



THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA IN QUÉBEC CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

At the prestigious University Club of Montreal on Friday, March 8th, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, a cocktail was organized by the Women's Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada in Quebec. Around 200 people came to listen to two guest speakers: Christine St-Pierre, Liberal Member of the National Assembly in Quebec and Anne-France Goldwater, an expert in family law made famous by her defense of the case known as "Lola." The Honourable Martin Cauchon and Karen McCrimmon, candidates for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada and Alexandra Mendes, President of LPCQ were among the participants.



From left to right: 1st row: Karen McCrimmon, Liberal leadership candidate, Marie-Thérèse Cassab, Honorable Martin Cauchon, Liberal leadership candidate, Christine St-Pierre Liberal MNA, 2nd row: Honorable Eleni Bakopanos, President of QWLC, Maro Akhouri, 3rd row: 2 representatives of the University Club, Kettly Beauregard and Christine Poulin.



From left to right: The executive of Quebec Women's Liberal Commission: Kettly Beauregard, Marie-Thérèse Cassab, Caroline Savic, NWLC VP, Honorable Eleni Bakopanos, President of QWLC; 2nd row: Christine Poulin and Maro Akhouri

IT IS A QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP

This month's issue is largely dedicated to questions we sent to Liberal leadership candidates and we quote from their responses. We hope it will help you in your deliberations before you vote. For their complete answers to all of our questions, see <http://nwlc-clfn.liberal.ca>. For more details on all their policies please visit their websites. - Editor

LPC 2013 PLC

... LEADERSHIP ...

Events

To purchase tickets, click a link below.

[Mar 23 | Montreal | Debate](#)

[Apr 6 | Toronto | National Showcase](#)

[Apr 14 | Ottawa | Results Announcement](#)

For more details on the process and candidates of the Liberal leadership: <http://www.liberal.ca/leadership-2013/>

" These are difficult times. Yet history has taught us that these moments of economic adversity are opportunities for greatness. We need only dare to imagine and embrace a new way.

When we add women, we really can change everything."

Ref. http://thewhitehouseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/benchmark_wom_leadership.pdf

QUESTIONS FROM NWLC FOR 2013 LIBERAL LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES

The following questions pertain to issues identified by the NWLC as important to the party's female members and supporters.

1. Two motions introduced in the House of Commons in 2012 (M 312 and M 408) have sought to reopen the debate about reproductive choices in Canada. At the Liberal Party of Canada Convention in Ottawa in January 2012, an overwhelming majority of delegates voted to reaffirm women's right to reproductive health services, including abortion.

What would you do as Leader/Prime Minister do to ensure access to reproductive health services, including abortion, for women in all parts of Canada?

2. Since the 1970 Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, there has been a widely recognized need for a National Childcare Program. Today more than 70 per cent of women with children at home are in the paid work force. The Harper Conservatives eliminated a funding agreement that was reached with all provinces and territories by a previous Liberal government. Childcare waiting lists are long in many parts of the country, and subsidies to low-income parents grossly inadequate. The first years of life are crucial; if we could get this right, many social problems would be resolved BEFORE emerging as problems for

education, employment, criminal justice etc.

How will you ensure that a universally available, affordable early childhood care and education system is established in all provinces at the earliest possible date?

3. There is a democratic deficit in Canada. Less than a quarter of our MPs are women. Canada ranks 40th in the world for the participation of women in Parliament.

What would you do as Leader/Prime Minister do to ensure that women are represented fairly in the Liberal Party of Canada at all levels, and in Parliament, including in the Cabinet.

a. What will you do to assist women financially in order to encourage them to run?

b. Would you set targets for the percentage of LPC women candidates in the next federal election? What mechanisms would you put in place to ensure that we reach those targets?

4. One of the causes of the wage gap is occupational segregation, which often starts with college- and university-age women and men being steered towards different educational paths through a combination of factors. As a recent report from the Council of Canadian Academies notes that women continue to be seriously underrepresented in postsecondary studies in fields such as physics, chemistry, engineering, and mathematics, with serious repercussions for research and innovation, amongst other things.

What would you do to encourage diversification in postsecondary education and consequently in employment?

5. Women are underrepresented as senior decision-makers in many places: Parliament, universities, the Supreme Court, and corporate boards.

