

Convention Chooses Change

Conventions are always a great opportunity for party members to reconnect, debate party policy, and renew their passion for the cause. They often also mark a turning point in the party's history if it chooses to chart a new path. This was certainly the case at the most recent federal convention as delegates voted to hold a leadership race to replace Tom Mulcair. Delegates also approved a motion to study and debate the LEAP Manifesto at the riding association level. A copy of the manifesto is included in this mailing.

Pat Harland, Ruth Kaufman, Geoff Krauter, and Andrew Seagram represented Guelph at the convention. While they were divided over the vote for a leadership convention, they all felt at least some degree of surprise by the result. Kaufman said that "the quiet after the numbers were read was immense ." Harland noted that many of the delegates at the convention "were in disbelief at the outcome...(It) seems as though the only ones who knew (what the outcome would be) were the ones more involved with the federal campaign."

Most of the Guelph delegates named the speeches by Stephen Lewis and Rachel Notley as the highlight of the weekend. Seagram called the speeches "phenomenal" and said they "elevated the social democratic conversation into the stratosphere, reminding us what a social democrat is and gave us a vision for the future." He says that there was an "undercurrent of the politics around the world and especially in the USA (that



simmered throughout the weekend. Had Bernie Sanders not been running for president, it is possible that Tom might still be leader. Consciously or unconsciously we were looking for our Bernie; Rachel Notley and Stephen Lewis did that for us."

The delegates also mentioned a number of other things as memorable (even if those events did receive less media coverage). Pat Harland said her most memorable moment was a performance of O Canada by a group of First Nations women. She attended workshops for the Women's, LGBTT and Visible Minorities councils and said that the mood that "pervaded" throughout the weekend was that "there's work to be done."

Ruth Kaufman, a veteran of over ten conventions, attended the resolutions panels workshop since she finds "this is where one gets the sense of where the debates are going." She also attended a workshop led by former MP Libby Davies and LEAP Manifesto co-creator (and the son of Stephen Lewis), Avi Lewis. She says the theme of that workshop was "how groups with similar concerns can work together" or "how we can bring them into the party."

Andrew Seagram called the convention "fantastic and a transformation for the NDP." He is excited about the decision to discuss the LEAP Manifesto at the riding level. He says that "The NDP is staking out the future, a fight for the environment and a fight against neo-conliberalism and the other parties should be scared. "

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Join the Movement: Become a Member of the Guelph NDP Executive

Here's a description of the Guelph NDP Executive positions that will be chosen at the next AGM:

President: As President of the Guelph NDP Riding Association, you represent the NDP in our riding. You are the contact person for the media, other members locally, the party (federally and provincially if you are the president of both) and Elections Ontario/Canada. For a political junkie, it is a fabulous opportunity to see how the party works at a grassroots level and develop an understanding of political organizing.

Vice President: The Vice-President coordinates riding association items and planning in consultation with the president and can step in for the president, if necessary.

Secretary: The Secretary, in collaboration with the president and other members of the executive, sets the agenda for meetings and ensures proper documentation of meetings occurs.

Education and Outreach Chair: The Education and Outreach chair is responsible for distributing information about NDP news and policies to the Guelph NDP membership. He/she should also conduct outreach efforts with current members as well as various interest groups and stakeholders.

Provincial Council delegates attend Provincial Council meetings meeting to represent the Guelph Riding Association. They report on issues and matters discussed at Provincial Council. The Election Readiness Officer is responsible for the maintenance of election

records and is responsible for ensuring that the riding is prepared for the next election.

Labour Representative: The Labour representative is chosen by the Guelph Labour Council. The Labour rep takes any relevant information back and forth between the GLC and the Guelph NDP.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the Association, reporting regularly to the Executive concerning the state of the Association's finances, and preparing an annual financial report for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

Membership Chair: The membership chair makes notes of changes in membership numbers and initiates membership drives to ensure we are reaching our community.

Communications Chair: The Communications chair is responsible for communicating news and information about the Guelph NDP to members, the media, and the general electorate. This can take the form of writing press releases for media outlets as well as assisting with the Guelph NDP newsletter, website and other social media forms.

Equity reps (Aboriginal, Environmental, Ethnocultural, LGBT, Youth and Women,): These reps conduct outreach to their applicable community groups and participate in related events and meetings within the NDP as well as in Guelph.

Official Notice of AGM Meeting

The Guelph NDP is set to hold its annual general meeting (AGM). A description of the positions to be elected are listed above. Here are the details:

When: Tuesday, May 31st. Registration and a **free BBQ** will begin at 6:00pm with the meeting starting at 7pm.

Where: The UNIFOR Hall at 611 Silvercreek Pkwy N, Guelph, ON. It can be reached by public transit by taking the 2B bus from downtown to Woodlawn and Silvercreek.