

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

Working together to overcome the challenges ahead

Liberal

AL JUNKER

Southwest Region President, LPC(O)

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Windsor and the Southwest Region. A lot has happened since we gathered for our last AGM in Huntsville. We have had an election and a Leadership Convention. The constant threat of an election has forced us to postpone this AGM several times. Finally we have a chance to gather as Liberals, look over the past months, analyze what was good and what was not and plan for the coming months. A constant state of election readiness has resulted in an emphasis on election training and rightfully so. The current political climate in Ottawa



means we must continue to emphasize this type of training in the coming months. However, it cannot be our sole focus as we need to revitalize our party to provide a viable alternative that resonates with Canadians.

We have had two regional events in the Southwest over the past two years in London. In June 2008, the focus was on policy development with a discussion of policy resolutions submitted by our riding associations. These resolutions were presented, debated, approved and prioritized and moved on in the policy process. Several of the resolutions prepared in the Southwest made it to the Leadership Convention in Vancouver where they were adopted. Parallel to the policy discussions a fund raising workshop was held. Since I was recovering from surgery at the time of this event, I have to thank Ray Won, Richard Hartley, Gabriel Tse and Don Nicholson for running the event. The focus of our June 2009 event was on election readiness training and renewal. A presentation by Jack Tacoma on the life cycle of an organization was well received and thought provoking. A lot of the questions put forth by Jack remain to be answered by us as a party. Additional presentations were made on Liberalism, the rural reality in Southwest region and analyzing election results. We will hold another regional event this spring. Stay tuned for a time and a location.

As the Southwest region's representative on the LPCO management committee, I have repeatedly pointed out that in order for us to be successful as a party we have to look beyond the GTA. The fact we are meeting in Windsor is a step in the right direction. I will continue to emphasize that in order for us to make gains we have to have a platform that resonates in the Southwest, Eastern and Northern regions in particular. I will raise this message whenever and wherever I can and to whomever needs to hear it.

I would like to thank the riding presidents in the Southwest, past and present, for all their hard work and their assistance to me. Our three area directors, Ray Won, Gabriel Tse and Richard Hartley have been an integral part of the team. Thank you! Richard has decided to retire and will be greatly missed. Judi Longfield and the staff at LPCO, past and present, work tirelessly on our behalf. Thank you! I would be remiss if I did not thank Mike Crawley for his hard work and dedication as our president. Great job, Mike!

The coming months will be an interesting and challenging time for us as a party. I look forward to working with you and representing you on the LPCO management committee.

Liberalism Yours,

Al Junker
Southwest Region President, LPC(O)