How would you address the underrepresentation of women in senior decision-making?

6. As Canadians, we celebrate our pluralistic society and recognize the social and economic benefits of diversity. Yet cuts to Immigrant Settlement Programs may well work against our future success in attracting talented immigrants and may affect women disproportionately.

What will you do to ensure that Canada continues to bring immigrants into the mainstream of society and to allow the talents that they bring with them to flourish?

7. Affordable housing is often cited as a priority by Canadian women.

What can you do to reduce homelessness and poverty, and increase access to affordable housing in Canada?

8. Many Canadians feel that we are losing our international reputation as a country that respects human rights, participatory democracy, and environmental protection.

What is your vision of Canada and what characterizes Liberal values and ideology today?

JOYCE MURRAY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

“If I should become Liberal Leader and potentially Canada’s first elected woman Prime Minister, women will have a strong proponent for their right to choose. As a Member of Parliament, I have a longstanding record as a staunch defender of women’s reproductive sovereignty, both in the House of Commons and in the media. I unreservedly support the Liberal Party position that access to abortion and other reproductive services is a public health matter, and a choice that must be available to all women ...”

CHILD CARE

“... Economists agree that childcare and children’s education are critical to our future social and economic success. These programs reduce income inequality and increase individual and national achievement. We must invest in our children, for a Sustainable Society and future. To learn more about my vision for a Sustainable Society, please [click here](#)”

DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

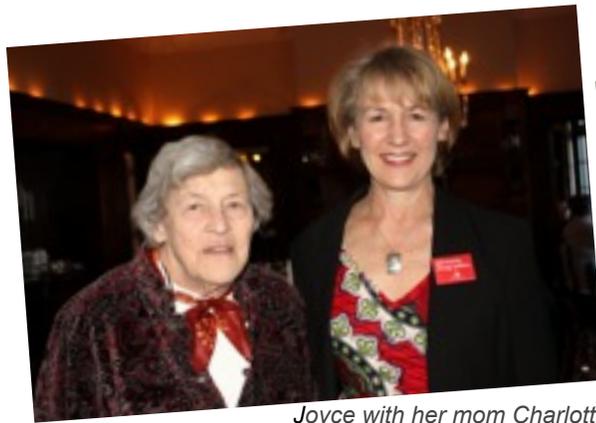
“The most potent lever for reaching a balance of Liberal female and male MPs is through electoral reform, specifically through a new voting system based on the principle of proportional representation. My platform commits to electoral reform based on PR, and I am the only candidate proposing a strategy of cross-Party cooperation to end progressive vote splitting in the 2015 election, and defeat Stephen Harper so electoral reform can be achieved. To learn more about my platform for Electoral Cooperation and Democratic Reform, [click here](#).”

“In addition, my campaign was launched with a policy of appointing a minimum of 40% women (and a minimum of 40% men) to all federal Boards and in cabinet. I am committed to working toward that balance in publicly listed corporations, and would do the same respecting Liberal Party leadership positions. To learn more about my platform for the Participation and Advancement of Women, [click here](#)”

“...For the 2015 election I will increase the Liberal party’s present goal of 30% women candidates to 40% and, as was done in 2006, create a team, framework, measures and accountability, to support riding executives and PTAs in achieving the target...”

GENDER IMBALANCE

“ Please see answer to question above. I am the only leadership candidate with a substantive plan to increase women’s participation and advancement in



*Joyce with her mom Charlotte
- a pioneer woman architect in the 60's*

make important contributions to research and innovation, we must ensure the most capable people, including women, are given equal opportunity and encouragement to enter into and succeed in these underrepresented fields.”

IMMIGRANTS

“...I will move toward doubling the number of immigrants admitted to Canada each year over ten years. To do this, Canada will need to modernize the current application processing system, and update the economic component of the program to take into account current labour market needs, so that immigrants arrive in Canada with skills in demand when they arrive. When immigrants succeed, Canada succeeds. As Leader, I will also increase investment to improve outcomes in immigrant integration and settlement services, as well as streamline the credential process for professional New Canadians. “

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

“A National Affordable Housing Strategy is a cornerstone of Liberal Party policy, and I have run on this platform successfully three times as a candidate. However, the question inevitably becomes how to find the funds to act on this urgent public policy issue. One important benefit from legalizing and taxing cannabis is the potential for redirection of resources from criminal profits and expensive police and justice services, to crucial programs including affordable housing. Please [Click here](#) to read my full platform on Legalizing Cannabis...”

