



# GREENPRINT ISSUE #8

the newsletter of the Green Party of Manitoba

September 2009

[www.greenparty.mb.ca](http://www.greenparty.mb.ca)

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P. O. Box 26023, RPO Maryland  
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**WEBSITE:** [www.greenparty.mb.ca](http://www.greenparty.mb.ca)

**OFFICE ADDRESS:** (effective October 1)

120 Sherbrook Street  
Winnipeg MB R3C 2B4

## COMING EVENTS

**Fall Dinner November 27**

**Policy Convention and Annual  
General Meeting November 28**

## 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/>

## NEW OFFICE

The GPM council is pleased to announce that we are moving our office to 120 Sherbrook Street. We are excited to have a real community presence in one of the greenest neighborhoods in Manitoba.

**Council meetings** will be held at 120 Sherbrook, on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7 p.m., until further notice. Council meetings are open to all members of the GPM.

## GPM COUNCIL

**James Beddome, Leader**  
[leader@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:leader@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Jacqueline Romanow, President**  
[president@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:president@greenparty.mb.ca)

**John Wilmot, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:treasurer@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Caitlin McIntyre, Secretary**  
[secretary@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:secretary@greenparty.mb.ca)

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

**Miguel Lozupone, Elections Planning**  
[elections@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:elections@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Cathie Turner, Volunteer Coordinator**  
[volunteer@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:volunteer@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Trevor Vandale, Webmaster**  
[webmaster@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:webmaster@greenparty.mb.ca)

### Members at Large

**Kristen Andrews, Andrew Basham, Andrew Evans, Drew Fenwick, Jeff Presslaff, Cathie Turner, Trevor Vandale, Steve Weedon** (on leave of absence) [info@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:info@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Policy and Platform Standing Committee**  
[policy@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:policy@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Fundraising Committee**  
[fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Communications Standing Committee**  
[media@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:media@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Conflict Resolution Committee**  
[CRC@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:CRC@greenparty.mb.ca)

## LEADER'S MESSAGE

Dear Greens,

Our time is now! With Gary Doer stepping down as Premier, Manitoba's political landscape is opening up. This creates immense opportunities for the Green Party of Manitoba. This will only occur if we have all hands on deck.

Have you ever thought about being a Green Hero? I know many of them. They are the countless invaluable souls who volunteer for the GPM. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a few Green Heroes in particular so that they may serve as an inspiration.

His Earth Keeper Farm Blogspot ([earthkeeperfarm.blogspot](http://earthkeeperfarm.blogspot)) is one of the best blogs in the province, and many Greens are undoubtedly already aware of Larry Powell's writings. Larry also serves as the GPM Food Security Advocate/Agriculture Critic. Larry has been instrumental in producing numerous Press Releases. During my Leadership I have been able to lean on Larry numerous times. I can truly say that he has been a driving force behind my leadership!

This year the GPM has sent out 10 public statements. What is not seen is that each is drafted and edited multiple times and some edits do not pass the editing floor. Many people deserve credit for editing and writing the GPM's public statements, but space does not allow so it seems fitting that I introduce a man who knows how to cut to the point. GPM Member-at-large, Jeff Presslaff, has been a key player on the media approval team. He has been the quick-witted sober second thought. For every release -- and every draft iteration -- he has responded with thoughtful and eloquent edits that clarify the points being made, while at the same time reducing the amount of copy. The GPM owes a great debt of gratitude to Jeff Presslaff.

In the background GPM Treasurer John Wilmot in collaboration with GPM CFO Tanja Hutter have been managing the GPM's finances, including filing the 2008 return, and subsequently the 2009 Elmwood by-election campaign.

Organizing the party's affairs requires vast amounts of energy. In addition to their duties in ensuring that our finances are meeting financial and legal requirements, Tanja is chairing the fundraising committee to plan a number of fun events for 2010 that will serve to expand our membership and increase our coffers. John as treasurer is associated with the committee and also advises the party on all aspects of managing our finances. Tanja and John do their jobs with dignity, respect and intelligence; they are not merely Green Heroes, but Green Super-Heroes!

Scott Harrison is the hero that holds this party together. He is the most loyal and dedicated volunteer the GPM has ever seen. He is at every event, and he is always willing to pitch in and do his share. I don't think Scott missed one shift of canvassing during the Elmwood campaign. Now that is dedication!

I mention these people not to exclude any others. There have been numerous others who have helped me through my leadership, and this is to say nothing of the many people who have founded, and developed The Green Party of Manitoba over the course of its existence. Every one of them is an inspiration! Indeed there are many Heroes within the Green Party of Manitoba: past, present, and future.

