

# GREENPRINT

Newsletter for the Green Party of Manitoba

# ISSUE #6

October 2007

## CONTACT US

Phone: (204) 488-2831  
Toll-Free: 1 (866) 742-4292 (in Manitoba)  
Email: [membership@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:membership@greenparty.mb.ca)  
Office: 202 - 180 Market Avenue East  
(Market & Main Streets)  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0P7  
Mailing: PO Box 26023, RPO Maryland, R3G 3R3  
Website: [GreenParty.mb.ca](http://GreenParty.mb.ca)  
Listserv: [ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/mbgreens](http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/mbgreens)

## COMING EVENTS

### Fall Supper

Friday, October 12, 6-9 pm  
Central Community Centre  
(Historic Freighthouse) 5-200 Isabel  
Advance Tickets: \$10/adult, \$5/children under 12  
At the door: \$15/adult, \$7.50/children under 12

Strategic Planning at the GPM office  
Saturday, October 13, 9 am-5 pm

### AGM

Friday/Saturday, November 17-18  
Workers Organization Resource Centre  
Helen Armstrong Room  
280 Smith Street, Winnipeg  
Council reports & elections will be held on  
Saturday, 1-3 pm

## GPM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Andrew Basham, Leader  
[leader@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:leader@greenparty.mb.ca)

Linda Olson, President  
[president@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:president@greenparty.mb.ca)

Michael Jack, Chief Financial Officer  
[CFO@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:CFO@greenparty.mb.ca)

Gerald Enns, Treasurer  
[treasurer@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:treasurer@greenparty.mb.ca)

Ardythe Basham, Membership  
James Beddome, Deputy  
[membership@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:membership@greenparty.mb.ca)

Scott Harrison, Secretary  
[secretary@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:secretary@greenparty.mb.ca)

Michael Jack, Elections Planning  
[elections@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:elections@greenparty.mb.ca)

## LEADER'S MESSAGE

Andrew Basham

The Policy and Platform Committee of the Green Party of Manitoba has been hard at work developing its *Strategy for Sustainability*. While the policies of other provincial parties are barely distinguishable from each other, the GPM strategy has distinctive elements that illustrate its departure from the status quo and challenge readily-accepted myths.

### RETHINKING PROGRESS

The first step to achieving a sustainable society is to give up our obsession with growth. A sustainable society cannot grow indefinitely. There are ecological limits to increased population, production, and consumption levels. These limits are imposed by nature and cannot be negotiated. If we do not accept and adapt to them we will not survive as a species. A prime example is global warming—it is a manifestation of the atmosphere's limited ability to absorb greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Most governments around the world, and Manitoba is no exception, pursue economic growth or growth in gross domestic production (GDP) as a primary goal. The obsession with growth is clearly articulated in the Manitoban government's *Action Strategy for Economic Growth*.

Why do governments promote growth? Because it is believed that if the economic "pie" grows bigger, everyone gets a larger slice—without having to redistribute wealth to those with less.

The empirical evidence, however, does not bear out this theory. In fact, while the American economy has expanded significantly at a rate of around 3% per year since the Second World War, the gap between rich and poor has also steadily widened.

Another twisted perspective of GDP growth is that any production or consumption is seen as 'good,' even disasters. If a natural gas pipeline burst resulting in an explosion that demolishes...

*cont'd on p.4*

## STANDING COMMITTEES

If you have an interest in research, writing or event planning contact:

Communications & Media  
media@greenparty.mb.ca

Policy and Platform  
policy@greenparty.mb.ca

Fundraising  
fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca

---

## REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the last AGM a Regional Advisory Committee was established, to consist of representatives elected by 6 regions of the province.

Two regions are now eligible to elect a representative: the West Region, including all members in Dauphin-Roblin, Turtle Mountain, Brandon East, Brandon West, Russell, Ste. Rose, Minnedosa, Arthur-Virden, and Capital Region, including all members in Assiniboia, Burrows, Charleswood, Concordia, Elmwood, Fort Garry, Fort Rouge, Fort Whyte, Inkster, Kildonan, Kirkfield Park, Lord Roberts, Minto, Point Douglas, Radisson, Riel, River East, River Heights, Rossmere, Seine River, Southdale, St. Boniface, St. James, St. Johns, St. Norbert, St. Vital, The Maples, Transcona, Tuxedo, Wellington and Wolseley.

