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Message from the President of LPC(O) - Mike Crawley

Presidents Report:

While politics can be unpredictable, there are some clear markers in our path to victory.

LPC(O) staff have put together a robust training program to ensure we have the skills and tools to win. The first candidate training session at Durham College was well attended and well received. More are scheduled. Executive Board meetings and the new regional meetings include training sessions for campaign workers.

Liberals need to be engaged and mobilized. Southwest Ontario has long held an annual regional meeting. Now LPC(O) is organizing meetings in all regions this spring to reach out to Liberal activists across the province. Please see the LPC(O) website for locations.

As important as organization is, we need to also present a plan that Canadians can believe in. As work on the platform continues, the policy development process is well underway. Riding Associations are working on resolutions which will go to a province-wide policy rally September 27th - 28th, being held in conjunction with the Executive Board meeting. Out of this rally will come Ontario's priority resolutions to the December National Biennial Convention to be held in Vancouver, BC.

Finally, we need the **financial** resources to win. The launch this past month of the Victory Fund is a major step in expanding our donor base.

This monthly giving program splits proceeds between the national party and the local riding association. With a strong donor value proposition, the Victory Fund will allow us to be more competitive both nationally but also on the ground where MPs get elected. I encourage all Liberals to sign up for the Victory Fund for as little as \$10 per month. Information is available at www.victoryfund.ca



Message from the President of the Liberal Party of Canada - Doug Ferguson

I would like to thank you for the many messages of support and encouragement after my election as President of the Liberal Party of Canada. It's a great honour to serve such a great Party that has built the Canada we know and love.

We have come a long way in the past 17 months. We have accomplished much, and we are moving in the right direction toward modernizing our Party. I will bring all my energy to the remainder of my term. You can count on me to get things done in a collegial way.

Here are the priorities for LPC as I see them:

- Successful launch and marketing of the new Victory Fund
- Completion of the National Membership Registry
- Completion of the LPC strategic plan
- Completion of the governance report
- Improvement of internal communications and coordination among the National Executive, the National Office, the Office of the Leader, caucus and riding presidents
- Plan the rebuilding of unheld ridings in close cooperation with provincial and territorial associations.

My top priority is fundraising. The Victory Fund is a new national fundraising program that encourages party members to donate on a monthly basis to both your local riding and to LPC. The Victory Fund is crucial to the financial viability of our party at all levels - national, provincial, and riding.

The more money that the Victory Fund produces, the more money we will have for our national election campaigns, and a strong national campaign will help all of you in your ridings. Even better, your riding will have a secure funding base that will need little effort. It's a win-win for all of us.

You will be receiving marketing tools for this new program and I sincerely hope that, with all of your help, it will be a huge success and forever change our culture of giving.

I will be asking our National Executive to set up a small task force that will report back in 30 days with a plan to start rebuilding our weaker ridings across the country in close co-operation with the provincial association. We need to be competitive everywhere.

Please join hands with me as we move our Party forward to become the open, modern, and progressive party Canada needs.

Doug Ferguson
President, Liberal Party of Canada



Message from the Executive Director of LPC(O) - Hon. Judi Longfield

As days grow longer and temperatures rise, Liberal Candidates from across the province have a renewed vigour in their step as they prepare for a full and active summer season of meeting and listening to residents in their constituencies. Lawn signs are being ordered and ManagElect data bases are being updated. Campaign teams are being expanded and Liberal brochures and canvass cards are finding their way to homes in every region.

We have nominated over 90 candidates and have completed numerous training sessions for candidates, their management teams and their campaign volunteers. Our policy process is moving along and regional meetings are gathering active participants from one end of the province to the other. And we expect to do even more in the upcoming months.... Make no mistake, Federal Liberals in Ontario will be ready whenever the election is called.

Back at the office, LPC (O) is putting together a comprehensive agenda for the September Executive Board which will be held September 27th 28th at the Delta Meadowvale Conference Centre in the Riding of Mississauga Streetsville. This will also be the culmination of the policy process.

The annual membership renewal process is continuing and riding AGM's are being scheduled. We have seen a completion of our yearly audit and are now encouraging all ridings to avail themselves of the Moneris system

We have seen a significant reorganization at the office at 10 St. Mary over the past several months. We are leaner and keener and are looking forward to a renewed effort to meet the needs of all of you, our most valued and cherished assets...incredible volunteers who give so freely of your talents and time on behalf of the Liberal Party.