LEADING AT HOME AND ABROAD

“... I will establish a Canadian Democracy Initiative (CDI) within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, to lead Canada’s international democracy-building efforts, working hand in hand with CIDA on humanitarian and capacity-building project development and delivery. To create a truly sustainable society and democracy at home, as part of a global society, Canada must also lead the way in enabling real democracy abroad. To read my full platform on the Canadian Democracy Initiative, [click here](#).... “

Canada and abroad, including in traditionally male-dominated fields. Gender imbalances prevent the full and best use of human capital in those occupations. For Canada to succeed as an internationally competitive nation and continue to

DEBORAH COYNE

A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

“I am pro-choice, and I believe that position flows from the core tenets of the Liberal Party – the belief that the government has no place telling its citizens what they can do with their bodies. I support the ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Morgentaler case, which clearly found the use of the federal government's criminal law power to punish women and doctors for the exercise of what should be a matter of individual choice in a liberal democracy was unconstitutional and contrary to the Charter. “



CHILD CARE

“ Designing and implementing national standards in the availability and delivery of child care and early childhood education would be a priority item for consideration by my [Council of Canadian Governments](#) and an integral part of a Liberal Party election platform. By obtaining a clear mandate from Canadians to pursue such standards, we will ensure that other levels of government come to the table prepared to make the reasonable compromises required for real progress.”

OVERCOMING BARRIERS

“I am confident that we can achieve a target of 50% female candidates in the next federal election as long as we open up the nomination process, as I have set out ... in greater detail in my [Party Reform paper](#) “

LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

“Substantive action is required to break the barriers established by well-entrenched patronage and male-dominated networks that support men's ambitions so well, while the majority of women interrupt careers to balance work and family, failing to cultivate the corporate and business relationships that are required to reach the top. Mentoring and coaching are simply not enough.

As leader of a Liberal government, I would lead by example in this area when it comes to

selecting a cabinet and making federal appointments.”

REDUCING HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

“ We must also develop better coherence and comparability in income support and social services across the country, which would mean reaching a broad agreement on the specific purposes to be

served by billion of dollars transferred under the Canada Social Transfer (CST) to ensure that all Canadians can meet their basic needs and develop their potential.

Another essential component of a strategy to mitigate poverty and inequality is to ensure affordable housing and take aggressive steps to eliminate homelessness.”

CANADA'S NATIONAL PURPOSE

“Our national purpose must be to improve the quality of life not only in Canada but elsewhere: to promote humanity, good government, and good citizenship around the globe, and to collaborate globally to ensure that economic prosperity coincides with environmental preservation. In exporting the type of pluralistic, creative, modern society we are building in Canada, we need our leaders to be poets, not merely pollsters. We have every right to be proud and assertive. “

“ Canada is well equipped to achieve a respected global position, because we can excel in all the crucial areas that determine national power and global influence in the 21st century: social stability, access to safe and green sources of energy, clean air and water, and good health care and education systems. A nation's power and influence will also increasingly depend on its diversity of population, as it absorbs new people and cultures and creates a huge pool of human talent, firmly networked into the international community. “

For Deborah Coyne's complete answers to our NWLC questionnaire see her blog:

<http://www.deborahcoyne.ca/blog>

KAREN McCRIMMON

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

“... As Leader, I would launch a comprehensive program with the provinces and territories so all Canadians have access to the resources and services available to them so they may make informed choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health and rights and reinvest funding to all other previously affected organizations and programs. I would also improve access by working with the provinces and territories to enforce abortion as a medically required service which cannot be delisted and which is fully funded under the Canada Health Act....”

IMPROVING STATUS OF WOMEN

“.... I would reinvest in the Status of Women, open the offices which were closed and return to the original mandate. I would also re-examine all of the funding cuts and cancellations of the over 40 women’s programs with the purpose of restoring their funding and rephrasing cancelled programs back in. For example, the Court Challenges Program would immediately be restored. Finally, I would re-instate the long form census to monitor progress and identify groups in need of assistance.”

