



Liberal leader Justin Trudeau speaking with hundreds of supporters at crowded Gritsmas event in Vancouver

Happy New Year!



Mary Pynenburg with Justin Trudeau at Laurier Club Christmas event in Vancouver

Please be notified of the **Annual General Meeting** and the Election of Officers for the National Women's Liberal Commission (NWLC):

Date: Friday, Feb 21, 2014

Time: 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Location: Montreal Convention Centre

The business will include:

1. Reports from the Executive
2. Ratification of revised Constitution
3. Election of 2014/16 Executive.

Positions to be elected are:

- a. The President;
- b. Regional Vice - Presidents.

Note: Provincial and territorial commissions are elected in their respective provinces and territories.

Indications of intent to run for any of the above positions must be made to the Nominations Chair, Lynne Steele at steele6996@gmail.com. Forms may be found here: <https://www.liberal.ca/files/2013/10/Bylaw-5-Final-EN.pdf>. Please submit forms to Luc Vaudry at Liberal party office lvaudry@liberal.ca with a copy to aholland@liberal.ca.

If there are contested positions, voting will take place at the same time as voting for other national executive positions, at convention.

HOLD THE DATES FOR "BE HER OR SUPPORT HER" TRAINING AND NWLC AGM

Plans are well underway for our upcoming convention in Montreal. In terms of the National Women's Liberal Women's Commission members, please note these highlights:

- **Be Her or Support Her campaign training workshop** for potential candidates and their key supporters featuring a series of expert speakers Thurs. Feb 20 9-430pm - To reserve your place(s) contact Lynne Steele steele6996@gmail.com
- Meeting of NWLC executive re strategic planning Thurs. Feb 20 430-530 pm (to be confirmed)
- **Welcoming remarks by Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau** to all delegates on Thurs Feb 20 530pm
- **NWLC AGM** Fri. Feb 21 8am-10am in Montreal Convention Centre
- Judy Fund fundraising event (tentatively scheduled for Friday evening - to be confirmed) - Contact Eleni Bakopanos elenibakopanos@sympatico.ca or Carlene Variyan cvariyan@gmail.com
- Policy workshops, policy plenary and elections Feb 21-23 including our 10 NWLC resolutions. Our top resolution is Death with Dignity and our second is a Royal Commission on Health and Environment. If you have questions, contact NWLC policy chair Wendy Robbins wendy.j.robbins@gmail.com
- Please also ensure your membership is up to date: <https://action.liberal.ca/en/membership>.
- For general convention info: <http://convention.liberal.ca/faq/>

AN OPEN LETTER FROM LIBERAL STATUS WOMEN CRITIC, KIRSTY DUNCAN



Dear friends,

Hello, warm wishes, and Happy New Year!

I wish each and every one of you health, happiness, and tremendous joy over the coming year.

As always, please know your thoughts and ideas are important to me, and I look forward to hearing them. Specifically, I am looking for your ideas regarding what we, as Liberals, should be fighting for to improve the lives of women in Canada? Please call my office at 613 995 4702 or write to me at duncak0@parl.gc.ca to share your thinking.

It has been a busy four months as the Status of Women critic for our party. In addition to doing a tour of British Columbia, as well as meeting with numerous stakeholder groups, and visiting many ridings in Ontario, I wrote fourteen articles which were published in national newspapers, and which can be viewed on my website at <http://kirstyduncan.liberal.ca/status-women/>.

The articles focussed on topics ranging from child care, ending violence against women and girls, pay equity, Status of Women Canada, "The Famous Five", valuing women's work, and the challenges faced by certain groups of women, including rural women, women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and women in sport.

The latter was important to highlight, as we are all looking forward to the Sochi Olympics and Paralympics to cheer on our country's elite winter athletes, who are riding "a wave of momentum" after the unprecedented 26-medal performance in Vancouver, and to cheering on a new generation of female role models!

In the coming months, I hope you will look for my 2014 wishes for women in Canada, and that I will have news to share about a "women's summit", and a "closing the gap" tour in the spring.

Finally, as we gather with family and friends across our great country to look forward to a more hopeful 2014, let this be a New Year focused on Canadians, and not on political drama and scandal; and let parliamentarians work to ensure a brighter future for all women in Canada.