If the members in either region wish to organize an election, please contact the Membership Chair in order to contact all members in your region. Otherwise a process for electing members to the RAC will be included in planning for the AGM.

### ***Suggest A Member***

*Do you know a GPM member who would make an interesting profile? Send your nomination, along with a brief description of their project or service, to Tanja Hütter, media@greenparty.mb.ca or leave a message for her at the GPM office.*

## COUNCIL & COMMITTEE UPDATES *Membership*

### **TRAVEL POOL**

At the last AGM members voted to establish a travel pool for general meetings. Council is now requesting suggestions on how a travel pool should be set up and managed. If you have experience with travel pools or are willing to do some research, please contact the president, Linda Olson, with your suggestions.

Some points to consider: is the purpose of a travel pool to ensure that the average cost of attending the AGM is the same no matter where in Manitoba it is held, or where members come from? Is it to assist those members with the highest travel costs? Should a share in the travel pool be automatic or should members request reimbursement of their actual costs?

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The 2007 AGM will be held on the weekend of November 17-18. All council positions, except Leader, will be up for election. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The treasurer, secretary and president need to be able to attend council meetings in person, and the treasurer needs to be able to visit our credit union.

These three positions, for practical reasons, could not easily be filled by anyone living outside of Winnipeg. Other positions, including up to three members-at-large, could be held by any member of the party who is able to participate in council meetings either in person, by email or telephone conferencing.

The present council hopes to have wider participation from members outside of Winnipeg, both through Council positions and through the standing committees.

Anyone interested in helping to plan the AGM, either in Winnipeg or elsewhere, organizing a nominating committee, or letting his or her name stand for a council position, please contact the President or Secretary.

The present council hopes to have wider participation from members outside of Winnipeg, both through Council positions and through the standing committees.

*Ardythe Basham*

## A MEMBER WRITES

### *Cosmetic products for babies can pose health risks*

Parents want the best for their bundle(s) of joy and have a plethora of baby products to choose from to make their child clean and comfortable. So it is disheartening to learn that while there are many items marketed for babies, they may contain ingredients that unnecessarily expose them to harmful agents.

#### **TAKE A POWDER, FOR EXAMPLE**

According to the American Cancer Society, talcum powder has been investigated for a possible link to ovarian cancer. When talcum is sprinkled on or near the genitals it can transfer, eventually covering the ovaries. Study results thus far have

been inconclusive with some reporting a slight increase in risk, and others finding no risk.

If you are concerned, you might want to consider choosing cornstarch or cornstarch-based powders instead of ones with talcum.

However, any powder, even cornstarch, can damage lungs if inhaled regularly. Try placing a handkerchief or cloth over your baby's nose and mouth to minimize powder inhalation.

And what of other baby products such as bubble bath, oils, wipes, sunscreen, diaper cream, body and cradle cap lotions?

Before you buy baby products, read the label carefully, and don't take chances with products without listed ingredients. Companies proud of their products' safety won't hide it.

*Trevor Adams*

#### **INGREDIENTS TO AVOID IN COSMETIC PRODUCTS**

BHT—can pose potential kidney toxicity hazards, and potentially harmful to the immune system.

Iodopropynyl Butylcarbamate—which is suspected to present risks to human reproduction and development, including reduced fertility or chances for a healthy, full-term pregnancy.

Parabens (such as butyl-, isobutyl-, methyl-, propyl-) — pose a potential risk for breast cancer; potential endocrine disruptor raising concern for impaired fertility or development and increased risks for certain cancers; can instigate immune system responses that include itching, burning, scaling, hives, and blistering of the skin.

Salicylic Acid— a photosensitizer, it can increase risk of sunburn and skin cancer by intensifying UV exposure in deep skin layers.

Vitamin E—potentially contaminated with impurities linked to cancer or other significant health problems.

