cost analysis, Oda affair, Citizenship ceremony photo opp.

## Justin in Winnipeg!



### *Trudeau launches Supporter category in Winnipeg South*

His dashing good looks weren't the only thing getting attention. For the crowd of people that filled the Pony Corral Pier 7 (Pembina) on the evening of June 10, it was his message that hit home. The Liberal Party is *not* some sort of exclusive club. It is a place for *all* Canadians who want to participate in shaping the future of *their* country, in a context of social justice

and fiscal responsibility. Trudeau invited all citizens to "step up" and take their rightful place in the political process.

Along with the inspiration, everyone enjoyed the delicious food and the delightful tunes, courtesy of Red Moon Road. Plenty of terrific door and raffle prizes were won – including a pair of boxing gloves signed by none other than Justin Trudeau!



# Quotable Opinions

## From noted political analysts...

"A reasonable person would conclude that maybe it's time to sit down and listen to what criminologists have learned about crime. But such a person is not to be found in the federal cabinet." **Dan Gardner**, June 5, Ottawa Citizen. <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/opinion/columnists/Column/6734812/story.html>

"**The issue of inequality** is now ranked as the most pressing concern of Canadians. It being an issue that is a hallmark of a regressive society, it could spur a progressive revival." **Lawrence Martin**, May 29, 2012, Globe and Mail <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/lawrence-martin/the-time-has-come-for-a-progressive-revival/article2445801/>

### **The Cuts Behind the Curtain: How federal cutbacks will slash services and increase unemployment**

"The rich public policy debate that should be happening around these successive waves of cuts is simply not happening. Discussion is seriously constrained by the almost complete lack of information from the federal government. Without facts about what Canadians are losing through these cuts, it is very difficult to weigh the positives and negatives." **David Macdonald**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, January 2012.

[http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2012/01/Cuts\\_Behind\\_Curtain.pdf](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2012/01/Cuts_Behind_Curtain.pdf)

"**Canada is now a place where the government misleads Parliament**, vilifies public servants whose faith in the Great Navigator is less than absolute, allows torture intelligence, protects mendacious ministers, caricatures the "bad" countries, dry-cleans the "good" ones, and treats all opposition as bed-bugs in the national sleeping bag." **Michael Harris**, April 26, 2012

<http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/04/26/michael-harris-unraveling-file-8-10-2012-06/>

### **Polling firm finds evidence non-Conservative voters were targeted in robo-call scandal**

"Ekos president Frank Graves said the survey found voters in the seven ridings were 50 per cent more likely to have received illegitimate calls than those in 106 surveyed "comparison" ridings [...] And about three times as many Liberal, New Democrat and Green supporters as Conservative supporters claimed they were given false or incorrect information about polling station locations in the last two or three days of the campaign, Ekos found." **Michael Valpy**, April 23, 2012, Globe and Mail

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/polling-firm-finds-evidence-non-conservative-voters-were-targeted-in-robo-call-scandal/article2411875/>

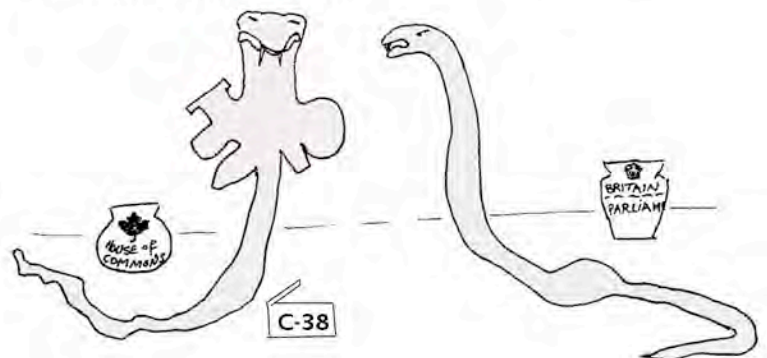
### **Critics pan instructions to Environment Canada scientists at Montreal conference**

"Until now such a crude heavy-handed approach to muzzle Canadian scientists, prior to a significant international Arctic science conference hosted by Canada, would have been unthinkable," says a senior scientist, who has worked for Environment Canada for decades. He asked not to be identified due to the possibility of repercussions from Ottawa."