And let the Liberal Party work to empower more women than ever before to get involved in politics, to run for office, to build stronger connections between Canadian society and women in politics, and to develop a strong platform that is responsive to the needs of Canadian women.

Best wishes,
Kirsty
duncak0@parl.gc.ca



Kirsty Duncan and Mary Pynenburg after the Liberal Women's caucus strategic planning session in Charlottetown in August 2013

THE OTHER 'PIPELINE' PROBLEM

As we looked at our much reduced women's caucus in 2011, we were shocked to find out that we were only 17% of the caucus. The election had devastated us. We'd lost so many colleagues. So many truly wonderful women candidates had been defeated. During the campaign I had been in 39 ridings Only 1 candidate had been successful.... HE had been an incumbent.

Lynne Steele, the co-ordinator of the support systems we have built around women candidates and our 9 years of weekly calls suggested that in spite of this terrible election there was also another problem. She did the numbers...there were only 17% women riding Presidents too.

We will never achieve equity in Parliament until we achieve equity in all aspects of party politics. We need to start with the executives of the Electoral District Associations. We've heard way too many stories. Ridings that decided they didn't really need a Search Committee. Search Committees that time and time again plaintively suggested that they "couldn't find any qualified women". They hadn't looked. They'd already decided who the candidate should be. Someone kinda like them ! If not 'them' themselves. 'They' had become the riding president in order to secure the nomination for themselves.

Ok enough already. What do we do?

We as the women of the Liberal Party of Canada need to 'Lean In'. The AGM's and Founding meetings are happening. We need women to run for positions on Riding Executives. We need to persuade those that have sat on riding executives to run for



Carolyn Bennett (second from left), leading a group of former women candidates and their supporters to summer Liberal caucus in Charlottetown

President. We need to be prospecting for great women candidates with fabulous community credentials and C.V.'s that have to be taken seriously. We need to ensure that we have women running in 'winnable' ridings. We need to teach women how to win nominations. We have to ensure that nomination races are run fairly. We need to take responsibility for the number of women that are nominated and the number of women elected.

We have to engage young women as early as possible. We need to prevent them being turned off by the off-putting "gotcha", winners/losers culture that can take place even within our own party.

We need to support them. Listen to them. They have important observations and essential recommendations as to how our party can be more inclusive.

Professor Ursula Franklin, years ago, advised me that good governance is "fair, transparent and takes people seriously". She asked that if we don't practice that in our small organizations – to us that should be our EDA's, our Commissions and our National Party Executive– why would people think that we would govern that way?

Women in the Liberal Party of Canada have always been concerned about values, fair process, and accountability.

Justin Trudeau has given us a fantastic opportunity to 'Lean In' and demonstrate the importance of a strong women's voice within the Liberal Party of Canada and not only how it can result in a strong women's caucus, but how it is essential to a Liberal victory/majority in 2015. - Carolyn Bennett, Chair Liberal Women's Caucus carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

“THE VETERAN”: KIMBERLEY LOVE PLANS TO RUN A SECOND TIME IN HER RURAL ONTARIO RIDING.

“It wasn’t easy to be a Liberal in the last election,” concedes Kimberley Love, who was the federal candidate in 2011 for the rural riding of Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound in southwestern Ontario. “My husband and I talked about it, and we knew it would be an uphill battle and might take more than one election. But we believe strongly that the riding is winnable... and we’ve been working towards 2015 since the morning after the last election. We’re ‘all in’.”

In fact, Love and her husband recently sold half of their heritage family farm in the south of the riding and moved to the centre of the riding: the city of Owen Sound. “As heart-wrenching as it has been to leave our farm, there were many reasons to make this move,” says Love. “And one of them is that we can put up our best possible fight in the next election. Because we plan to win.”

Love offers some reflections on what it takes to run a successful campaign.

1. Make it a family decision.

Love says that, for her, running is a family decision. A mother of four, she and her husband still have one child at home; daughter Isabel is now 13 and in grade 8 at a local public school in Owen Sound. During the last election, Love’s parents provided important care for her two children at home. A supportive spouse and family are crucial.

2. Develop a campaign team that you trust.

It’s important to have a campaign management team that you trust, says Love. “I’m now working with two fantastic young people – both talented and energetic – who will hopefully be with me right through to 2015,” says Love. “You need a high level of trust in your key people, so choose carefully. Make sure your campaign manager is



supported by a reliable and enthusiastic team, make sure everyone knows the structure of decision-making, and keep lines of communication open.”