And speaking of incredible volunteers, this leads me to asking you, to join with me in congratulating Doug Ferguson in his recent election to the position of President of LPC. Doug, who many of you know as the creator of our acclaimed Liberal U has already begun to make his mark on the party. Within days of his installation, we have seen the launch of our Victory Fund. Replacing Doug as Vice President English is our own Mike Crawley. Mike will continue his duties as LPC (O) President and will bring his expertise in the area of governance and party finances to this added area of responsibility at the LPC table.

And finally, we thank Senator Marie Poulin for her years of dedication and wish her a full and speedy recovery. We are also pleased to report that our Chief Financial Officer. John Duffy is also recovering from recent by pass surgery.

Your participation in the Victory Fund is certain to accelerate the healing process for both John and Marie!!



Regional Meetings have started!

According to the new constitution of LPC(O), every region will hold a regional assembly to take the place of a General Meeting. This will give you the opportunity to have profound exchanges with your regional colleagues on appropriate questions within your respective regions. This year there will also be an element of political resolutions which will lead to the national biennial convention at the end of this year.

I congratulate the Eastern region on your success during its first annual regional meeting. This meeting allowed the riding associations of the region to have passionate debates, exchanges of political concepts, two sessions of training with Liberal University (Fundraising and Building your Team), and a presentation by Wayne Easter on the rural perspective. Thanks to all volunteers who helped to set up this event.

You can follow this link to view the minutes for the Eastern Region.

Before the end of June, there will be 5 other regional assemblies and a rally of policies. We invite all Liberals in Ontario to participate; please see detailed information on meetings below:

Toronto Regional Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 24th
Time: 8:30AM
Location: Ryerson University
RSVP: torontopresident@lpcoco.ca
Deadline for submissions: Saturday, May 10th

Northern Regional Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 31st
Time: 8:30AM
Location: Howard Johnson Hotel, Sudbury
RSVP: northernpresident@lpcoco.ca
Deadline for submissions: Tuesday, May 20th

Central Regional Meeting

Date: Saturday June 7th
Time: 8:30AM
Location: Trent University, Peterborough
RSVP: centralpresident@lpcoco.ca
Early Bird Deadline for submissions: Friday, May 23rd

Southwest Regional Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 7th
Time: 9:00AM
Location: The Holiday Inn Express, London
RSVP: southwestpresident@lpcoco.ca
Deadline for submissions: Friday, May 23rd

Golden Horseshoe Regional Meeting

Date: Saturday, June 21st with time to be determined

Location: Niagara Falls

RSVP: goldenhorseshoepresident@lpcoco.ca

Deadline for submissions: Saturday, June 7th

Eastern Region Policy Rally

Date: Saturday, June 28th with location to be determined

Deadline for submissions: Saturday, June 14th

As you will note, some details are still in the works. We will update the lpcoco.ca website as more information becomes available. If you are interested in attending and would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional President or Maryanne Kampouris, Vice-President Policy.

Please consider attending and/or submitting policy proposals for these meetings! We encourage Liberals to attend these meetings and take part in this important process. Please email your Regional President or VP Policy, Maryanne Kampouris at vppolicy@lpcoco.ca.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has available to you information on the procedure of policies within the Liberal Party and invites you to contact your Regional President by visiting the lpcoco.ca.



The Victory Fund needs you

The Liberal Party of Canada and your local Liberal Riding Association need your help and that of all our members to defeat Stephen Harper and build a strong Liberal Party.

Your contribution of as little as \$10 per month – the equivalent of **just \$2.50 per month after your year-end tax rebate (that's the price of a coffee and muffin!) – will make this happen.**

The new financing rules mean that political parties must develop strong grassroots support in order to compete on a level playing field in elections. Due to their Reform Party roots, the Conservatives have been very successful at this for some time - in fact, the Tories **raised almost four times as much** as the Liberal Party in 2007.

The **Victory Fund** has been created as a means for all Liberals to participate in an inexpensive and meaningful way to finance Liberal victories at both the riding and the national level.

Canadians want to throw out Harper's Conservative Government for:

- Cancelling a national child care strategy;
- Mismanaging the Canadian economy;
- Making a mockery of election finance legislation; and
- Obstructing global progress on climate change.

Canadians need a Liberal Government that will:

- Re-establish Canada's international reputation;
- Manage a strong, vibrant Canadian economy;
- Adopt a coherent strategy to address climate change; and
- Launch a sustained campaign to reduce poverty – especially child poverty.