We need more Green Heroes -- and these Heroes need sidekicks and support staff as well. We need many, many, many more people! You too, can become a Hero!

Consider taking on a shadow cabinet position, writing a policy resolution, writing a press release, become a deputy councillor, knocking on doors, becoming a GPM candidate, or even just selling your friends and family memberships! Please contact me personally at [leader@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:leader@greenparty.mb.ca) or 204-990-5195 (Winnipeg); or toll free 1-877 - 742-4292 (leave message) to get more involved.

Humbly your Leader,

*James R. Beddome*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. The Green Party of Manitoba has undergone some exciting changes and I am thrilled with the future prospects. Our new leader, James Beddome, has done an excellent job of getting out there and letting our constituents know that there are better ways of doing things, whether it is in regard to privatizing water, logging our forests, building new roads through protected areas, pouring "cosmetic" chemicals onto our lawns and unsafe industrial agricultural practices to name a few. He is both tireless and fearless and I would like to personally thank him for an excellent job over the past year. Of course, that does not mean that there is not a lot of work that has yet to be done.

The GPM is currently undergoing some important changes that will take us into the future as a stronger party and a real political alternative. We now have a fantastic new office space, right in the heartland of our strongest supporters – Wolseley! The new office is located at 120 Sherbrook, near Stella's, and includes some prime advertising space as well as a real community presence. We are eager to get out there and meet all our new neighbors so we participated in the Sherbrook Street Festival on Saturday September 12, 2009 and charmed everyone who wandered by our table with some fantastic fresh ground Colombian coffee (organic and fair trade, of course) and delicious treats from Organza, Stella's and Tall Grass Prairie bakery. A special thanks to the staff at Stella's who were so very helpful on the day of the event. We met a lot of people who are now Green supporters, and even the current Winnipeg Centre MP in the riding, the Honourable Pat Martin, NDP had to stop by and say hello. James Beddome, Caitlin McIntyre, Scott Harrison and Julia Romanow deserve warm thanks for their hard work and dedication to make our inaugural GPM event in the neighborhood a fantastic success!

This brings us to the possibility of a fall federal election. I recently accepted the daunting challenge of representing the Green Party of Canada for the riding of Winnipeg Centre. I have also taken a seat on the Shadow Cabinet of the GPC as the critic for international trade and development. This has kept me very busy, but at the same time as proven to be a lot of

fun as we have begun to put together a solid campaign team and have headed out regularly to meet our constituents and build our support base. The information that we are collecting will serve to benefit both the GPM and the GPC.

Campaigns do take time and money and we are determined to present ourselves as a serious political force in this riding and across the country. Given the current state of our Canadian democracy, there is really no better time to get involved and help get green voices on the agenda! We are currently in need of all kinds of volunteers. Participating in a Green Campaign will give you valuable experience, plus the opportunity to have fun, make new green friends and be part of a committed team that is trying to make history in Winnipeg Centre! But if you are just too busy at this time of year, a donation (tax deductible) would be just as useful! Campaigns are expensive and even a small contribution can make a real difference. If you donate \$100.00, remember you will get a tax deduction of \$75.00, so your real cost is only \$25.00, so give what you can. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact my campaign manager, Miguel Lozupone by email at [mlozupone@rrc.mb.ca](mailto:mlozupone@rrc.mb.ca).

As I always say, many people really are Green once they look at their own beliefs and principles, it is our job to help them realize that and get them to sign up to a political party that will make a real difference for our community, for our province and for our democracy. Remember, memberships to the GPM are only \$10.00 each and are a great way to bring friends into something new and exciting. We would love to double our current membership list so get out there and talk to your friends. Not only is it easy to be Green, but it is a lot of fun!!! We will change the world, one membership at a time.... I am looking forward to a brighter and greener future in 2010!

Thanks so much!

**Jacqueline Romanow**  
President, Green Party of Manitoba

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**The Policy and Platform Committee** is responsible for coordinating and initiating policy development and for developing an electoral platform based on policies accepted by the party. See page 6 for a description of the policy development process.

**Policy and Platform Standing Committee**  
[policy@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:policy@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Fundraising** is vital to making the party an effective voice for Green issues.  
[fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:fundraising@greenparty.mb.ca)

**Communications Standing Committee** works to get the word out on Green issues, to our members and to the general public.  
[media@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:media@greenparty.mb.ca)

These committees work together to organize events, develop media releases, and generally present the public face of the party. If you have expertise or interest in these areas, YOU ARE NEEDED!

