

Ottawa West-Nepean **NDP** Association



www.ndp.ca

“In our OWN Words” Newsletter March 2014



Ontariondp.com

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Ontario NDP picks up 4th by-election win in Niagara with Wayne Gates
- Tom speaks on sustainable energy future
- Electoral Reform? Not C-23!
- PROVINCIAL ELECTION THIS SPRING?
- Immigration – wrong direction!
- *Update your volunteer status*

Tom Mulcair’s Speech to the Economic Club of Canada: Our plan for a prosperous and sustainable energy future



In an important speech to the Economic Club of Canada, NDP Leader Tom Mulcair provided specifics about the NDP’s vision to build a balanced, sustainable, and prosperous energy future in the 21st century. Tom outlined the equilibrium that the NDP would establish: resource development will only move forward if development is done responsibly and in order to leverage Canada’s resources to create wealth and prosperity for generations to come.

The NDP’s sustainable energy vision is based on three key principles:

- Sustainability, ensuring polluters pay for the pollution they create instead of leaving those costs to the next generation
- Partnership, so that communities, provinces and First Nations all benefit from resource development and that we create value-added, middle-class jobs here in Canada and
- most importantly, long-term prosperity, that leverages our natural resource wealth to invest in modern, clean energy technology that will keep Canada on the cutting edge of energy development and ensure affordable energy rates into the future.

For the full speech please go to: <http://bit.ly/1dxSS2s>



Ontario NDP continues to gain by-election wins!

Last summer the Wynne Liberal Government held 5 by-elections in 5 vacant Liberal seats, which saw Andrea Horwath’s ONDP take 2 of them (the PCs took 1). Then this past February saw the NDP take *another* seat from the Wynne Liberals, electing Wayne Gates in Niagara, joining a growing NDP caucus at Queen’s Park.

The Ontario NDP has grown from 17 seats following the 2011 election to now **21** seats under Andrea’s leadership. *Woo hoo!*



Hey! Like Alex on Facebook!

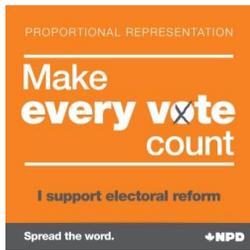
Alex Cullen – our ONDP candidate in Ottawa West-Nepean – has a Facebook page that you can “like”! Just go to **Alex Cullen** on Facebook.



And you can also follow Alex on Twitter: @Alex_S_Cullen.

And in other camps!

With John Baird moving to the new riding of Nepean, the OWN Liberal nomination may no longer be a cakewalk for 2011 Liberal candidate Anita Vandenberg, as Deborah Coyne, failed Liberal leadership contender, is said to be seeking this seat.



Electoral Reform and the Tories' *unFair Elections Act* - partisan games with democracy

Led by Craig Scott, MP Toronto-Danforth and the Official Opposition Critic for Democratic and Parliamentary Reform, the NDP has launched a national petition campaign to rally opposition against the Conservatives' election reform legislation, Bill C-23 (the so-called *Fair Elections Act*).

Bill C-23 undermines the ability for Canadians to participate equitably in our democracy. It makes it much harder for students, seniors, rural, Aboriginal people, and low-income Canadians to prove their right to vote and will prevent many thousands of Canadians from voting. It will undermine efforts to address the democratic deficit—at a time when our young people, in particular, are not participating in elections.

It will muzzle Elections Canada, prohibiting the institution from speaking publicly about democracy or the importance of voting and from engaging with Canadians through initiatives like Student Vote. Bill C-23 will further help the rich to influence political decisions.

It will raise donation and campaign spending limits as well as create a huge loophole that allows virtually unlimited campaign spending for purposes of contacting previous voters by phone, favouring the Conservative Party and escalating a concentration on fundraising at the expense of democracy.

By not granting Elections Canada's requests for key investigative powers that it needs to crack down on electoral fraud such as the "robocall" scam during the 2011 election, the Bill puts investigations under the purview of Parliament rather than under a strengthened, neutral, arms-length organisation with the "bite" to investigate wrongdoing.

Sign the petition and stand up for democracy at <http://petition.ndp.ca/stand-up-for-canadian-democracy>.

Ottawa West-Nepean **NDP** Association
c/o 691 Richmond Rd, Ottawa ON K2A 0G6
www.ownndp.ca

A provincial election this spring?



