

Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario) 2010 Annual General Meeting February 5th to 7th, Windsor Ontario

MIKE CRAWLEY

President, LPC(O)

This is my last report as President. It's been an honour to chair the Party's Management Committee over the last seven years. It has been a period of change and transition within the Party. At LPC(O), we have sought to ensure that Ontario was a centre of strength and stability during this period.

As a first priority, we brought discipline and control to the financial management of the Party in Ontario. Effective political organization work cannot happen if staff are struggling to make payroll and pay the bills. Over the last several years we have strengthened the balance sheet of the Party to the point where staff can do what they do best – help make all 106 ridings as competitive as possible. This was accomplished by applying strict controls over expenditures and negotiating new revenue sharing arrangements with LPC.

As our financial situation improved, we began to invest more in campaign worker and candidate training. As a new generation of campaign workers began taking leadership roles in campaigns and many new candidates emerged, this was critical to growing the strength of the Party's Ontario organization.

Politics can be very exciting but it's important to remember that success only comes from hard work. The professionalism of LPC(O)'s staff has always ensured that the job at hand got done even as the world of politics may be turning upside down around them. Ontario has consistently lead other provinces in getting nominations completed and other key organizational tasks.

With the elimination of corporation donations, our approach to fundraising had to change dramatically. We have embraced the new Victory Fund with Meredith Caplan and Howard Brown heading up an excellent committee charged with signing up new donors across the Province. Ontario has the most Victory Fund members overall and is snapping at Nova Scotia's heels for the most members per riding. I have no doubt that we'll get there as we push ever harder.

Finally, fieldwork has become even more important as the political landscape became more competitive over the last few years. More fieldworkers were hired and, in key areas like the Southwest, we kept them out in the ridings as much as possible. One the great rewards of our strengthened financial situation, is that we will be moving ahead to hire more fieldworkers in the coming year to regain our strength in the Southwest, East and North.

These accomplishments and the continued strength of the organization in Ontario over the last seven years can be attributed to leadership from a succession of strong Executive Directors and excellent staff. Today, Judi Longfield is building an ever stronger organization, putting an even greater focus on effective fieldwork and widespread training.

Different paths led each of us to the Liberal Party, but we all continue to volunteer for the same reason. The values and principles of this Party have helped build Canada and created opportunity and security for each of us. We can only build on this with strong and successful Liberal Governments. During my seven years as President of LPC(O), I have seen my daughters grow from babies into confident, happy girls. I want them to have all the opportunities I have had and more. This makes me more determined than ever to work through the Liberal Party to make positive change happen.

Liberally yours,

Mike Crawley



Working together to overcome the challenges ahead

Liberal