

**PAUL MULLIGAN***Eastern Region President, LPC(O)*

After years as President of The Eastern region, I am leaving the position with mixed emotions. The time I have spent working with the incredible team of volunteers from one corner of this region to the other has been both challenging and rewarding... these years have truly been the best of times and the not so best of times.



Over the last two election cycles we have had some of the most incredible candidates... super stars all. To a person, they and their respective teams of volunteers held nothing back. I am especially proud of the number of women in Eastern Ontario who ran as candidates for the Liberal Party of Canada in Ontario. We know that women and men do politics differently and our candidates proved that despite politics being portrayed as a men's domain, Liberal women can hold their own and equally qualified as men when it comes to running for office!

The results were nevertheless not what we had hoped for. As we move towards the coming leadership race and beyond, we must learn from our mistakes of the past. We need to ensure that every member, supporter and volunteer in the next race has a sense of ownership in the platform we will be presenting. We must ensure that our campaign workers have the skills and supports they need.

The massive job of rebuilding has begun. We adopted some bold new ideas at the most recent biennial and we will see these rolled out over the next several months. And while I have determined that it is time to pass the eastern presidency torch in to someone else I am not going to disappear. I remain a dedicated deeply committed Liberal who still will be there in the trenches whenever and however the party should wish.

I would like to thank the many outreach workers I have been honoured to work with over my time in office (Tyler, Patrick, Chelsea et al) and congratulate the EDA executives in Eastern region for their passion and continuing determination to elect federal Liberal members of Parliament.

I also take this opportunity to offer my most sincere congratulations to my successor, Mr. Ron Hartling. Ron will be assuming the role of Eastern President immediately upon the close of this AGM.

I trust that those of you attending this Annual General Meeting will have an opportunity to share and learn from each other and that you will enjoy the weekend with your Liberal Family.