CHILD CARE

“ I will revisit the previous agreements and work with the provinces and territories to build an affordable, accessible and high quality system to create early learning and childcare spaces in both urban and rural areas.”

DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

“First, I would extend another welcome to the men in our Party to join us in Women’s Caucus. Their attendance has been mutually beneficial. Second, establish “a prominent woman lieutenant” responsible for the recruitment and retention of women candidates with dedicated LPC staff for support and work closely with the Women’s Commission. Third, establish a Commissioner for Gender Equality to examine legislation and policies with an equality lens. Fourth, conduct a gender-based analysis of all federal government legislation and policies to determine how women and men are affected.”

WOMEN IN POLITICS

“ Champion the Judy LaMarsh Fund. However, access to adequate financial resources has always been a major barrier to women seeking elected office and the situation will only get worse once the federal vote subsidy is eliminated. The Judy LaMarsh Fund can provide some assistance, but its resources are not infinite The whole fundraising structure for the Party needs to be updated with the inclusion of modern fundraising techniques, including crowd-sourcing.”



SETTING TARGETS

“A goal of 30% women candidates is a starting point but I believe it is important to bear in mind that 30% women candidates do not automatically result in 30% women Members of Parliament It is critical to engage the EDAs in any effort to run a woman candidate in a “winnable” riding, especially if the Party wants to field a higher-profile candidate, one who might not be from that riding. As Leader, I would reach out to the EDA executive to participate in the process. Let us face it, if the EDA has worked hard for several years, has a strong local candidate but then the Party parachutes in someone without so much as a by-your-leave, it is going to create a tremendous amount of cynicism and resentment, something we simply cannot afford.”

GENDER GAP AT HOME AND ABROAD

“As Leader I am committed to take actions recommended to close that gap at home:

- The existing hate crime legislation should be amended to include “sex, the legal description for gender.
 - A fully independent and public inquiry for the missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
 - Develop a national strategy with the provinces and territories to prevent the trafficking of girls and women. This strategy must be comprehensive and cover prevention, protection and prosecution.
- Reinstatement the Gender Equality unit in the Human Rights Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) so we can apply gender analyses to all of the department’s policies again.”

<http://karenforcanada.ca>

MARTHA HALL FINDLAY

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

“Insist that as part of the Canada Health Act, all provinces ensure equal and full access to reproductive health services, including family planning and abortion.”

CHILD CARE

“A major part of my leadership platform is affordable, universal access to childcare and early learning. It is a fundamental question of equality of opportunity for both parents, particularly single parents (most of whom are women), but also for children. Please see <http://2013.marthahallfindlay.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/2013-Comment-Economy-Universal-Child-Care-and-Early-Learning.pdf> ... Not only is it critical for our society, but it makes economic sense as well.”

DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

“... by far the best way to address this is through leadership by example. In Canadian politics now there are six women premiers, governing about 87% of Canadians and 90% of the Canadian economy. We have four women candidates for the leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada. Those are great examples that will only serve to encourage more women to run, to have the confidence that they, too, can do it.

... Although it's dated, please see the article I did for the University of Toronto magazine in 2010: <http://2013.marthahallfindlay.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/2010-08-13-Article-Where-Are-the-Women-UofT-Magazine.pdf>”

DIVERSIFICATION IN EDUCATION

“I would build on the successes we have seen in encouraging and enabling more and more women to attend medical school, law school and other academic environments such as finance, business and economics. We are changing – let's build on what has worked in the past in other sectors. We need more active encouragement, and efforts to address that too-often lacking sense of self-confidence.”

SENIOR DECISION-MAKING

“By encouraging more women to push for themselves as options, by encouraging more women to do what is necessary to promote themselves, as men do. I am not a supporter of quotas. The work of Catalyst in terms of the corporate environment and board rooms has been excellent. Once again, the more leadership we have by example, the more will have the confidence to put themselves forward.”



HELPING IMMIGRANTS

“Cutting services that allow new immigrants to flourish is not only shameful, but short-sighted. The sooner new immigrants are able to work, to provide for their families and to contribute to their communities and our country, the better – for them and for Canada. Please see <http://2013.marthahallfindlay.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/2013-MHF-Immigration-General-FINAL.pdf>”

NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

“ I have advocated a national housing strategy, with the federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as the various social service agencies involved, all working together, to determine the best options. Every study has shown that the costs, from a social services and health care perspective, of NOT having appropriate social and affordable housing, far outweighs the costs of building and maintaining the housing. It should be a no-brainer.”