Having supported the minority Liberal Government through 2 budgets in exchange for needed investment for home care, youth employment, and lower car insurance rates, Andrea Horwath's Ontario NDP caucus has made no commitment to continue to support the Wynne minority government. Instead, the ONDP has made it clear that it will not support new taxes or fees that would hurt Ontario families in the next provincial budget.

The current likely scenario is the provincial budget being tabled in early May, followed by debate and vote in the Legislature mid-May, leading to a possible provincial election mid or late June.

So, *E-Day June 19, anyone?*

Things are looking up (↑) for the Ottawa West-Nepean **NDP**

The Ottawa West-Nepean NDP has been improving its game! Membership is growing, committees are working, events are happening – all reflecting the changing public perception of the NDP as a legitimate political force both in Canada and in Ontario! It is indeed an exciting time to be a New Democrat!

The Ottawa West-Nepean NDP is a membership-based, volunteer-driven association – we are only as strong as our collective membership, but we can be mighty! We are looking for people who share our progressive values and want to make change happen. If you are one who want to make a difference, then please step up and join in!

As Margaret Mead said: *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*



Coming soon!
Surveys!

We want to know what you think!



Canada's Immigration & Citizenship System Is Moving in the Wrong Direction

Canadians are worried about changes the Harper Government has made to Canada's citizenship and immigration system. This was exacerbated when the Conservative Government recently introduced legislation that will not only make it tougher and more expensive to become a Canadian citizen but will give unprecedented powers to the immigration Minister to strip citizenship from naturalized Canadians. As well, the Conservatives reinstated a sponsorship moratorium in February, blocking applications for parents and grandparents. It's becoming harder for families wishing to reunite here in Canada. The NDP believes that family reunification should be the central priority of our immigration system.

"People are first and foremost concerned about the very long wait times to acquire citizenship and to reunite with their families," said NDP MP Andrew Cash (Davenport) after the bill was tabled last month; "the Conservatives have broken their commitment to immigrant families and are making our country a less welcoming place." By increasing wait times, driving up backlogs—which are now over 300,000 people--and increasing costs, the Conservatives have broken their commitment to immigrant families.

"We are hearing directly from those trying to navigate the system but they're being stonewalled by increasingly long wait-times and backlogs," said NDP MP Peggy Nash (Parkdale-High Park); "New Democrats believe that new Canadians make our country stronger. Immigration will continue to help us build thriving communities and a 21st-century workforce — but under the Conservative Government, too many newcomers aren't getting the fair treatment they deserve."

And what about our refugees? Until recently, Canadians could be proud of a history where Canada has been a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds and a shelter for those fleeing persecution. Last July the Harper Government promised to help resettle 1,300 refugees from Syria where a civil war continues to rage. Yet by the end of 2013, only 13 refugees had been settled in Canada! As well, the Conservatives have given the Minister new discretionary powers to choose refugees based on where they are from.

Further, the government has failed to deliver on commitments it makes to the international community at times of humanitarian crisis. They have callously eliminated programs to provide healthcare for refugees. When a refugee does settle in Canada, the obvious next step should be to help him or her bring their families here so they can be reunited in a safe and secure environment, but under the Conservatives the process has become a nightmare.

The Conservatives claim they are acting to reduce fraud, yet their own numbers show the instances of fraud does not exceed 1%. This is clearly not credible.

With every action by this government we see Canada move further and further away from a focus on what really matters. Canada needs immigration: it makes us a stronger and more vibrant nation, but the Conservative approach is failing our economy, failing immigrant families, and failing us.



A Public Meeting on Trends & Challenges facing Child Care in Ontario

A presentation by Andrea Calver, Co-ordinator,
Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care

Tuesday April 1, 2014, at 6:30 pm
At the First Unitarian Congregation, 30 Cleary Ave.

Sponsored by the River Parkway Children's Centre

**A PROVINCIAL ELECTION in 2014?
A FEDERAL ELECTION in 2015?
LET'S GET AN **NDP** CANDIDATE ELECTED!**

YES, I WILL VOLUNTEER!

I WILL TAKE A SIGN!

AND I WILL DONATE!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

Driver's License? Yes No Car? Yes No

Languages? _____

Campaign Specific Interests _____

Campaign Specific Skills _____

Thank you!

Please mail to: Ottawa West-Nepean **NDP** Association
c/o 691 Richmond Road, Ottawa, ON K2A 0G6
Or e-mail this to: ownndp@ownndp.ca