



Report from the Executive Committee



It is a pleasure to report to you again in this, the last edition of Our Voice. Six years ago at this time the first edition was mailed to members in Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar and the newsletter has since served us well in maintaining contact between the Executive and our members.

At this time I would like to report on a couple subjects of interest to members.

New Electoral District Boundaries

The new boundaries are now final and you can see maps and boundary descriptions at this website (click on "Saskatchewan" and then on "Final Report."):

<http://www.redecoupage-federal-redistribution.ca/content.asp?document=home&lang=e>

We expect to have everything required to proceed with meetings to found the new electoral district associations of Saskatoon West and Humboldt-Martensville-Warman-Rosetown very early in the new year. You will receive notice of these in the mail – please come out to get both new districts off to a good start.

Changes to Funding for Political Parties

One of the ways our democratic process has been funded since 2004 is by a 'per vote' annual subsidy to the major parties which has amounted to about \$2 per vote received. The Harper government has not been supportive of this and after getting a majority in Parliament they have reduced this subsidy in stages. It will be gone by 2015.

This increases the importance of supporters taking full advantage of the tax credit for individual contributions to political parties. We are being told we cannot expect much financial support for the local campaigns from Ottawa due to the loss of the per-vote subsidy and this shortfall will have to be made up locally.

That is why I urge you not to let 2013 end without taking as much advantage as you can of the tax credit for individual contributions. To help fund the 2015 Campaign(s) here in Saskatchewan, your 2013 contribution will have to be made to the existing district associations, like Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar, trusting all such contributions, as well as existing accounts, will be divided fairly at the time the new electoral districts are organized. There is a formula being developed centrally, based on population, which will determine the division.

Next year, you will be able to directly support the new electoral district you are in and get a tax credit for 2014. In this way we will be able to build towards fully-funded campaigns and victories in 2015.

Continued on next page...



Points to Remember About the Tax Credit Available to You

- Contributions eligible for the Federal Tax Credit can be made to your local federal electoral district association as well as to the central federal party but only local contributions stay here to fund local campaigns.
- There is a different provincial tax credit system for contributions to support provincial political parties and an individual can make donations to both, if they wish, and receive a credit on federal and on provincial tax due.
- A tax credit is not like a charitable donation, in that a credit of up to 75% of your contribution may be deducted from the federal tax you otherwise would have to pay. As we often say, "\$400 will only cost you \$100" if you pay federal tax.
- Contributions to SRB made in 2013 along with our existing assets will be divided fairly amongst the next generation of electoral districts into which SRB will be divided.
- Contributions must be received by our Financial Agent on or before Dec. 31st to be eligible for the 2013 credit so please send your contributions in the enclosed envelope and mail early.

Season's Greetings and many thanks for your support of SRB over the years!

On behalf of your Executive,
Grant McMurray, President

To make a contribution for the Tax Credit in 2013 send a cheque with the enclosed donation form and envelope to be received before Dec. 31st.

Send to: Saskatoon Rosetown Biggar NDP at
PO Box 7064, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4J1

Or make a secure online donation at:
www.srbndp.ca

Federal Tax Credits

75% of the first \$400

50% of the next \$350

33% of the next \$525

These tax credits are direct deductions on your payable tax at the end of the year.



Canada Desperately Needs a New Democrat Government



New Democrats, under the capable leadership of Thomas Mulcair, are providing the only effective opposition to the dishonest Harper government. Our caucus is working hard to protect democracy and provide sound leadership in a parliament that is increasingly dysfunctional.

We know that honesty, openness and accountability are absolutely necessary for democracy and good government. We citizens have to be able to rely on MPs and the Prime Minister to give true answers, share important information and accept responsibility for their decisions. Unfortunately, Harper's government is the opposite of honest, open and accountable.

For the first time in Canadian history, the Prime Minister's office (PMO) is under criminal investigation. An elaborate scheme to hide ineligible expense claims of his star Senate appointee, Mike Duffy, involves the key people around Harper, including his chief of staff, his Senate leaders, the Conservative Party Fund chair, his own special legal counsel, as well as other lawyers and senior PMO staff. Allegations of bribery, breach of trust, fraud and a cover-up highlight the dishonesty and corruption in the PMO.

The Harper government is also using secrecy and deception to downgrade public services such as food inspection and environmental protection. They hide big policy changes in omnibus budget bills so that they will be passed without proper scrutiny or debate. They muzzle scientists so that "inconvenient" environmental facts won't be published or discussed.

Despite these huge obstacles, New Democrat MPs have been tireless in demanding accountability and fighting for changes that would improve the lives and opportunities of Canadians. They focus on a range of practical measures such as improving housing affordability, prescription drug availability, veterans' benefits, environmental protection, workers' safety and education. This hard, persistent, honest work is focused on getting concrete results. Government can – and must – be better. Honest, accountable, open, and caring.

"I believe we can protect our air, soil and water. We can care for our sick. And we can give each other a hand when we need it most."

Together, let's build a better Canada." – Thomas Mulcair

Conservatives Stalling on Election Reform Bill

In March 2012 Parliament unanimously passed a motion to bring in legislation within six months to give Elections Canada the tools to prevent the kind of election fraud and the illegal robocalls that marred the 2011 federal election. The Conservatives, currently in the courts on charges of robocall fraud, have yet to table the required bill. They are more than a year late. What's the hold-up?



Season's Greetings and best wishes in 2014 from your Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar NDP Executive.

New electoral districts will be formed in the new year so this is the last edition of Our Voice.

Our biggest thanks for reading Our Voice and for supporting the Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar NDP!

Your Electoral District NDP Executive

President: Grant McMurray

Vice President: Jim Robbins

Financial Agent: Nathan Schneider

Secretary: Carla Fehr

Members-at-Large: Joy Crawford, Carmel Dodd, Francine Lyons, Lois Schrader, Gary Smith, Cheryl Starr, Nancy Stevens, Karen Swan, Nettie Wiebe

Please email submissions or questions to:
carlajfehr@gmail.com

