

Board of Directors

Officers

Dan Gillen
Lavinica Strauss
Pat Partington
Lou Mavros
Stewart Thomas
Tim Barnett
Alex Matan

Jake Buhr
Stephen Woodworth

Other Board Members

Michelle Salt
Charles Pinch
James Rhodes
Alec Timm
Jack Fonseca
Bill Barrett
Richard Christy
Wilf Jule
Sally Jurica
Hari Krithivasan
Chris Pugh
Melody Stuetz
Laureine Thomas
Vicki Vancas

A message from the President



Friends & Colleagues,

As the EDA's new President, being elected at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM), I would like to thank everyone for their support & confidence; I will make every effort to ensure success in the future by building bridges with the community, expanding our membership, and getting us ready for 2019. Further to my election at this year's AGM, we added some great new board members to our team, while also retaining our core team that to this point has made our team so strong. I could not be more pleased with our current board, and believe that we now have many of the tools we will need in order to turn our great riding blue again. Accordingly, I would like to welcome Tim, Charles, Alec, Hari, Vicki, Bill, and Wilf to our team.

We have not sat idly by since our last correspondence: Firstly, we have developed a new website www.kitchenercentrecpc.ca. The new site will allow us to better communicate with our membership; it will allow for better membership feedback, better outreach, and added more technological elements so you will not only be able to see what the EDA has been up to, but also our party via dynamic Twitter and Facebook updates. Furthermore, we have integrated a polling application to survey members on important questions. Secondly, we sent delegates to Vancouver to represent Kitchener-Centre for the May 2016 Convention; Stephen will be elaborating on some of the outcomes we saw later in this newsletter. Lastly, we will be hosting The Queen's 90th Birthday Garden Party on August 13th, 2016 from 2pm-4pm at Victoria Park Island with live music, baked goods from local establishments, tea and other refreshments, and will be providing a great forum to mingle with local, provincial, and federal officials. We hope that you will be adding this to your summer schedule – and at \$5 per person, or \$10 per family we have tried to keep this year's event as affordable as possible. In addition to our event, Rona Ambrose, our Interim Leader & Leader of the Official Opposition will be coming to town on August 8th, 2016 with a BBQ event hosted by MP for Kitchener-Conestoga Harold Albrecht: should you have interest in attending, please reach out on our website for more information on how to get tickets (\$20 per person).

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support before, during, and after last year's Federal election. Although we were unsuccessful in having our candidate, Stephen Woodworth, re-elected to a third term as your MP, we truly believe that your support allowed us to provide the best possible outcome given the circumstances. The period ahead marks new opportunities for us; a time for us to rebuild, a time for us to reflect, and a time for us to move forward stronger, and with a greater resolve than ever.

Dan Gillen

Upcoming Events

All Members and past members are welcome !!!

Harold Albrecht's Big tent event	August 8, 2016 5PM - 8PM	2263 Huron Road, Wilmot
The Queen's 90th Birthday Garden Party	August 13, 2016 2PM - 4PM	Victoria Park Island
EDA tent	September 4, 2016	LinkPicnic Festival of Caribbean Culture
Policy Salon - Electoral Reform	October 1, 2016 9AM - 11AM	Woodworth Residence, 18 General Drive, Kitchener
Policy Salon - Deficit Financing	November 5, 2016 9AM - 11AM	Woodworth Residence, 18 General Drive, Kitchener
Policy Salon - Guaranteed Annual Income	December 3, 2016 9AM - 11AM	Woodworth Residence, 18 General Drive, Kitchener



Policy convention report from candidate of record

The Conservative Party of Canada ("CPC") Biennial National Policy Convention was held in Vancouver on May 26, 27 and 28, with delegates from Kitchener Centre in attendance. Even apart from the natural beauty of British Columbia, the debates and decision-making were exhilarating!

Sixty-six resolutions were considered, and thirty-two of those were adopted by the members who attended. Sixteen others were rejected after Committee discussion and another eighteen failed at the Plenary voting stage.

Here are just a few highlights of policies decided at the Convention:

1. CPC insists upon voters being consulted through a national referendum ahead of any changes to Canada's electoral system.
2. CPC will consider plans for tax relief for young people, including possible cumulative basic personal exemption and new business investment RRSP withdrawals.
3. CPC endorses "right to work" optional Union membership and dues.
4. CPC no longer endorses what used to be referred to as marriage.
5. CPC does not specifically support the Energy East Pipeline.
6. CPC supports conscience rights for doctors, nurses and other in relation to assisted suicide, abortion and euthanasia.
7. CPC supports a ticketing approach for simple possession of small amounts of marijuana.
8. CPC continues to support income-splitting for families.
9. CPC refused to endorse assisted suicide.
10. CPC refused to support revocation of dual citizenship of convicted terrorists.

That will give you just a taste of the exciting issues decided upon, and you can imagine the interesting conversations, regardless of what position you have about these results. It is proof positive that taking part in policy conventions is not only a good way to influence national policy, but an essential exercise of good stewardship over your political resources!

On the negative side, only six hours out of approximately 23 hours of sessions were devoted to policy – at a policy convention! Even broken into three Committees, there was an average of only 8 minutes or less debate for each proposal. At Plenary, there was an average time of only 3 minutes debate for each policy! In some cases, people were given only 30 seconds to make a point! There can't be enough exclamation marks to emphasize how regrettable this is in a Party whose strength used to be its grass-roots policy development!

Our EDA can learn from this experience. For example, we should begin preparing for the 2018 Policy Convention at least a year in advance by reviewing and discussing the Policy Declaration to vigorously pursue grassroots policy proposals through all stages. We can also push for greater time allocation to discuss policy when the rules for the next policy convention are finalized. By involving our members early we can generate the excitement and participation that the essential role of policy development deserves!

Stephen Woodworth