



# Season's Greetings



Charlottetown Women's Liberal Commission  
Christmas Party Dec. 10, 2013

## Judy

If you would like to see more Liberal women elected to parliament, please consider donating to the Judy Fund for Liberal women candidates:

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

You can contribute monthly - \$10 or more makes a real difference.

If you contribute \$100 a month to the \$1200 annual maximum, you are automatically a Laurier club member as well.

After the tax credit is factored in, donating this amount could cost you as little as \$47.92 a month

If you would like to host a Judy event, we have created an online toolkit: <http://nwlc-clfn.liberal.ca/blog/judy-event-toolkit/>.

Contact Carlene Variyan  
[cvariyan@gmail.com](mailto:cvariyan@gmail.com) or

Mary Pynenburg  
[marypynenburg@me.com](mailto:marypynenburg@me.com)



Mary Pynenburg with Chrystia Freeland at her campaign office

## WE CAME, WE SAW, WE CONQUERED!

The Judy Fund for Liberal women candidates gave \$1000 to the campaign of Chrystia Freeland who won the by-election for Toronto Centre Nov. 25, 2013. To learn more about Chrystia, see <http://chrystiafreeland.liberal.ca/meet-chrystia/>



Kim Rudd, Mary Pynenburg and Dr. Carolyn Bennett campaigning with many other volunteers on election day



Chrystia Freeland our new MP for Toronto Centre

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## YES YOU CAN: AN OPEN LETTER TO A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE



Dr. Jane Philpott

*Dear friend,*

I hear you're thinking of pursuing a nomination and you want some advice. I suppose you heard that I decided to seek the nomination for the Liberal Party of Canada in the new riding of Markham-Stouffville. I'm new to this myself. But I'm happy to tell you what I've learned so far.

One of the first things I learned is that you can't be shy. I believe you can be modest and humble, but you'll have to learn the delicate art of self-promotion. You're going to have to ask hundreds of people to buy a party membership so they can support your nomination. I'm happy to tell you we've signed up over 200 people in the past two months. You can do that too. Just put away your timidity and pull out your powers of persuasion.

I find it easier to promote myself when I think about why I'm doing this. You have to be in it for the right reasons. I'd suggest you make sure you have a firm answer to the question of why you want to run. For me, it came down to this: I want to become a Member of Parliament for the singular purpose of improving people's lives. To accomplish that, I need to win – and my party needs to win. I've shed my shyness.

One of the first steps is to build a team of volunteers. Don't be afraid to ask for help. If you're excited about what lies ahead, you'll

inspire your team. I found it helpful to have an official launch party. We had a wonderful evening on November 12 with over 200 people in attendance. I think I had more fun than anyone else. But most of all, it gave me confidence to know that I'm not in this alone. If all those people are with me, I can advance boldly. I'm convinced that people want to be part of something positive. For many of our volunteers, this is the first time they've ever been part of political campaign. I believe the optimism, the ideas and the determination of the whole team will be key to our success.

I'm sure you know that a nomination campaign is a ton of work. Be prepared to roll up your sleeves and get started now. Even if you have a lot to contribute, don't sit back and wait for someone to ask you to run. That probably won't happen. You know best how much you have to give. So step forward and get involved. Of course you will have to take risks. To seek nomination as a political candidate is to accept vulnerability. But this is a good thing. Brené Brown has famously noted that "*Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change.*"

This is some of what I've learned to date. I hope you will consider the noble vocation of politics. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Sincerely,  
*Jane Philpott*

[jane@janephilpott.ca](mailto:jane@janephilpott.ca)



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## YES YOU CAN RUN TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE YOUNG LIBERALS IN BC

I first got myself involved in politics in 2008. I helped out during Honourable Raymond Chan's campaign, and since then, I have continued my active volunteering for the Liberal Party of Canada.

Currently, I am the President for the Young Liberals of Canada in British Columbia, the President of Tru-Youths United, co-chair for the 2013 LPCBC Biennial Convention, and one of the board directors of the Vancouver Chinese Library.

In 2011, Interim leader Bob Rae recruited Honourable Raymond Chan to help rebuild the party and I have been part of the team since. I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Rae a few times and supported the rebuilding effort by recruiting youth volunteers.

A year later when Justin Trudeau announced his candidacy in 2012, I was invited to introduce him in three languages, English, French, and Chinese, which was his first event in British Columbia. It was an amazing experience for me to speak in front of 1000 supporters. It really wasn't until this event when I realized that my language proficiency is a valuable skill, and definitely a skill that is worthwhile to possess. This experience allowed me to gain a true understanding and appreciation for communication in a multicultural society, like Canada. It also reminded me of the diversity of my community, and how important and meaningful it is to live in a country so rich with culture and heterogeneity.

Since then I have helped Justin build an incredibly strong campaign team of dedicated youth volunteers. I was part of the team that created volunteer development programs including: leadership development, seminars on Liberal Party history, and current affairs. We have built a team of over one-hundred active youth volunteers and founded a youth group, Tru-Youths United (TYU). Members of this group are active high school, college, and university students. We



YLCBC President  
Linda Ching

signed up over one thousand supporters for Justin Trudeau's Liberal leadership campaign by reaching out to our acquaintances and signing up strangers by "mainstreeting" in transit stations. At the Chinese New Year parade in Chinatown alone, our forty volunteers signed up over 200 supporters for Justin.

