

AL JUNKER*Southwest Region, LPC(O)*

A lot has changed since we last met at the AGM in Windsor. As Liberals we have been in a prolonged period of uncertainty during the whole period of minority government. The constant state of having to be “election ready” made it very difficult for all of us to move forward as an organization and to do the type of renewal necessary to make us relevant to the Canadian electorate. Our future survival depends on the realization by all of us that we must work co-operatively together and that the finger pointing which has plagued us in the past must stop. We need to move forward and build on the enthusiasm that we all witnessed at the Biennial Convention in Ottawa. Change is no longer an option. We must change the way in which we operate at all levels in the Party. Working together as ridings is a key to our future success in the Southwest.



In the past some ridings in the Southwest have worked together and we need to build on that. We need to mentor one another, share our best practices and not be afraid to ask for and/or accept help. The need for developing and implementing business plans in all of the EDAs leading up to the next election is essential to our success in the Southwest and beyond. At our most recent Regional Meeting held in London on March 31, 2012, we spent the day discussing the basics of strategic planning with our presenter Simone Atungo, did a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) with Jeff May and deliberated on ways we can evaluate how our strategic plan is performing with Ray Won. We also discussed using the Riding Awards Programme (RAP) as a potential template or model on which to base our strategic plan. Information from the event is available from our LPCO Outreach Worker Kira Callahan.

Future regional events will follow-up on this exercise as well as provide the type of training we need to move forward as EDAs as we implement and expand our strategic plans. We will also continue to work on policy development continuing a long standing tradition which saw us hold two regional policy events since the Windsor AGM. Our regional policy on high speed rail was adopted at the recent Biennial Convention in Ottawa as a priority resolution.

I would like to thank our three Regional Directors for their help, direction and friendship: Dominic (Dom) do Forno, Ray Won and Gabriel (Gabe) Tse. We work as a team. Dom has decided to step down as the Director for the Windsor/Chatham area and I wish him well. Barry Fowler from Windsor will be the new Director for Area 1. I would be remiss if I did not mention our Outreach Workers, Jonathan Geiger who left us to study law and our current Outreach Worker Kira Callahan. Thank you for your hard work and guidance. I look forward to working with you along with Barry, Ray, Gabe and Kira as we move forward to restore Liberalism in the Southwest and beyond.

Al Junker

Southwest Region President