

**MEREDITH CAPLAN***Executive Vice-President, LPC(O)*

Dear Liberal Members,

Well, I can certainly say that the past six years as your Executive Vice President have been eventful and rewarding. In difficult times, we have accomplished quite a lot together.

I began this position when fundraising rules were changing. The party's finances needed to be stretched to ensure that the money we spent was done so effectively and economically. This has never been more true than today. I lead the charge to institute a flat fee for all riding presidents to attend Executive Board meetings. This enabled every riding to be represented, if not by their president then by a designate, and their fee would not be incurred personally.

This ensured two very important outcomes. First, that there is no prerequisite to have deep pockets in order to play an important role in our political movement, and second, but equally important, it means that LPC(O) is better able to plan for a break-even event and not waste money. The result is that this has been a resounding success on both accounts, and our Executive Board attendance has never been better.

That said, while I do believe in bringing presidents and our membership together for meetings with the LPC(O) board, I strongly believe that we need to be even leaner and more accessible. That is why I have brought forth constitutional amendments to increase the number of regional meetings held on an annual basis. These meetings are less expensive and more accessible for the entire membership. We can then decrease the number of province-wide Executive Board meetings, which are viewed as primarily for the "executive class" and less accessible.

I have also brought forth a motion that recognizes the cost and effort associated with Annual General Meetings, and suggest we instead move to biennials on off years of LPCs biennial - with term limits for Executive Members. This is to ensure we have greater turn over on the board, that every year there is an opportunity to get the entire LPC(O) membership together in some form, but that the great expense of an AGM to both the party and delegates is mitigated.

The solutions I am suggesting are not mine alone. I've spoken with, and listened to, Liberals across Ontario (and Canada), at all levels within the party, and I'm putting your ideas into a format that we can debate and possibly adopt.

Lastly, my report wouldn't be complete if I didn't talk about the Victory Fund. This fundraising tool, which is now a vital part of our money generating capacity, was started in 2008. I jumped in and took this on with Howard Brown and our team in Ontario. Together we have all answered the call. I'm so proud of the work we've done over the last four years. Ontario is the national leader for Victory Fund members, and that is because we have ridings that have bought into the concept of monthly giving, and everyone benefits!

Thank you for electing and re-electing me as your EVP. I have had perfect attendance for all Management Meetings, Executive Boards and AGMs, and also attended several OYL meetings. It has been a pleasure to serve, and will remain a highlight of my life, truly. Besides, I would not have my amazing partner and children if it wasn't for the Liberal Party and the people I've met along the way!

I look forward to seeing you all often!

Liberaly yours,

Meredith

