



INTRODUCING OUR NEW LEADER - JUSTIN TRUDEAU

First elected as Member of Parliament for Papineau on October 14th, 2008, Justin Trudeau launched his political career to fight for Canadian values, bring forward a new perspective on the relationship between government and its citizens, and to help Canada be a model for the world.

Believed to be a federalist candidate with little chance against an incumbent member of the Bloc Québécois, Justin demonstrated to his critics that hope and hard work are the keys to electoral success. For Justin, the people of Papineau – 50% of whom speak neither French nor English as their mother tongue – exemplify Canada's rich diversity, evolving identity and struggle for equality of opportunity. He has served the hard working families and small businesses of his constituency, who like many in recent years, have faced significant economic challenges.



With Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire

Justin now proudly continues that work on behalf of all Canadians as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, to which he was elected on April 14, 2013.

Leading a caucus team of 35 Members of Parliament and 36 Senators, Justin and the Liberals are working to enhance the prospects of the middle-class and develop an effective, progressive and fair program that will breathe new life into the Canadian promise.

Prior to serving as Leader, Justin held many responsibilities including: Liberal Party Critic for Youth, Post-Secondary Education, Amateur Sport, Multiculturalism, Citizenship and Immigration. He sat on the House of Commons committees on the Environment and Sustainable Development, and Citizenship and Immigration.

As a Parliamentarian and prior, Justin has travelled the country and met with Canadians in every region. He has consistently spoken about shared values, the importance of youth empowerment, protecting our environment and playing a positive role in the world. Some of Justin's proudest accomplishments include his advocacy for victims of the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, his activism to protect the Nahanni River in 2005, and his work as chair of Katimavik, Canada's national youth service program, from 2002 to 2006.

At the heart of Justin's professional achievements – whether as a math and French teacher in British Columbia, or his leadership role in Katimavik, or even his strong defense of Quebec as a Member of Parliament – is a deep respect for Canadians coast to coast to coast and his desire to serve them.

Justin has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from McGill University and a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. He was born on December 25, 1971, the eldest son of the late former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Margaret Sinclair Trudeau Kemper. Justin is married to Sophie Grégoire, and is the father of two beautiful children, Xavier James Trudeau, born October 18, 2007, and Ella-Grace Trudeau, born February 5, 2009. (For more info and updates, see <http://www.liberal.ca>)

ADD WOMEN. CHANGE POLITICS.

The National Women's Liberal Commission made the following statement after the Liberal Leadership race:

"It is with great pleasure that we offer our congratulations to Justin Trudeau on his election as Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. We commend all candidates – Mr. Trudeau, Joyce Murray, Martha Hall Findlay, Karen McCrimmon, Deborah Coyne and Martin Cauchon – on their hard-fought campaigns.

This race has been marked by a historic achievement for the Liberal Party – an unprecedented two-thirds of the candidates were women, all of whom showed determination in seeing their campaigns through from start to finish. A businesswoman, a constitutional lawyer, a business lawyer, and a retired Air Force pilot – each of these women brought impressive and diverse contributions to the race. The accomplishments of these women and their campaigns have helped our party take a giant step forward in the participation of women at all levels of the Liberal Party. These candidates have set an important example for young women across Canada who aspire to lead.

As we unite behind our new leader, we salute Justin for his grassroots-oriented campaign, and the resonance of his message of hope and hard work.

Equally, we congratulate the Liberal Party of Canada's dedicated team of staff and volunteers on running the most open and inclusive leadership process in Canadian political history. 105,000 men and women of all ages cast their ballots last week, many of whom were engaged in the Liberal movement for the very first time.

We look forward to continuing the hard work that lies ahead on the road to 2015."



The Famous Four: Deborah Coyne, Joyce Murray, Karen McCrimmon and Martha Hall Findlay

NWLC/OWLC BRUNCH BEFORE LIBERAL LEADERSHIP SHOWCASE APRIL 6

The NWLC with the help of Danielle Takacs of OWLC and Carlene Variyan, VP Ontario NWLC, organized an impromptu brunch at Azure restaurant in Toronto. The goal was to facilitate a gathering of past candidates as well as to pause to "mark the moment" of having the majority of Liberal leadership candidates being women. Mary Pynenburg noted that, with all four women came from varying professional backgrounds, it should help end the response we hear too often that "*there are no qualified women out there*" and to encourage more women to get involved in politics.

Liberal leadership candidates Deborah Coyne, Karen McCrimmon and Joyce Murray attended. Martha Hall Findlay had a prior commitment. Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Chair of Liberal Women's caucus, and many former Liberal women candidates also attended.



LIBERAL LEADERSHIP SHOWCASE IN TORONTO APRIL 6



As excitement builds, friends taking pictures of friends
(thanks Hadley Obodiac)



All candidates including Justin Trudeau made their last pitch to members and supporters asking for their vote



Sharing the moment with family - Dr. Carolyn Bennett and her husband Peter O'Brien



Feeling Low? Need a Boost? Need some Women Power?:
Carlene Variyan and several volunteers organized a phone charging station to raise awareness and money for the **Judy Fund**

YOUNG LIBERAL ALUMNI EVENT AT THE EXCHANGE IN OTTAWA APRIL 13



Alyx Holland assisting auctioneer Rob Jamieson (Senior Director, Membership, Victory Fund and Volunteers) and Scott Andrews (Liberal MP, Avalon) at the Young Liberal auction



With Liberal leadership candidate Deborah Coyne and former candidate Kim Rudd



With Liberal leadership candidate Karen McCrimmon

PHOTO ALBUM: LIBERAL LEADERSHIP VOTE ANNOUNCEMENT IN OTTAWA APRIL 14



Starting the day with brunch at Daly's in the Westin with representatives of three Ottawa area women's clubs



Wisdom & Wine with former candidates and representatives of Ottawa area women's clubs at The Shore Club in the Westin



Excitement builds as the crowd and the media await the vote results with the song "Who are You?" playing in the back ground



Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Grégoire with their children Xavier and Ella-Grace after the victory



Justin Trudeau at his first TV interview after the vote announcement



Let the celebration begin: the Justin & Sophie dance recreated by Andre & Tanya



Ending the day with Carlene Variyan, VP Ontario, NWLC at the party to celebrate election of new Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau

OTTAWA WOMEN'S CLUBS: A STRONG TRADITION OF WORKING TOGETHER



Cynthia LaFortune, Alicia Natividad, Karen Harrison at a dinner to honour out going president Alicia. The three Ottawa Women's Presidents hosted the dinner.



