



August 20, 2011
A Letter from Jack Layton



"And finally, to all Canadians: Canada is a great country, one of the hopes of the world. We can be a better one – a country of greater equality, justice, and opportunity. We can build a prosperous economy and a society that shares its benefits more fairly. We can look after our seniors. We can offer better futures for our children. We can do our part to save the world's environment. We can restore our good name in the world. We can do all of these things because we finally have a party system at the national level where there are real choices; where your vote matters; where working for change can actually bring about change. In the months and years to come, New Democrats will put a compelling new alternative to you. My colleagues in our party are an impressive, committed team. Give them a careful hearing; consider the alternatives; and consider that we can be a better, fairer, more equal country by working together. Don't let them tell you it can't be done.

My friends, love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."

2012 NDP Leadership Race

Important Dates:

- January 24, 2012
Candidate Registration Deadline
- February 18, 2012
Cut off for membership sign ups eligible to vote
- March 24, 2012
Leadership vote

Remember, every NDP member can vote!

For more information go to:
<http://leadership2012.ndp.ca/>



Your Electoral District NDP Executive

President: Grant McMurray
 Vice President: Carole Sutherland
 Financial Agent: Nathan Schneider
 Secretary: Carla Fehr
 Members-at-Large: Joy Crawford, Carmel Dodd, Cathy King, Ehren Klane, Francine Lyons, Clare Pattison, Eric Pooler, Jim Robbins, Lois Schrader, Nancy Stevens, Nettie Wiebe

Please email submissions to:
carlajfehr@gmail.com



Nettie Wiebe Says THANK YOU

I want to say a heartfelt "Thank you" to all the volunteers, donors and supporters who gave so much to the campaign in this riding. It was an amazing campaign – and I was very proud to be a New Democrat candidate.

New Democrats made a great breakthrough on May 2nd, winning 103 seats to become the Official Opposition. Our strong, diverse, young caucus shows enormous potential and is working hard to defend the things that matter to all of us while fighting to hold an arrogant, ruthless Harper government to account.

So, despite the disappointing loss in this riding, New Democrats and all Canadians have a lot to celebrate. The NDP gains in Quebec (59 seats) is a rejection of separatism and a strong endorsement of a progressive, caring, united country. It's more than just a victory for New Democrats. It's a victory for Canada.

I share with you the grief and sadness of losing our beloved leader, Jack Layton in August. He was a courageous, compassionate, hope-filled leader who demonstrated a "different kind of strong" to the very end. I am grateful to have known him as a friend. We are all fortunate to have had him as our leader.

I wish you peace, good health and happiness this holiday season!

Nettie





The Harper majority – so far



Anti-democratic

The Conservatives have invoked closure on debate seven times in one session of Parliament – far surpassing any previous records. Democratic governments allow for opposition, public discussion on bills, committee hearings, amendments and proposals. The Harper government is choking off democratic debate while ramming through harmful legislation.

Disrespectful to farmers

Destroying the Canadian Wheat Board [Bill C-18] – the Canadian Wheat Board Act (27.1) stipulates that farmers must vote on any changes to their marketing agency. But Agriculture Minister Ritz is scooping a \$6 billion Canadian grain marketing agency out of farmers' hands and tossing it to agribusiness giants without even consulting farmers. Prairie farm families and communities will suffer big losses.

“We are facing the most monumental change in western Canadian agriculture in my lifetime. There should be analysis. There should be a plan. There should be respect for farmers and their business needs.

These should all be automatic, but instead of analysis, we get rhetoric. Instead of careful planning, we get bluster. Instead of respect, we get name calling.”

- Allen Oberg, Chair, CWB Board of Directors.

Tough on safety

Gun registry [Bill C-19] – eliminates requirements to register long guns and destroys the more than 8,000,000 firearms records currently on file.

“This is about public safety. The registry has made Canada a safer country. The registry has saved lives. We lose it at our peril.”

- William Blair, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Costly on crime

Omnibus Crime legislation [Bill C-10] – could cost about \$10 billion according to Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page. Experts agree, and the U.S. experience shows, that this crime bill won't reduce crime and won't make communities safer.

“Tough on Crime is actually Lazy on Crime. It is certainly Tough on Taxpayers. A better approach is to be Thoughtful on Crime or Smart on Crime.”

- Paula Mallea, Researcher, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.



Financial Appeal



Dear Fellow New Democrats and Friends,

We are nearly at the end of a year that has been filled with political drama that was at times very heartening and at other times disappointing and even tragic, especially the loss of Jack Layton. In becoming the Official Opposition we have taken a great step forward and there is promise for the future of the NDP.

You have been asked to help financially in the May federal election by both the federal party and by us, your local NDP association here in Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar. You came through for us and we mounted a great campaign in spite of coming up a little short yet again. I also know you have been asked for support in the recent provincial election. I ask myself how I can again seek your support after such a year. I believe I can do so by making the following three points:

- Firstly, the existing federal and provincial tax credit systems are opportunities just too good to miss for someone wishing to effect political change. How else can your effort be multiplied four-fold? So please be sure you have taken advantage of both in 2011.

- Secondly, be aware that these are separate systems for contributions to federal and to provincial political parties. The first relates to federal tax you may pay and the second to provincial tax. You can contribute to either or both and the one does not affect the other.

- Thirdly, for the first time in a long time, we appear to have four years to prepare for an election rather than expecting one at any moment. We hope now to plan for the longer term and hope you will consider your ability to contribute to the effort here in SRB in the longer term. Whether that be by signing up for a monthly contribution starting in 2012, by topping up your contribution now for 2011 or by committing to make a contribution every year, election or not, I am sure we will be there when we become government in 2015!

Please return contributions in the enclosed envelope before December 31st or complete and return the authorization for a monthly contribution.

Wishing you peace and all the best in 2012,
Grant McMurray
President

Make your contribution by:

Sending a cheque payable to the SRB NDP in the enclosed return envelope. Mail to:
Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar NDP

PO Box 7064

Saskatoon, SK S7K 4J1

Or make a safe and secure online contribution by going to:
www.srbndp.ca/donate