**Margaret Munro**, April 23, Ottawa Citizen <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/Critics+instructions+Environment+Canada+scientists+Montreal+conference/6500175/story.html>

"...with the billy-club governance of the Harper era, we are breaking new ground in the subverting of the democratic process. Technically we might still call it a democracy. In practice it's a democracy in name alone." **Lawrence Martin**, April 27, 2012 <http://www.ipolitics.ca/2012/04/27/lawrence-martin-is-this-still-a-democracy-you-be-the-judge/>

**Of course you feel sick!  
No sensible body can swallow in one gulp  
such a gigantic mix of different parts  
as that Omnibus Bill !**



## Quotable Opinions...continued

### Tories stick to their secretive ways in trying to bury major policy shift | National Post

But buried deep within the background document on the Natural Resources website was one sentence outlining the controversial proposal to hand the federal Cabinet the authority to overrule the National Energy Board on projects like Northern Gateway. It wasn't mentioned in the press release, the speech or the presentation deck at the lengthy press conference held by Mr. Oliver at a plant of a company involved in oil and gas pipeline construction in Toronto. **John Ivison**, April 18, National Post <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/04/18/john-ivison-tories-stick-to-their-secretive-ways-in-trying-to-hide-major-policy-shift/>

### Bill C-38 shows us how far Parliament has fallen

[...] there is something quite alarming about Parliament being obliged to rubber-stamp the government's whole legislative agenda at one go. [...] Moreover, it utterly eviscerates the committee process, until now regarded as one of the last useful roles left to MPs ..." **Andrew Coyne**, April 30, National Post <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2012/04/30/andrew-coyne-bill-c-38-shows-us-how-far-parliament-has-fallen/>

### The F-35 fiasco and Ottawa's culture of secrecy

"We see layer after layer of weak political leadership, jealous bureaucratic infighting, and a complete lack of strategic insight from the top on down. **Brian Stewart**, April 10, CBC News <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2012/04/04/f-vp-stewart-f-35-secrecy.html>

### Harper's disregard for Aboriginal Health

"If we want to fight a war, why not a war on poverty and health disparity in aboriginal communities." **Andre Picard**, April 9, Globe and Mail <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/new-health/andre-picard/harpers-disregard-for-aboriginal-health/article2396146/>

## Reader's Corner

A quick refresher on the Canadian Political system – good material to share with our up-and-coming citizens of all ages: [http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/SenatorEugeneForsey/book/chapter\\_6-e.html](http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/SenatorEugeneForsey/book/chapter_6-e.html)

*\*Above is chapter six from the book How Canadians Govern Themselves, seventh edition, 2010, originally written by Senator Eugene Forsey.*

## Winnipeg South AGM

The WSFLA Annual General Meeting was held on March 24, with 30 people in attendance. During the meeting, the following members were newly elected to the following executive positions:

<b>VP (Organization):</b> Chas van Dyck	<b>Membership:</b> Allan Wise
<b>Aboriginal Peoples:</b> Frank Deer	<b>Seniors:</b> Jane Fudge
<b>Area Chair (AC) (Lindenwoods):</b> Werner Braun	<b>AC (Normand Park):</b> Neil Johnston
<b>Area Co-chair (Linden Ridge):</b> Bronwyn Lawton	<b>AC (Waverley West):</b> David Halstead
<b>Area Co-chair (Waverley Heights):</b> Dan McKenzie	<b>AC (Whyte Ridge):</b> Steve Turner
<b>Director at Large:</b> Vallerie Gordon	

\*All other executive members were re-elected to their positions.

**Wanted:** Volunteers for the Website Development and Management Committee. For more information, contact Jacquie Field at 269-7822 or [jacquiefield@shaw.ca](mailto:jacquiefield@shaw.ca)

## Did you know...

...that Liberalist—that's our Liberal database—point person and WSFLA Waverley Heights Area Co-chair Dan McKenzie received his Master's degree in Political Sciences from the University of Manitoba this spring?

## Events

The Winnipeg South Liberal Riding Association will hold an **open meeting for all members** on Tuesday, **September 11** at the **Pembina Trails Library**, 2724 Pembina Highway, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, with the business meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

### Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesday is a social get together for Liberals held every Wednesday of the month. It is an opportunity to visit with friends and informally talk about politics.

**TIME:** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Molgat Place, 635 Broadway

**COST:** Free, but donations of \$5 or more are gratefully accepted.

Winnipeg South will be hosting Wonderful Wednesday on **November 7**. We hope to see you there!

**To be auctioned that evening will be a set of boxing gloves autographed by none other than Justin Trudeau.**

The **Policy Committee** of the Liberal Party of Canada (Manitoba) will be holding an open meeting on **November 17** at a location to be announced. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Bob Stokes at [bkstokes@mts.net](mailto:bkstokes@mts.net)

## Did you know...

...that according to a 2009 Government of Canada report, the vast majority of seniors who received OAS had annual incomes well under \$40,000; seniors with an annual income of under \$20,000 rely on OAS and GIS for roughly 50% of their retirement income.



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## Find us!

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/WSFLA>

Twitter:

@wsfla and [www.twitter.com/wsfla](http://www.twitter.com/wsfla)

Blog:

<http://wsfla.wordpress.com/>

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## 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](mailto:chanlon@mts.net), indicating in the subject line: "Add me to the List!"

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