**Regional Advisory Committee** members ensure that all areas of Manitoba are represented in GPM policies. They may act as spokespersons and contacts for the GPM, may organize regional events, liaise with C.A.s, and bring regional issues to the attention of the Leader, Council, and Platform Committee.

Andrew Basham has been appointed Regional Representative for the North, to encourage party growth in the North. Contact Andrew at [north@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:north@greenparty.mb.ca)

The Capital Region and West Region are eligible to elect representatives. See the AGM Registration Form for details.

Council is always interested in listening to the diverse opinions of its membership. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please don't hesitate to contact a councillor. Alternatively, if you feel that your issue is of a more sensitive nature, you may email the **Conflict Resolution Committee** at [CRC@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:CRC@greenparty.mb.ca) or write to Conflict Resolution Committee, Green Party of Manitoba, P.O. Box 26023, RPO Maryland,

Winnipeg MB R3G 3R3. Committee members are not councilors and all correspondence is confidential.

**Conflict Resolution Committee**  
[CRC@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:CRC@greenparty.mb.ca)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND POLICY CONVENTION

The Green Party of Manitoba will hold its Annual General Meeting and Policy Convention on Saturday, November 28, at the St. Boniface Library, 131 boulevard Provencher, 10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Any member of the GPM, constituency association, caucus or other unit of the party, can submit a policy resolution to the Policy and Platform Committee. The Policy Development process was established in 2004 and is included in this issue of GreenPrint.

**The deadline for advance submissions is October 28, giving the committee time for review.**

The more background research and documentation you can provide, the better, to provide a solid factual basis.

All previously-passed policies and the 2007 Platform are available on the GPM website. You can also receive a compiled Policy Platform Working Document which groups policies by area and may help to identify policy areas which require further research and development.

Please send your suggestions, and resolutions to [policy@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:policy@greenparty.mb.ca) or to the GPM postal address if you do not have email access.

## POLICY BLOGS

Les Mundwiler has set up policy research blogs as another avenue for policy discussion and development. Areas covered include transportation, energy, housing, health & food safety, water & forests, global relations & climate change, agriculture & gardening, social inclusion & poverty reduction. To join the blogs please email [highbrow@prairie.ca](mailto:highbrow@prairie.ca)

## THE RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

We live in a society in which we often take things for granted. Things work so well that we only complain when they don't work. When we flick a switch, we generally get power, and that leads to some degree of compliancy.

What if our votes did not count in an election, as in Zimbabwe? What if we had a rally in the park and the police broke it up? What if all the available electrical power was directed to government buildings and away from you, as it is directed to the American Embassy in Iraq?

The point here is that we should not be so accepting of these things. Rights and freedoms need to be put to use to be appreciated for when they are lost, they are lost for a long time.

It may surprise you to find out that the Manitoba Labour Relations Act orders the government to encourage collective bargaining. The act reads :

WHEREAS it is in the public interest of the Province of Manitoba to further harmonious relations between employers and employees by encouraging the practice and procedure of collective bargaining between employers and unions as the freely designated representatives of employees;

When was the last time you saw an ad on TV that encouraged unionization? This is the law of Manitoba we are talking about here and I don't see any logic to the neutral stance that all provincial governments have adapted in this regard. Ask yourself how someone can encourage by staying neutral? Does your teacher encourage education by pretending he/she could not care less if you learn or not?

Why do we as citizens allow our government to break the law and not encourage collective bargaining? To complicate matters even more, the Government of Canada has signed agreements that require it to encourage collective bargaining so that it becomes the norm in setting wages.

The Supreme Court of Canada recently ruled that collective bargaining is protected under our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Ruling, 2007 SCC 27, reads:

The constitutional right to collective bargaining concerns the protection of the ability of workers to engage in associational activities, and their capacity to act in common to reach shared goals related to workplace issues and terms of employment.

Please read that again... the protection of the ability to engage...;

This flies in the face of what we commonly believe is fair, that employers have the right to keep their workplace union free, and probably accounts for the neutral stance that governments take vis a vis unionization. It should now be very apparent that this neutrality stance has resulted in great abuses of the constitutional right to engage in associational activities. In many cases this neutrality has resulted in persecution of workers who did want a union and denied them promotions, made them feel like they were disloyal, made them feel unwelcome and not team players or outright fired. (I smell a class action lawsuit coming!!)