MY VISION FOR CANADA

“Of course we're losing our reputation, on all of those fronts, and the first thing we need to do is replace Stephen Harper in 2105.

My vision of Canada is one that reflects what I believe are Liberal values and principles of economic responsibility and prosperity, fiscal prudence, social justice, environmental sustainability, equality of opportunity, and, internationally, thoughtful diplomacy with a focus on human rights, prosperity and peace.”

<http://2013.marthahallfindlay.ca>

JUSTIN TRUDEAU

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

"I firmly believe in a woman's right to choose and do not believe that this is a debate that Canadians want re-opened."

CHILDCARE

"I certainly believe that we can create a more affordable and accessible early learning and childcare system in Canada My own family benefits tremendously from the childcare system that we have in Quebec. The plan that was brought forward nearly ten years ago, and iterations of that plan from

recent platforms are a useful starting point for a discussion, but I also want us to be forward looking when we think about potential policy solutions.

Given the amount of unpaid

childcare women provide across Canada, and that it is women who most often leave the paid workforce to provide childcare, this is a critical issue of gender equality...."

DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT

"Gender equality will never be achieved without a critical mass of women as Members of Parliament.

a. The **Judy LaMarsh Fund** is a key financial support for women interested in running as a Liberal Party of Canada candidate. As leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, I would personally promote this fund and work with the Party to attract donors to it.

b. If elected leader, I have committed that in 2015, every candidate for the Liberal Party will be nominated through an open nomination process.

...While I will not make appointments, I will certainly work to ensure we engage potential women candidates. I will also set clear expectations to riding associations to ensure the quality, fairness and transparency of every riding association's candidate search processes..."

EDUCATION

"...This leadership campaign is the beginning of a policy development process, not the end, so identifying the specific mechanisms that the

federal government can undertake while respecting the clear provincial role in the delivery of post-secondary education, will be part of the work ahead. We must also do more to ensure pay equity across all levels of work. Based on today's numbers, my daughter is only going to make 75% of what my son will, and that is simply unacceptable to me."

SENIOR DECISION-MAKING

"There is a role for the federal government in improving women's representation in senior decision-making, most obviously, in the appointments it makes but also with respect to the industries it regulates. It is critical that the federal government ensures the effective use of the Employment Equity Act... We must work to allow the talents of Canadian women to be the determining factor in their success...."

IMMIGRANTS

"We are a global society. Our diversity is our strength. The families, cultures, and languages that enrich our own communities also connect us to the world's most exciting emerging markets. We must restore the simple promise of Canadian society: to reward hard work, to restore the strength of our middle class, and to remove the barriers to success that too often stand between our people and our potential. We simply cannot achieve these objectives without a commitment to a strong, robust, open immigration system."

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

"The federal government can act in partnership with the provinces, through CMHC and through direct investments to help make housing more affordable for Canadians most in need. This must include an approach that recognizes that it is often low-income women, including many who are sole parents, who are most in need of affordable housing."

OUR CANADIAN PROMISE

"Our Canadian promise has never been too complicated. Work hard, we tell our kids, and you will have a better future than we did. Our challenge, simply put, is to restore that promise of Canadian society and to restore the strength of our middle class So what would a new Liberal agenda look like? First, it will be based on evidence, not ideology.... The problems that middle class Canadians are facing are real and complex. They won't be solved with simple, easy answers... It will not be easy. Real change never is. But together, we can begin."

<http://justin.ca/en>



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

"I believe in both a woman's right to choose and a woman's right to access reproductive health services...."

CHILD CARE

"I support the development and implementation of a national early childhood education and childcare plan. Over the last several years I have travelled the country and met with many Canadians who deeply desire greater federal support for early childhood education and childcare....If we can sufficiently grow the economy, Canada's federal government will have greater revenues in which to pursue the important goal of establishing a national framework to fund and develop affordable early childhood education and childcare across the country."