We need your help now. We need you in the Victory Fund.

Together, we Liberals have built a strong Canada, a Canada of which we can all be proud. The Victory Fund will build a strong Liberal Party that will be ready to take on Stephen Harper and the Conservatives and give Canada an open, progressive, and modern government.

Please take a few minutes to join: www.liberal.ca/victoryfund_e.aspx.

Victory Fund supporters will be invited to participate in 120 hours (each year) of live online dialogues with senior members of the Liberal caucus and other key party figures. In addition, at the upcoming biennial convention, there will be a Victory Fund reception area, lounge and preferred seating.



OWLC Campaign College roaring success

On Saturday, March 29th the OWLC held its second Candidate Campaign College. Last year, the Commission was heralded by candidates, their teams and the party for their Campaign College and there have been calls ever since requesting an encore.

This year's format focused solely on the already nominated candidate. There were workshops for debate, media and canvassing training, with one-on-one instruction for the participants. There were also sessions on messaging, how to fundraise, and an update from our national campaign chairs and directors. We were very fortunate to have some of the best trainers in the Liberal party give generously of their time and effort to contribute to the day's success.

Not only did OWLC invite federal women candidates from Ontario, but we also invited women from across the country to participate in the training. We were delighted to have candidates fly in from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec. We also had a half dozen former provincial women candidates participate. And since there were a few open spaces, we invited several newly nominated male candidates from Ontario to participate, and five were able to join us. One even flew down from the Thunder Bay area.

We also had a very special guest as our keynote speaker. Our Leader, the Hon. Stéphane Dion, joined us for lunch, addressed the candidates and took comments and questions from the candidates. As an added bonus, Mme. Krieger was also able to join us. We were delighted to have Madam participate in the afternoon sessions with the candidates and take some time to speak with all participants during the afternoon break.

To cap off an intensive day of training, the OWLC hosted a networking reception for all the participants. We were fortunate to have many M.P.P.s and M.P.s join us throughout the day as participants and role-players in the sessions and many more were able to join us at the networking reception, including several party officials. The Hon. George Smitherman, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long Term Care, gave an address to the candidates at the reception.

And because we never lose sight of what can often still be the largest obstacle for women candidates, there was a Judy LaMarsh table present throughout the entire day. There was even a small auction held at the reception, the proceeds of which were contributed to the Fund.

The OWLC was very pleased to be able to offer such an important and valuable service to all women candidates. It's not enough to help them win a nomination. The OWLC is equally committed to arming women with the skills and tools they need to be successful in their campaigns.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the many volunteers, staff, M.P.s, M.P.P.s and party officials who helped to produce another successful Candidate Campaign College.



OYL AGM brings out record numbers

The Ontario Young Liberal Annual General Meeting in Hamilton from March 7-9 was a resounding success, with over 650 Young Liberals attending from across Ontario. The action packed weekend even included a special address and Q and A session with the Honourable Stéphane Dion.

LPC(O) would like to offer congratulations to the newly elected OYL Executive:

President - Jacob Mksyartinian
Executive Vice President - Kayla Lewis
Vice President Federal Affairs - Elyse Banham
Vice President Provincial Affairs - Joanna Murrell
Treasurer - Ryan Singh
Communications Director - Zac Spicer
Policy Director - Chris Drew
Student Director - Magda Drobnicki
Riding Director - Terry Chemij
Recruitment Director - Laura Wiesen
Northern Regional Coordinator - Joey Montpellier
Eastern Regional Coordinator - Krista Balsom
Central Regional Coordinator - Jonathan Pinto
Toronto Regional Coordinator - Jonathan Tsao
South Central Regional Coordinator - Amandeep Chawla
Southwestern Regional Coordinator - Mandy Van Waes

For more information on the Ontario Young Liberals, please visit www.oyl.org.



lpco.ca Your source for Liberal events!

We're working on ensuring that Liberals across Ontario are kept up to date on all the latest Liberal goings-on. Be sure to regularly check the LPC(O) website for all the news, updates, and Liberal events!

www.lpco.ca

To have your event listed on the Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario) website email all relevant information to vpcommunications@lpco.ca.



Date to Note:

September Policy Rally and Executive Board Combo to be held in the Golden Horseshoe Region on the weekend of September 27-28 at the Delta Meadowvale Conference Centre in Mississauga