3. In a large riding, build a “field network”.

Love has been working hard to maintain connections with the many communities in her large riding, and is now re-establishing the same field network team of 12 which supported her in the last election. “It’s important that you make local connections, and that you understand the issues of your smaller communities,” she says. “Define areas, and find a point person to support your work in each one.”

4. Identify what differentiates you from the competition.

In marketing, you might call it an environmental scan, says Love. Identify who your competitors are, and create your own “brand” that maximizes what you have to offer voters. If you can’t distinguish why you’re different from the incumbent, then voters probably can’t, either.

5. Learn from experience.

This is the best part of being a second-time candidate, says Love. “We did so many things so well in the last campaign. But there was also a lot of learning – including some very hard lessons. Trust your own moral compass, and listen to your own inner voice. Repeat your successes, and don’t allow yourself to be beaten down by your failures. You have to be an optimist, and see value in those lessons.

- Kimberley Love kim@kimberleylove.ca

The second-oldest of 8 daughters in a rural farm family, Kimberley Love grew up in Proton Township (Grey County), just four farms from the birthplace of Agnes Macphail: the first woman elected to Canadian Parliament (1921). That riding – now known as Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound – has never elected a woman since... either federally or provincially. Love and her campaign team plan to change that.

YES YOU CAN - RUN FOR NOMINATION



Heather Wilson of Espanola, Ontario has confirmed that she will seek the federal Liberal nomination for Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing.

Wilson is currently the Financial Controller of Canadian Tire, Espanola. She has lived in the region for over 18 years with her

husband and 3 sons. Wilson says, "I have grown up in a very political family so the commitment to the Liberal party is something I have been surrounded by all my life. I am passionate about the health, wealth and happiness of all citizens of this riding and I know that my diverse skill set will contribute to my success as the MP for AMK." Wilson possesses an Honours degree in English and Women's Studies and a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities with a focus on Gender Equality and Social Justice.

Born and raised on a dairy farm near Owen Sound, Ontario, she lived on the very farm where her grandfather and her uncle, the late MPP Farquhar Oliver, held fundraising events for Canada's first female MP Agnes MacPhail of Grey-Bruce of the former United Farmers Party. Wilson spent 10 years as a hotel Financial Controller in Toronto and then

Bermuda. Wilson believes that living and working in another country is a good way to learn to appreciate all that we have here in Canada. She and her husband owned a tourist camp in Whitefish Falls from 1995-2011. She has also worked in financial administration at Manitoulin Health Centre and Laurentian University. Wilson says that her involvement in both public and private business exposed her to the challenges and rewards of operating in the North. "I know how to manage a business efficiently and effectively and I think this is something that government should be thinking about when charged with handling tax-payers money."

Wilson is passionate about the health of all Northern communities where all citizens can participate in a healthy, productive and peaceful lifestyle. The riding of AMK includes Manitoulin Island to the south, east to the city of Sudbury boundaries, west to St. Joseph Island and north to Kapuskasing and Hearst. This makes the 103,000 square kilometres in the riding a challenge for the MP. The Liberal candidate for the riding will be chosen by Liberal Party members sometime after the party's Biennial Convention in February 2014.

To participate in the nomination process, party members will vote for nominees and the chosen candidate will then run in the Federal election to be held in 2015.
- Heather Wilson hwilson1@ontera.net

UPCOMING MEET & GREET FOR NEW FEMALE CANDIDATES

On February 8th, 2014 a group of Liberals and community members will join 3 amazing Liberal women for a meet and greet in Markham. The purpose of this event is for the Liberals in Markham to get to know our female candidates and learn about the challenges faced by women in politics. Dr. Jane Philpott, Sandra Yeung Racco and Liz Davidson are the Liberal women that have agreed to speak at this event for now. Other nominees and candidates may join as well. There will be a fee of \$5 which will go towards the fundraising part of a Forum for Young Canadians trip in March. The event starts at 1pm to 3pm at Folco's Ristorante on 49 Main Street North, Markham L3P 1X5.

If you're interested in attending, or in helping volunteer for the workshop, please contact Arezoo Najibzadeh Ontario Young Liberals arezoonaajibzadeh@gmail.com

YES YOU CAN - RUN FOR NOMINATION

Elizabeth Wilfert is seeking the nomination to be the federal Liberal candidate in the new riding of Richmond Hill, Ontario.

