



Abolishing the Senate

NDP Leader Jack Layton is calling for a referendum on **abolishing the Senate**.
The Senate should be abolished because it is:

Unaccountable: it has the final say on whether duly passed legislation becomes law but doesn't answer to anyone for its decisions.
Defeated the Climate Change Accountability Act (C-311) last November without even reading it.
Fails as a "chamber of sober second thought."

Undemocratic: senators are appointed, not elected.
Harper has appointed a record 36 senators, some of them failed conservative candidates specifically rejected by the electorate.

Costly: \$90 million dollars a year.
Senators earn \$132,300 for a three-day work week, plus travel & expenses for a total cost of \$859,000 a year per senator.

Unfair: taxpayers are footing the bill for Conservative Party operatives.
The list includes: Harper's own former press secretary (Carolyn Stewart Olsen); the former chief fundraiser for the Conservative party and chair of the Conservative Fund Canada (Irving Gerstein); the former Conservative party president (Donald Plett); the Quebec co-chair for Harper's 2004 Conservative leadership bid (Judith Seidman); the national campaign director who ran two of Harper's federal elections (Doug Finley) and several defeated Tory candidates.

Adding insult to injury, conservative senators Doug Finley and Irving Gerstein, who have been charged by Elections Canada with "illegal activity" (election overspending of more than a \$1 million in 2006), are refusing to do the honourable thing and step down during the court proceedings.

New Democrats want a parliamentary committee to examine how to make representation in the House of Commons better reflect how Canadians vote by combining the current system of direct election of MPs with a system of proportional representation.

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:
carlafehr@gmail.com

Standing on Guard for Canada?

On February 4, 2011 Prime Minister Steven Harper and President Barack Obama signed an agreement in Washington to institute a "security perimeter" around Canada and the United States. The negotiations so far have been held in secret. Parliament has not been involved.

How will Canadian citizens' privacy and information be affected? Is Harper trading away Canadian sovereignty?

OUR VOICE

Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar Federal NDP Riding Association



MARCH 2011

VOL. 04 NO. 01

2011 Annual General Meeting

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar New Democratic Party Federal Electoral District Association will be held:

Date: Monday, April 11th, 2011

Place: Mayfair United Church Hall
902 33rd Street West
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Time: Registration: 6:30 PM
Call to Order: 7:00 PM

All members in good standing of the New Democratic Party residing within the Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar Electoral District shall be eligible to attend and vote at the Annual Meeting. Anyone on the active membership list can renew at the door. New memberships must be in to Provincial Office by the end of office hours on Friday, April 1st, 2011. The active membership list will include those having held a membership in 2009 or more recently. Anyone whose last membership was in 2008 or earlier will be considered a new member.

The business of the meeting will be:

- To receive reports from some of the Executive Officers and our candidate, Nettie Wiebe.
- To select members to serve on the Electoral District Association Executive until our next annual meeting.
- To select two representatives and two alternates to represent Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar at the Council of Federal Ridings.
- To consider resolutions to be forwarded to the 2011 Federal Convention June 17th – 19th in Vancouver.
- To elect delegates to represent Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar at that convention.

This meeting may take place during a federal election campaign, but we plan to go ahead with the meeting no matter what. Please come out - election or not!

The meeting will be followed by musical entertainment from *The Residuals*, "Saskatoon's finest Irish folk band." Coffee and refreshments will be served.





A Message From Nettie Wiebe

These past weeks we have been watching people struggle to topple dictators in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and elsewhere. Like most Canadians, I find their demands for democracy and freedom compelling and inspiring. I sincerely hope that they achieve the democracy, justice and better living conditions they're struggling for.

Confronting top-down, corrupt, unaccountable governments is never easy. It takes courage and a firm belief in the values of accountability, equality, rule of law, and democracy. *Citizen participation is absolutely necessary to both achieve and retain real democracy.*

Here in Canada, we have the institutions of democracy. But the Harper government isn't open and respectful. Their actions are eroding our democracy. We now have a serious "democracy deficit" - in addition to huge budget deficits.

Harper's government is top-down and secretive. He controls all decisions from his office. MPs, including the one from this riding, either stick to the speaking notes from the PMO or remain silent. He shuns accountability, refuses to release information and fires whistleblowers or critics. He supports a culture of dishonesty, standing by cabinet minister Bev Oda while she misled Parliament about a doctored document denying funding to the church based human rights organization KAIROS. And when elected representatives challenge his dictates, Harper just prorogues Parliament.

While the Conservatives undermine democracy, New Democrats continue to defend citizens' rights and interests. From repelling a move to lower "truth in broadcasting" regulations, to calling for national consultations on improving our electoral system with some form of proportional representation, to fighting for better pensions and seniors

benefits, New Democrats lead the way in trying to keep government honest and make it work for people in practical ways.

I urge you all to defend our democracy, demand accountability and help make the changes we need.

Take action! Participate in positive change by joining our campaign!

- Nettie



Financial Appeal



Fellow New Democrats and supporters,

It is clear Stephen Harper is out of touch – favouring big bank CEOs and allowing billions of dollars to be spent at the G20 in Toronto at a time when everyday Canadians are struggling to make ends meet.

Across this riding people are tired of Harper following his own agenda at the expense of the people who live here.

Your Federal New Democrats and your NDP candidate Nettie Wiebe are fighting day in and day out on behalf of people like you. We are hearing from all over the riding as we get prepared for the next election. People are telling us that there is a housing crisis in Saskatoon and rural areas around the city, that seniors can no longer make ends meet, that prescription drugs are too expensive, that they worry about accessing quality health care, that they worry about their retirements. And they are telling us that they don't see the federal government working to solve any of these problems.

Now is the time to take the next step.

I know that's easier said than done. But you and I also know what we can do when we work together. We've shown it in the last election – winning 37 seats federally and keeping Harper from his majority. We've shown it in Parliament with Jack Layton's Climate Change Accountability Act, which will hold Harper and the Big Polluters to account for their environmental failure.

You may already know the Federal Campaign has targeted Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar to win and we're in a position to build on our strong finish in the last election campaign. Last time we only lost by 262 votes. We can win this riding for the NDP this time!

Harper's Conservatives are already pouring resources into the riding, and if we want to win, we need to build our support now. There's no time to waste – it looks like the election is right around the corner!

We can't do it without you so I'm asking you to give to the Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar NDP. With your financial support, we will build a winning campaign in this riding.

Together we'll defeat Stephen Harper. Together, we'll start building the Canada we want – right here in Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar.

Sincerely,
Trevor McKenzie-Smith
Campaign Manager
Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar – Nettie Wiebe Campaign

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