

the newsletter of the Green Party of Manitoba

December 2006

www.greenparty.mb.ca

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WEBSITE: www.greenparty.mb.ca

COMING EVENTS

Our Fundraising Committee plans to repeat our successful fundraiser at Rumors this spring, and is also working on a Spring Social.

Look for us again at the FRINGE FESTIVAL!

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WEBSITE

A revised and updated website is coming soon; check it out!

Please check out the BLOG section of the GPM website!

LISTSERV

MBGREENS is an unofficial discussion group. If you are not yet a member of the list_serv, you can sign on to Yahoo and request membership at: <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/mbgreens/>

OFFICE ADDRESS:

202 - 180 Market Avenue East
(Market & Main Street)
Winnipeg MB R3B 0P7

GPM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Andrew Basham, Leader
leader@greenparty.mb.ca

Alana Lajoie-O'Malley, President
Linda Olson, Deputy
president@greenparty.mb.ca

Michael Jack, Chief Financial Officer
CFO@greenparty.mb.ca

Gerald Enns, Treasurer
treasurer@greenparty.mb.ca

Ardythe Basham, Membership
James Beddome, Deputy
membership@greenparty.mb.ca

Alberteen Spence, Secretary
Scott Harrison, Deputy
secretary@greenparty.mb.ca

Alon Weinberg, Elections Planning
Michael Jack, Deputy
elections@greenparty.mb.ca

STANDING COMMITTEES

Communications Standing Committee
media@greenparty.mb.ca

Policy and Platform Standing Committee
policy@greenparty.mb.ca

Fundraising Standing Committee
fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca

A **Regional Advisory Committee** will be established as soon as possible. Please contact **Membership** or **Elections Planning** for information.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting on November 18-19, extensive amendments of the Constitution and administrative policies of the GPM were approved, and policy, platform and budget issues for the coming year were discussed.

The full text of the revised constitution and bylaws will be posted on the GPM website shortly.

As the Manitoba Greens grow as a provincial party, we are working on ways to ensure that all members can play an active role. The new constitutional and bylaw provisions are a major step in this direction. The establishment of a travel pool for general meetings, and mail-in ballots for council positions, will also enable all members to have a voice in major decisions.

Please contact the President with your suggestions and idea.

Minutes of the AGM will be provided to members on request. Please contact the Secretary.

We were pleased to have in attendance Mark McGillivray, the Prairie organizer for the Green Party of Canada. We also invited the Winnipeg Green Party, and welcomed Dave Danyluk bringing news from the WGP.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

All memberships will now run from January 1 – December 31, with two months' grace period to renew and still remain in good standing. Until December 31, 2006, new and renewed memberships will be accepted at the old rate of \$5 for a year, and will be extended to December 31, 2007. After January 1, 2007, new and renewed memberships will be \$10 per year.

OFFICE USE:

Members of the GPM are welcome to use the office for CA meetings or other party-related events. Call 488-2831 and leave a message indicating the date and time you would like. DSL and wireless internet connections are available.

GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

We have an office sharing agreement with the GPC. If you are a member of the GPC, contact the GPC representative in Manitoba for details. The office is available for GPC meetings as well.

LEADER'S MESSAGE

As the new Leader of the Green Party of Manitoba I would like to introduce myself and welcome you to work with me and the new council towards our common goal of creating a sustainable society.

I am studying sustainability at the University of Winnipeg and looking for ways we can achieve sustainability. This necessarily involves an ecological paradigm, which recognizes that humanity is dependent on the health of the ecosystems that envelop us.

I would like to focus on solutions and ways forward, not just problems (although they must be highlighted to set a context). Greens must propose attractive alternatives for people to join with us in demanding they be implemented. Like you, I am one person but together we can make a difference. I'd love to talk with you and hear your ideas about how to redefine progress in Manitoba and how to get to the healthy and sustainable society we all desire. Perhaps we should be designing our platforms for 50-100 years, not just 4 years. What do you think?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Basham, Leader
Green Party of Manitoba
leader@greenparty.mb.ca
204-488-2831 (Green Party office)
204-772-9982 (Home)
204-786-9189 (U of W EcoMAFIA)

CAUCUS FORMATION

What is a caucus?