WOMEN IN POLITICS

"...as Leader I would commit to setting a target of 40% of female Liberal candidates in the next election. A target, however, is not a strict quota.... We need to find the right candidates and convince them of why they should want the job. However, I also understand that women face unique challenges in politics. To meet the 40% female candidates target, a Garneau-led Liberal party would do more to address the barriers to women entering into politics. We must do a better job, building off the successes of organizations like the NWLC, Equal Voice, and the US-based Emily's List, to recruit and train women candidates, and to offer family-friendly work environments for women, both as candidates and as Members of Parliament. I think it is absolutely necessary that the Party have a dedicated staff member who is responsible for holding ongoing, formal searches for qualified female candidates before nomination meetings are called, conducting formal training programs for women interested in running as Liberal candidates, and ensure financial support for efforts like the Judy LaMarsh Fund that helps female candidates raise money."

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

"While it is by no means a comprehensive solution to this problem, I believe the federal government can do more to boost women and girls in science, technology and engineering. Through federal institutions like the Canadian Space Agency, Industry Canada, Statistics Canada, Health Canada, I would implement formal mentorship programs for young women and girls in these fields...."

PAY EQUITY

"I believe we must launch a concerted campaign for pay equity here in Canada. The current flawed system puts the onus on the employee and not the employer to address the wage gap. I would commit to repealing the current system and enact a proactive federal pay



equity law, as recommended by the federal Pay Equity Task Force. All federally-regulated employers would be required to adopt a pay equity plan and to examine pay systems to ensure that they are based on the principle of equality. Equal pay for equal work. It's not rocket science. It's just right. Equal pay for equal work. It's not rocket science. It's just right."

<http://marcgarneau.ca/garneau-equality-plan-for-women>

MY VISION

"... I would enact a government directive to Canada's foreign service to make a more direct and focused effort to provide refuge and asylum for women who are persecuted in other parts of the world. That is, to offer Canada as a safe haven, a nation that will stand up first to offer sanctuary and refugee status to women who are threatened by death, corporal punishment, or protracted imprisonment simply by virtue of their gender.

For as long as I can remember, Canada was regarded with tremendous respect and admiration around the world for its kindness, its compassion, and its unwavering commitment to improving conditions for all. We did it not because we had something to gain from it, as is the case of today's government, but simply because it was right.

We must create a special Council for Women that directly advises the Prime Minister to ensure the office is recognized as a priority. Women in Canada are tired of leaders who simply shuffle the issues off to the side for someone else to deal with – it is time for our leaders to act.

This is the kind of Canada I wish to rebuild.

What is my vision? Fundamentally, a Liberal government, a nation, that is once again a positive force for change, a nation that is not in it for itself."

<http://marcgarneau.ca>

MARTIN CAUCHON

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

“ On Dec. 22, 2010, the Supreme Court announced that the right of the provinces to regulate health care, including fertility clinics should not be contested or interfered with by the federal Government. However the ruling also indicated that Ottawa was within its jurisdiction to ban human cloning and the paying of fees for egg or sperm donation. Ottawa was also left to determine what expenses would be allowable with respect to surrogacy, organ donation and sperm donation. Today, almost 10 years later, I support this approach and, in addition, as Leader/Prime minister I would not reopen the debate on abortion.”



As Prime Minister I would ensure that many other barriers to women participating in the political process are removed, including lack of access to affordable, regulated childcare, better parental leave provisions, and support for gender-neutral workplaces.

As Prime Minister I would also commit to achieving greater gender representation in cabinet, although it is important to note that such representation increased under several Liberal prime ministers, and has now decreased dramatically under Mr. Harper.” “In addition to the above, reduce the mandatory \$1,000 candidate deposit.”

CHILD CARE

“ ...What I commit to do as Leader/PM:

- Commit .5 % of GDP to child care and early learning programs by 2016
- Eliminate the tax disincentive for second earners in a household
- Collaborate with business and labour to further enhance positive workforce environment and conditions for women.

With a financial commitment to childcare and early learning, we will overcome 2 challenges:

- Raising the female workforce participation rate to the top of the OECD ranks
- Reap the social and economic benefits that result from quality child care and early learning”

WOMEN IN POLITICS

“ As Leader I would implement a well-funded party action plan to recruit and train potential women candidates, setting specific targets and timelines for increasing their participation in winnable ridings.