She has been a long time member of the Liberal party and very involved in elections over the years (especially with her husband Bryon).



I have been involved in politics in various capacities since my teens and have been a strong believer in the grassroots approach. Since moving to Richmond Hill many years ago, I got involved in the community, volunteering on a variety of committees and becoming a board member for the library, the arena association and a volunteer and information bureau. It is through these connections that I have a strong commitment to ensure that my community remains a vibrant and thriving place to live. I have been a Municipal Councillor and an elected Hydro Commissioner for Richmond Hill and I have worked alongside my husband, during his many years as both a Municipal Councillor and Member of Parliament. I know what the issues and concerns are that affect our community and know that constituents want politicians who are good listeners and ready to tackle any problem.

I come with a unique advantage of knowing what the job involves and the toll it can take not only on you but also your family, and strangely, I still want to run, be elected and serve the people of the new riding of Richmond Hill. I want to be that politician who the residents can be proud of and the government they represent. I want people to equate Canadian politics with commitment, integrity and accountability.

With grassroots politics, it is important to be visible and show a presence at as many events as possible. Communicating both your activities and ideas through social media such as Facebook, Twitter and a web site are critical in getting your message out.

Nominations can be the worst part of an election; there are so many variables and unknown factors. You cannot argue policy or who has the best leader because we are all on the same side, so it can get personal which is never fun. One must ride it out and the only factor that really matters is selling more memberships than your opponents and then getting those folks to come out and vote for you on nomination day. It is not an easy task and you can't do it alone. You need the support of your loved ones, family and friends and a great campaign team all working towards the same goal...to get you elected.

- Elizabeth Wilfert elizabeth@wilfert.ca
www.wilfert.ca

ARE YOU PLANNING TO RUN OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

The official Liberal party rules for nomination contestants are out. <http://www.liberal.ca/open-nominations/nomination-info/> Please share with declared and potential nomination contestants so that women can be well prepared. Your first step to starting the process is to [download the nomination rules](#) and read them carefully. Next, fill out the [form to request your Nomination Candidate Package](#). Your Provincial or Territorial Co-chairs will then send you the forms you need to have your candidacy reviewed by the Green Light Committee. After you become a Qualified Candidate, you will receive access to riding membership information through Liberalist and can begin your nomination campaign. We look forward to working with you and your campaign team. Good luck!

CAMPAIGN TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN GREATER TORONTO AREA

Jeannette Chau is seeking the nomination in the new riding of Mississauga-Erin Mills. Jeannette and another nomination candidate, Jennifer Stebbings, are working on co-hosting a workshop for other women nomination candidates who might also be interested in running. They have excellent presenters who will be conducting it. **Betsy McGregor**, (a former candidate who conducted the campaign training workshop that was held in Ottawa-Vanier), and **Harry Mortimer** (an expert on campaign finance regulations) will be among the presenters.

Please email Jennifer for a copy of the final agenda: jennifer.stebbing@gmail.com

Below is more info regarding the training session:

Be Her or Support Her – Women Entering Politics: A Roadmap

(a workshop for nomination candidates and their team leaders)

Date: January 26, 2014, 8:30am-2:30pm

Location: Queen Elizabeth Park Community Cultural Centre, 2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, ON

Cost: \$20.00 payable in cash or cheque at the door (\$5.00 for students with valid student card)

Registration: Please email Jennifer at jennifer.stebbing@gmail.com

- Please register in advance so that adequate arrangements can be made.
- Late registrations will be accepted at the door on a first come first serve basis.

To keep costs more affordable, please bring your own lunch (i.e. participants will be working through lunch). Coffee, tea and cookies provided.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR ANOTHER CAMPAIGN TRAINING WORKSHOP IN BC

The BC Women's Liberal Commission is working on their second Campaign Training workshop for women on March 8 2014, International Women's Day. The focus will be:

- How to succeed as a nominee
- How to support women who are nominees
- How to build membership and support groups with some insight as to who candidates will need on their team

If you're interested in attending, or in helping volunteer for the workshop, contact:

BCWLC president Margo Metcalfe mmetcalfe@liberal.ca

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](https://twitter.com/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/>