It is a group of Green Party members who wish to work together on a particular issue or area of interest to them. Caucuses can develop policy or platform proposals to submit to the Policy and Platform Committee, can organize public events around their particular issue, can organize fundraising events, and can generate media releases with the Communications Committee.

Three caucuses are presently being formed:

Youth Caucus (for GPM members 25 and under)
Eco-literacy Caucus
Social Justice Caucus

If you are interested in joining any of these caucuses, please contact the Membership Coordinator for more information.

If you are interested in starting a caucus, you can post a message on the list_serv or contact Membership. The Membership Coordinator will assist you in contacting other members who share similar interests.

ELECTIONS PLANNING UPDATE

As newly elected elections planning coordinator, I am aware that we have a great task ahead of us.

Elections are about getting elected, to try to change policy in the Manitoba Legislature. They are also an excellent opportunity to shift the public discourse onto sustainability issues, such as ecological economics and healthy communities. Furthermore, they are a chance for our party to build capacity, to become better known, to run candidates in areas that have supported Greens in the past, but also to plant seeds in constituencies where citizens have only seen and heard of the Greens on TV, radio and in print, but have wondered when they were going to get a chance to go Green.

In the past election, while the party was still establishing itself on the Manitoba scene, all candidates were selected by the party's council, and the treasurer acted as financial agent for all 14 candidates. In the name of both grassroots democracy and decentralization, along with keeping individuals from burning out from doing too much work, the Green Party of Manitoba needs to work hard over the coming months to increase our membership base and to set up constituency associations (CAs). CAs are made up of all members of the party living in that riding, and those members are the ones who ultimately will choose the candidate around whom they can run their local campaign. CAs also can work on policy and platform issues specific to their region or neighbourhood, fundraise locally, and hold public events that speak to and help educate potential voters in their area.

Already there is a CA in Dauphin-Roblin, and we are on the verge of setting up the Wolseley CA, along with starting the process for Lord Roberts (S. Osborne/Churchill area), Fort Rouge (Osborne Village and downtown area), River Heights, St. John's (north end) and Minto (west end). We welcome members in any area to initiate the process by contacting me or my deputy Mike Jack. You can email elections@greenparty.mb.ca, call

me at home at 772-1401 (home) or leave a message at the GPM office (488-2831).

To form a CA our constitution requires at least 5 members in a riding, and someone willing to report to Elections Manitoba as a financial agent. CAs can form their own constitution and have other officers as required. For areas where we have not yet formed CAs, we may still field candidates depending upon the situation and the local capacity, but ultimately council wants to hand over local campaigns to CAs. With an election expected as early as this spring, time is a-tickin', so sign up some friends and neighbours and complete strangers as members, and help start a CA in your riding. Roll up your sleeves, all hands on deck!

Shadow Cabinet/Sustainability Advocates

by Andrew Basham, Leader

In consultation with the Executive Council, I am in the process of forming a Shadow Cabinet of 10 "Sustainability Advocates" whose positions are based on our 10 Principles for Sustainable Societies instead of simply mirroring the current government's Cabinet and departmental structure. The role of the Sustainability Advocates will be to comment on government decisions, legislation, budgets, and policies through press releases and conferences, community forums, and articles in our newsletter.

The Ten Principles are:

1. New Democracy
2. Subsidiarity
3. Ecological Sustainability
4. Common Heritage
5. Diversity
6. Human Rights
7. Jobs, Livelihood, Employment
8. Food Security and Safety
9. Equity
10. The Precautionary Principle

Sustainability Advocates will be selected based on their ability to speak on and for these principles. We are looking at politics as an educational process, a way of reaching out to broader society to engage them in a dialogue on the issues not being addressed, or being addressed poorly, by the "gray parties".

If you are passionate, knowledgeable, and serious about making a positive difference in Manitoba for people and the planet, please contact me by phone, email, or in writing.

Deputy Leader

Council and I are looking for someone interested in serving as a leader in the most progressive political party in Manitoba. You do not have to have any political experience for this position; you will gain experience on the job. You should be honest, open, and committed to Green politics. You should be able to speak to and from the values of the Manitoba Greens, and willing to listen and learn from fellow members and the public, while expressing the values that will unite people in times of difficulty and provide the basis of a sustainable and just Manitoba.