*As well as benzyl alcohol, cocamidopropyl betaine, diazolidinyl urea, peg-12 distearate, polysorbate-20, quaternium-15, sodium hydroxymethylglycinate, tocopherol (see vitamin E, tocopheryl acetate, and triethanolamine.*

Brand names less likely to contain contaminants include: Badger | Keys | See the Dawn | Terressentials | Trillium Organics

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

- Anyone who is considering a run for a council position this November is encouraged to “shadow” current councillors so as to maintain a smooth transition period.
- Constituency Associations need organizers and people willing to “apprentice” (i.e. learn what is involved in running a political party). At first blush it might not seem very exciting, but it is critical to maintaining and strengthening the Green Party.
- Researchers and organizers for caucuses on eco-literacy, aboriginal and northern issues, social justice, etc.
- Canvassers are a critical component to fundraising and we need to begin training (i.e. to learn GP platform, contribution rules, etc.).

For more information, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Cathie Turner at the office phone number or by email, [cathturner@shaw.ca](mailto:cathturner@shaw.ca).

#### **Submissions for A Member Writes**

*If you would like to submit an article for consideration, please send a short query to Tanja Hütter, [media@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:media@greenparty.mb.ca) or mail it in to her attention at the GPM office. Maximum length of published articles is 400 words. Due to space restrictions, we regret that not every query may be published.*

## *Leader's Message - cont'd from p.1*

several neighbourhood homes, the impact on the economy is considered positive: new houses will have to be built, materials bought, fossil fuels consumed, etc.; undertakers and coffin-makers will get paid, job positions open up and so on.

But in fact, this hypothetical event would be tragic; the emotional impact of grief and loss on the families, friends and co-workers would have far-reaching effects on academic performance, financial security, job productivity, mental and physical health, and the environmental pressure generated (in terms of carbon emissions, landfill usage, etc.) by replacing the demolished infrastructure would be detrimental. If these events can be considered "good" for the economy, then there must be something flawed with how we measure economic progress.

This argument is not intended to suggest that the proponents of economic growth are so Machiavellian that they advocate or rejoice in such destruction. It is to highlight the fact that expenditures are counted as 'progress' under accounting schemes such as GDP so long as they increase the amount of economic activity in any given year.

The problem with GDP is that it only adds, it never subtracts. We do not subtract the pain and suffering felt by victims of such an event, nor does it register the loss of family heirlooms or pets, etc. The cold economic calculator of GDP counts every expense as good and the geometric increase in expenses as progress. The Green Party of Manitoba believes this method ignores the hidden costs at our own peril.

### **ECONOMIC REFORM**

The Manitoba Greens are calling for a reform of economics in Manitoba based on redefining progress as well-being instead of growth.

Instead of measuring progress as an increase in GDP, the Greens would take into account social, economic and ecological considerations

when determining whether or not we are making progress. The process of setting our goals would be opened to a broader spectrum of Manitoba communities.

Currently, economic goals for Manitoba are set by the Premier's Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) who are selected by the Premier from corporations, unions, and communities around Manitoba. Their work is relatively unknown to most Manitobans, but the effects of their work are felt by all, and therefore, all Manitobans have the right to decide whether growth is an appropriate goal for Manitoba's economic strategy, policies, and legislation.

The Manitoba Greens are calling on the Government of Manitoba and all parties and citizens to work to develop new methods for setting economic goals for Manitoba. We would consider ideas such as a province-wide survey every four years or so, broad-based consultation by PEAC on goal-setting for Manitoba, discussions with members of the legislative assembly (MLAs) every year [long before the budget comes out] to determine priorities from the bottom-up, and other innovative strategies.

We need an open and frank discussion about how we want our democracy to function so that it can improve its ability to meet the needs of all Manitobans.

### **A NEW DEMOCRACY**

It is time to get serious about democratic reform and implement not just political, but economic democracy, the underpinning of our political processes.

All Manitobans should have equitable access to participate in public discourse and in policy-making. As long as those with abundant resources and wealth dominate the processes of decision-making, economic growth will march on, the income gap will widen and we risk the Legislature losing its legitimacy as a democratic institution of and for the people.

#### ***Suggest A Business***

*Do you know of a Manitoban business that embodies the Ten Principles for a Sustainable Society? We would like to list them on our website but need your help identifying and ranking them (10/10 if all principles are evident, if they meet 2 criteria, then 2/10).*

*Restaurants, farms, bike shops, second-hand stores, etc., are all eligible.*

*Send your nomination, with a brief description of their project or service and list the principles they are able to incorporate into their business model, to Tanja Hütter, [media@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:media@greenparty.mb.ca) or leave a message for her at the GPM office.*