NATIONAL LEARNING STRATEGY

“ Canada needs a comprehensive national learning strategy or it will continue to fall behind competitor countries As Leader/ PM, I commit to working with the provinces to establish such a strategy. In addition, through funding programs such as the earlier Millennium Scholarships we can encourage greater participation of women in scientific fields, and also can encourage the participation of women in skilled trades through federal training programs.

In addition, I propose to restructure the Canada Student Loans program to reduce the unsustainable debt load that is increasingly discouraging individuals from pursuing postsecondary education.”

For his complete answers to all of our questions, see <http://nwlc-clfn.liberal.ca>

For more information about Martin Cauchon: <http://martincauchon.ca>

DAVID BERTSCHI

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

“I would reaffirm the inherent right that women have to make choices about their own bodies and their access to reproductive health services by ensuring that all appropriate medical services are available and included as insured services throughout Canada. As discussed in my Health Care Speech a Bertschi led government would also bring in a PharmaCare program for all Canadians which would include birth control.”

CHILD CARE

“A universally available, affordable early childhood care and education system is a critically important policy. As part of my firm belief in Co-Operative Federalism I would convene a First Ministers meeting with the premiers and their education ministers. The Liberal government’s previous Child Care plan would be used as a baseline for discussion.”

WOMEN IN POLITICS

“... Assuming the disproportionate share of care for young families in particular is a barrier to political participation that many women feel is insurmountable. I believe that the Liberal Party should provide financial assistance to women with young families so that they can campaign free of worry that their young families will not receive the care and attention that they require and deserve. **I believe a goal of 40% female liberal candidates in the next federal election is realistic.** Party renewal must include as a priority encouraging and recruiting female party members and candidates. The Young Liberals of Canada’s “Beyond the Numbers” program represents the best of this ideal, bringing an influx of young women into the Liberal Party and creating a network where young women may be mentored and engaged by their more experienced peers. This initiative, in conjunction with the efforts of the National Women’s Liberal Commission, and the funds raised from the Judy LaMarsh fund, will be critical to expand upon in order to ensure that we reach the goal of 40% female candidacy for the 2015 election.”

POST- SECONDARY EDUCATION

“In order to encourage diversification in post secondary education, and consequently in employment, more must be done to challenge the predominant, gender-centric mentality that often surrounds such educational and professional fields as physics, chemistry, engineering, and mathematics.

While these fields do have highly successful female academics and professionals alike in Canada, more could and must be done to promote and emphasise the efforts and successes of these women in a bid to promote subsequent female engagement in these fields... Curriculum and textbooks should also be gender neutral.”

UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN

“Quite simply, a Liberal Party led by David Bertschi will ensure that not only would women be approached, and recruited by women at the local, regional, provincial and national levels but moreover, at all levels, women will be part of decision-making process. These efforts will be supported by financial assistance or incentives.”

IMMIGRATION

“For a vibrant and economically sustainable economy, Canada must broaden and increase our immigration programs.... To ensure that new Canadians are active participants in our society,

Canada needs to increase and expand the transferability of foreign credentials, and improve upon language skills training. Family reunification programs are also an important factor in ensuring a stable, independent, healthy and economically viable family unit.”

NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

“To significantly reduce homelessness and poverty, Canada must develop a comprehensive, National Affordable Housing strategy as well as a mental health strategy. With nearly four million Canadians lacking in adequate and affordable housing, and as a disproportionate majority of them are women whose earnings are more and more consumed by rising housing costs a National Housing Strategy is long overdue...”

CANADA’S PLACE IN THE WORLD

“... I believe that Canada as a middle power could and should work with all countries to minimise conflict and assist other countries in need because it was the right thing to do... Canada must re-establish itself through enhanced diplomatic efforts as a fair-minded middle power whose foreign policy is grounded in International and Human rights Law. We should re-establish our role internationally by refocusing our efforts on muscular peacekeeping and a foreign aid program which is not tied to ideology but due to our being part of the global village. The world also needs Canada as a mediator and peace broker.”

For his complete answers to all of our questions, see <http://nwlc-clfn.liberal.ca> or his web site <http://davidbertschi.ca>



THE NEW DONNA DALE COMMEMORATIVE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LIBERAL WOMEN

Launched on International Women's Day 2013, The Donna Dale Commemorative Award for Outstanding Liberal Women has been created to honour the memory of longtime Ontario Women's Liberal Commission member and supporter, Donna Dale.