In order to maintain gender equity, women candidates are strongly encouraged.

As Leader, I will be working with the Deputy Leader and Sustainability Advocates to:

- ❖ Educate the public on sustainability issues and Green approaches to them,
- ❖ Help transform the discourse on sustainability in Manitoba, and
- ❖ Further establish The Green Party of Manitoba in Manitoba for the benefit of people and the planet.

If you or someone you know would make a perfect candidate for any of these positions, please contact me, by phone, email, or in writing. I look forward to working with you to make our party strong.

PLATFORM

We are still seeking input into the Green Platform for the next election. If you have ideas for addressing policy issues in Manitoba falling under provincial jurisdiction, please submit them as either position papers or planks (individual units of a platform). These should be fully referenced and include a description of the issue to be addressed, a statement of Green Party of Manitoba values and principles regarding the issue, and specific proposals to:

- a) change the laws of Manitoba, or
- b) make decisions using powers of the Manitoba government.

Position papers should be 1500 words maximum or a plank 500 words maximum. Longer background papers can be submitted but they may not be read immediately.

As Leader, I encourage all members to contribute to the Green Party platform by developing well-researched and principle-based proposals for consideration by fellow Manitobans. Our objective is a sustainable Manitoba. What is this, and how can we make that a reality?

An updated Policy Book, containing all GPM passed policies, is available on request.

Your Policy and Platform submissions can be sent to policy@greenparty.mb.ca, or mailed to the office or mailbox, attention Policy/Platform Committee, or directly to Andrew Basham at leader@greenparty.mb.ca.

Election 2007

There will be an election in 2007 in either spring or fall. I encourage any and all members to seek nomination as candidates for the Green Party of Manitoba in 2007. Elections are an exciting time and offer a unique opportunity for the Green movement to express and explain itself to the electorate and open dialogue between members of society that may not have communicated previously. As Manitoba Greens it is our duty to participate in the electoral process and to share our ideas and the values they are based on with Manitobans of all political persuasions. I hope that you will join me in the fight for real sustainability-oriented policies and actions in Manitoba this spring or fall.

GREEN MARKET

Mike Nickerson's new book, **Life, Money and Illusion** is available from the GPM for \$20.00

BUTTONS

Green Party of Manitoba buttons, with a beautiful homegrown Gaillardia Aristata in full colour, are available for \$2 (6 for \$10). Constituency associations or caucuses can purchase buttons at cost for fundraising purposes.

SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS

As an ongoing fundraising program, the GPM is selling items from the SCW catalog. To receive a catalog or more information, please contact the Fundraising Committee at fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca

Green Party of Manitoba – Member Questionnaire

As a member of the Green Party of Manitoba (GPM) you are part of the basis of our political party. Your views and beliefs are critical to forming our platform for the upcoming election in 2007. Please help us prepare for this election by completing this brief questionnaire. This survey is strictly voluntary and anonymous and is for our information only. This survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. Please mail to the GPM office or email your replies to info@greenparty.mb.ca.

1) What do you feel are the three most important issues facing our province today and is the Green Party of Manitoba adequately addressing these issues?

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| | [Circle one] |
| 1. _____ | YES NO |
| 2. _____ | YES NO |
| 3. _____ | YES NO |

2) How could the Manitoba government best address these issues?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3) What prompted you to support the Green Party of Manitoba (GPM)?

4) What do you think about the Manitoba Greens adopting the slogan “Rethinking Progress: Towards an Ecological Society” for our platform?

1. Good 2. Neutral 3. Bad

Comments: _____

5) How satisfied are you with the communication you receive from the GPM?

1. Satisfied 2. Neutral 3. Unsatisfied

Comments: _____

6) The frequency of GPM communications over the past year has been....

1. Too often 2. Just right 3. Too little

Comments: _____

7) Do you use the GPM’s unofficial list-serve (mbgreens@yahogroups.ca)?

1. Yes 2. No

If yes, how useful/informative is it to you? (not useful) 1 2, 3, 4, 5 (very useful)

8) Other comments? Please write on the back of the sheet if you wish.