Then for Justin's celebration fundraising dinner on June 2, 2013, I was presented with the opportunity to act as one of two Masters of Ceremonies (MC) for the entire event. In order to prove myself, I had to convince my team of mentors that although I was one of the youngest volunteers at the event, I had enough experience and capability to host such a formal

event. I put in extensive rehearsal time, had to anticipate any potential issues, and make sure everyone was on schedule. I also set goals for myself: to captivate my audience and to convey our initiatives effectively. Once I acquired the role, I realized I not only had to Co-MC the entire event for over nine hundred guests, but also had to help lead one hundred volunteers throughout the evening. This experience taught me how to remain composed under pressure, think on my feet, and engage a large group of people.

As a seventeen-year-old girl, still in school, and still in the process of applying to universities and deciding what I want to do for the rest of my life, my experience with politics has genuinely transformed my life. I do a great deal of volunteer work, but nothing leaves a greater impact on me than the feeling of being able to contribute to my community to the best of my abilities. Being a young, female politician is not always easy, but that gives me more the reason to work hard and thrive.

- Linda Ching

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## YES YOU CAN - CELEBRATING LIBERAL WOMEN IN NOVA SCOTIA



*Women's Commission President Brigitte Neumann with Sandra MacLennan, Pres. of the Local Council of Women, Halifax and Michelle D'Aigneault, campaign chair for Halifax Chebucto*

The recent provincial election in Nova Scotia saw ten of twelve women candidates take seats in the House of Assembly, a historic high! Furthermore, five of those ten women now sit at the Cabinet table, and another is Deputy Speaker of the House.

In alphabetical order, the ten women now in the House, with their Ministries where relevant, are: Patricia Arab; Joanne Bernard, Minister of Community Services; Karen Casey, Minister of Education; Lena Diab, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General; Pam Eyking; Suzanne Lohnes-Croft; Margaret Miller, Deputy Speaker; Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education and Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women; Joyce Treen; Diana Whalen, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance and Treasury Board.

On November 20, these women were honoured, along with other important contributors: those who stood for election and did not win this time; those who stood for nomination; those who spent countless hours looking after the myriad details of campaigns, from campaign management to fundraising and canvassing chairs, from those staffing campaign offices to those on the streets of their ridings to canvass.



*Mary Clancy, past M.P. for Halifax and Hon. Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education and Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women*

We held the celebration at the historic house of the Local Council of Women of Halifax. The house was bequeathed to the Local Council by George

Wright, who met an untimely end in the sinking of the Titanic. So since 1912, the Council House has been a base for the advancement of women, from the campaign for suffrage onwards. What more appropriate location for the celebration of women's political victories could there be?



*Amy Moonshadow, V-P, NSWLC, Patricia Donnelly, Education Chair for the NSWLC and Honourable Diana Whalen, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance and Treasury Board*

Deputy Premier Diana Whalen spoke on her experiences over ten years in the House and introduced Premier Stephen McNeil. The Premier noted the important change that the increased number of women will bring to the caucus and Cabinet, and encouraged our continuing efforts. Members of the girls' choir of Sacred Heart School of Halifax sang for us, and the President of the Local Council of Women, Sandra MacLennan, told us about the history of the house. Mary Clancy, past MP for Halifax, motivated us for the next campaign we need to win: that for the federal election coming in just two years.



*Premier Stephen McNeil rises to address the group*



*Jane Spurr, Policy Chair for the NSWIC pours for Hon. Lena Diab, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice*

We enjoyed cake and tea, poured from the historic silver that the Local Council of Women kindly made available to us, and the animated conversations that point to an exciting future!

-Brigitte Neumann  
[neumannbr@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:neumannbr@ns.sympatico.ca)

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## NWLC POLICY PRIORITIES FOR CONVENTION IN MONTREAL

1. Last Right: Medically-assisted Death (*Will go directly to plenary; remainder go to workshops for prioritization process to determine if they have enough support to go to plenary*)
2. Royal Commission on the Environment and Health
3. Redressing the "democratic deficit" for women in Parliament
4. Preventing Violence against Aboriginal Women
5. Gender Parity on Corporate Boards
6. National Action Plan on Disability
7. Restoration of Funding to Women's Groups for Advocacy
8. Basic Income Supplement: Testing a Dignified Approach to Income Security for Working-age Canadians
9. EI Coverage for Political Campaign Leave
10. Separation of CIDA and DFAIT

**Contact:** Wendy Robbins, VP Atlantic Region and NWLC Policy Chair [wjr@unb.ca](mailto:wjr@unb.ca)

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### READY, SET, GO!

If you would like to attend the 2014 Biennial Convention in Montreal (Feb. 20 to 23) as a voting delegate, please complete the Notice of Intent to be a Delegate form: <https://www.liberal.ca/notice-intent-participate-delegate/>.

You must be a current Liberal Party of Canada member to stand as a delegate. Please ensure your membership is up to date: <https://action.liberal.ca/en/membership>

Should you have any questions about this process, please email [montreal2014@liberal.ca](mailto:montreal2014@liberal.ca).



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### CONGRATULATIONS!

Please join us in congratulating Anna Gainey who is running to be the next president of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Kaisha Thompson, Executive Vice-President at [Young Liberals of Canada](#) said it well, "*Major congratulations are in order to [Anna Gainey](#) - my choice for LPC President - and her husband, Tom Pitfield on the birth of their new baby girl today weighing in at 7.1 pounds. Proud to be on Anna's team. It's an honour to work for such a strong female role model and I wish her family all the best!*"

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#### **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](mailto: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/>*