Donna Dale

Among her many talents, Donna had a special gift for getting women involved with the party and making them feel welcome. You could always count on Donna to lend a hand, no job was too big or too small. Donna would just as easily be found manning a booth at vendor's alley or organizing a fundraiser.

With that in mind, we would like to remember her with an award that acknowledges new to mid-career volunteers. Your nominee could be a newbie who has demonstrated great potential or someone with more volunteer experience under her belt who may not yet have been recognized in the way that she deserves.

Please submit nominations to Meredith Caplan: msmeredithcaplan@gmail.com no later than April 8, 2013.

Award criteria

- Female Liberal Party member
- Someone who embodies the spirit of Donna Dale
- Outstanding volunteer, can always be counted on to lend a hand
- Involvement with the OWLC is not a requirement
- Minimum one year involvement with either OLP or LPC(O), preferably both

Please include the following information:

- Name, address, phone number and email address of the nominee
- List any positions they hold with the party (EDA membership secretary etc.)
- A point form summary of their contributions to date
- The reasons that you think this person should win the award

The award will be presented at the 2013 OWLC AGM, *date TBA*.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2013

WORKING TOGETHER: ENGAGING MEN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

“On International Women's Day, Canadians participate in a worldwide celebration of women, peace and human rights. Canada's theme for International Women's Day 2013 was “Working Together: Engaging Men to End Violence against Women.”

As this theme suggests, violence against women affects us all, and everyone – men and women – must be part of the solution.

On International Women's Day 2013, we call on all Canadians to work together to end violence against women. Violence is not just a women's issue: men have key roles to play in making our country safe for everyone.

A survey for the [White Ribbon Campaign](#) found 75% of men felt it was very important to speak out on violence against women, and 66% felt they could be doing more.

Canada's theme aligns with United Nations Commission on the Status of Women's theme for its 57th session, Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.” Ref. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/iwd-jif/index-eng.html>

A BIG THANK YOU

To Cait Regan-Cottreau for helping with the Judy Fund information table at the Liberal Leadership debate in Halifax. She helped raise awareness for the Judy Fund in Atlantic Canada at this event and after the leadership debate, at the Judy Fund event to meet and greet leadership candidates at the Red Stag Tavern in Halifax.

If you want to get more involved in our efforts help fund more women candidates, go to:

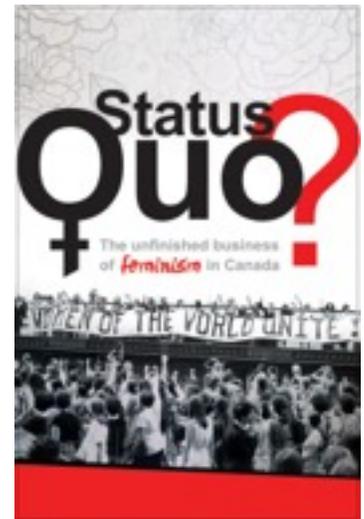
<https://action.liberal.ca/en/judylamarsh>



NFB FILM STATUS QUO? THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF FEMINISM IN CANADA

Feminism has shaped the society we live in. But just how far has it brought us, and how relevant is it today? This feature documentary zeroes in on key concerns such as violence against women, access to abortion, and universal childcare, asking how much progress we have truly made on these issues. Rich with archival material and startling contemporary stories, **Status Quo?** uncovers answers that are provocative and at times shocking.

To download a copy or arrange for a public showing: http://www.nfb.ca/film/status_quo_the_unfinished_business_of_feminism/download/



Film by [Karen Cho](#)
(2012)



Joyce Murray at CFUW's
Vancouver showing on
International Women's Day
<http://www.fcfd.org>

CONTACT US:

Do you have an article, or photos, or notices of upcoming events about women in politics?

Mary Pynenburg, President

National Women's Liberal Commission (NWLC)

marypynenburg@me.com Twitter: @womanwhovotes

Complete contact list of the NWLC executive team from across the country:

<http://nwlc-clfn.liberal.ca/nwlc-executive/>

Find us on Facebook:

National Women's Liberal Commission

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2359386383/>