President Terry Sheldon presents John McCallum MP with an honorary membership in the Carleton Mississippi Mills Women's Liberal Association.



Ottawa-Vanier Women's Liberal Association held an event on International Women's Day, March 8, 2013, to celebrate multiculturalism in Canada.

NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S LIBERAL COMMISSION

New Brunswick Women's Liberal Commission had a meet and greet to work towards gathering some new members and breathe new life into the Fredericton Women's Liberal Club April 20. There was also an annual fundraiser in nearby Oromocto. Now that the new provincial leader has won his seat handsomely in the recent byelection, his new exec director, Ellen Creighton, was able to join in. All in all, the commission is working to attract and involve new members and in the process, it definitely got some good ideas for moving forward.



Photo includes youngest participant, Jade, daughter of new Exec Director of NBLA, Ellen Creighton and oldest, Kay, mother of Wendy Robbins (wearing new Justin t-shirt). Also, second from right, Mary Lynch, outgoing president of Fredericton Women's Liberal Club, and third from right, Veronique Arsenault, president of NBWLC

Wendy Robbins,
VP Atlantic NWLC,
and Veronique
Arsenault, president
of NBWLC



IN APPRECIATION OF RITA MACNEIL (MAY 28TH, 1944 TO APRIL 16TH, 2013)

*“Her music often spoke of the courage to rise above life’s challenges, particularly those faced by the working class.” **

Canada lost a musical treasure and a wonderful woman when Rita MacNeil passed away recently.

Rita MacNeil’s talent was only superseded by her genuine warmth. This is reflected in the outpouring of admiration by prominent Canadians, artists, fans, friends and family.

Yet within the gentle and humble singer was an indomitable determination which endeared her to us even more. She struggled to overcome her shyness and a difficult life to become an award-winning, best-selling and much loved singer and songwriter.

“While struggling to make ends meet, she found comfort in the fledging women’s movement.

She began attending meetings in Toronto in the early 70’s, that she found out years later, were being monitored by the RCMP.

“All I was doing back then was writing songs, raising two children and singing at festivals, colleges and the occasional rally in support of women’s rights,” MacNeil told The Star’s Greg Quill.

“I don’t know what (the Mounties) were up to or why they decided to keep a file on me. It could have been fear... in those days they weren’t used to women talking about equality, subsidized daycare and empowerment.”

“If you wanted to see a bunch of women sitting around talking about issues and going on demonstrations that are peaceful and non-violent, then so be it, but I don’t think there was a reason to do that.” MacNeil said in 2008.



Rita MacNeil

“What’s radical about equal pay for equal work? And trying to empower women to reach the potential they have?”

MacNeil said these meetings gave her strength and pushed her into songwriting.” *

The National Women’s Liberal Commission is grateful to Rita MacNeil for “Flying on her Own” and teaching others by her example.

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* Rita MacNeil dies at 68 after surgery, son says she had been planning summer concerts
http://www.thestar.com/entertainment/music/2013/04/17/rita_macneil_cape_bretons_first_lady_of_song_dies_at_age_68.html

Rita MacNeil News

<http://www.ritamacneil.com/News.html>

Liberal Statement on the Death of Rita MacNeil

<http://www.liberal.ca/newsroom/news-release/liberal-statement-death-rita-macneil/>

GO YVONNE GO!

We need to help Yvonne Jones, the Liberal candidate, in the current by-election in Labrador. The more you learn about her, the more you understand that she is the best choice. To find out about her and her campaign see: <http://yvonnejones.liberal.ca>

You can help by:

1. encouraging friends or family in Labrador to support her and vote for her;
2. donating to her campaign (https://www.liberal.ca/labrador/?typecode=091000412013&a=5&utm_source=labrador&utm_medium=custom_donate) and
3. spreading the news about Yvonne on social media like Facebook or Twitter (Follow @YvonneJJones).



Yvonne Jones



EQUALITY DAY AND THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Equality Day is celebrated to mark the coming into force of the equality provisions in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms on April 17, 1985. The Charter was signed by Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau on April 17, 1982. However, Section 15 was not implemented for another three years, to allow federal, provincial, and territorial governments to analyze all their laws and amend them as necessary.

These provisions have been used by the Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) to carry cases to the Supreme Court of Canada to establish legal precedents benefiting women throughout Canadian society. (See <http://leaf.ca/about-leaf>)

Women of colour and aboriginal women often face multiple forms of discrimination as they struggle for recognition of their achievements, and for equal treatment. (e.g. unfair stereotypes, to systemic discrimination in workplace hiring and promotional practices).

Even though the Conservative government no longer celebrates this date (*Note: no events or statements on the Status of Women Canada website*), we should take pride in the activism of Canadian women who helped ensure that Equality for All is guaranteed in our Canadian Constitution. We encourage you to consider the ways you can continue to work to eliminate discrimination in our workplaces and lives.

CONTACT US:

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

Mary Pynenburg, President

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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/>