In my estimation, it is time to stand up as Canadians and start to cherish the rights and freedoms we have and I openly encourage freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, freedom to vote and all other freedoms that our charter holds dearly. On the provincial level, the Green Party should start an email campaign and petition our government asking them why they are breaking the law by not encouraging collective bargaining practices. This is solid ground that the Greens everywhere should claim as policy. Is it so hard to say that as a party, we encourage the constitutional right to collective bargaining, as the law requires and ignores?

*Brian Timlick*, GPM Labour Critic and GPC Candidate in Charleswood-St. James- Assiniboia

## SEPTEMBER 25 IS EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

The Global Footprint Network explains that this date "marks an unfortunate milestone; the day when humanity begins living beyond its ecological means. Beyond that day, we move into the ecological equivalent of deficit spending, utilizing resources at a rate faster than what the planet can regenerate in a calendar year."

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

“Policy may be initiated by (a) any member of the party (b) the policy committee. The policy committee would announce to the membership that we would be discussing a particular policy issue.

A discussion paper may be prepared. We would encourage people to do this.

The discussion paper would be shared with the membership by:

(a) Email forum, i.e. moderated group

[mbgreens@yahoogroups.ca]

(b) Policy workshop, e.g. a policy potluck

The Policy Committee would take the initial information, include feedback from the email forum and/or the workshop, and write a resolution.

The resolution would be taken to Provincial Council to be passed as interim policy. The resolution would be ratified at the Annual Policy Conference. The resolutions would be prioritized by the Policy Committee in the following order: interim policy, new policy, amendments to policy, and policy not recommended. Emergency resolutions would be admitted to [the] Policy Conference.”  
PASSED May 2004.

## GREEN MARKET

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

**Mike Nickerson and the Sustainability Project:**  
<http://www.SustainWellBeing.net>

## BUTTONS

Green Party of Manitoba buttons, with a beautiful homegrown Gaillardia Aristata in full colour, are available for \$2 (6 for \$10).

## 3 R T-Shirts

Repurposed, Reused, Recycled GPM shirts, assorted sizes and styles, \$10

## BOOK REVIEW

**A Fair Country: Telling Truths about Canada, by John Ralston Saul**  
*Reviewed by Ardythe Basham*

One of the challenges for Greens is to present a realistic alternative to business-as-usual, politically and socially. It isn’t enough to say we want a sustainable, socially just, democratic society; we need to be able to explain what that means and how it would work better than our current system.

Saul’s newest book offers a truly innovative interpretation of Canadian history which dovetails nicely with Green concepts. He argues that Canada is really a Metis nation, that our fundamental values are derived from aboriginal cultures, and that we need to acknowledge and celebrate our debt to the First Nations to let Canada emerge with an independent voice and vision that is neither reflexively anti-American nor slavishly imitative.

His analysis of the problems of the “silo” approach to social and economic problems, the failure of Canadian elites to take effective action on major issues such as the shortage of doctors (created by misconceived policies), the failure to recognize environmental issues, our poorly thought out involvement in Afghanistan, offers ideas that Greens can use to develop a vision of what Canada could and should be.

The original concept of Canada was a nation based on peace, welfare, and good government. We need to get back to the idea that the welfare – or wellbeing – of the people is a primary value for Canadians.

## FALL DINNER

Invite your friends, family, and neighbours to join us **on Friday, November 27 for a *Fall Fundraising Dinner***. The location has not yet been determined but will be announced soon. Details will be posted on the GPM website, [www.greenparty.mb.ca](http://www.greenparty.mb.ca) and emailed to our members and supporter.

Tax receipts will be issued for a portion of the price.

REGISTRATION FORM (Send to PO Box 26023, RPO Maryland, Winnipeg R3R 3G3)

***Please register by November 14, 2009!***

YES. I will attend the Green Party of Manitoba AGM, November 28, 2009.

Location: St. Boniface Public Library, 131 boulevard Provencher, Winnipeg

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$5**

A light lunch will be provided. Please feel free to bring something to share, if you wish.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (for \_\_\_\_\_ people) Membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The AGM will begin promptly at 10 a. m. and will end by 4:45 p.m.

**To register by email, please send the information requested to [membership@greenparty.mb.ca](mailto:membership@greenparty.mb.ca). Email registrants can pay at the door.**

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**You can count on me to help the Green Party of Manitoba prepare for the 2011 election.**

**\_\_\_ YES, I will be an active member of my Constituency Association.**

**\_\_\_ YES, I will volunteer for at least one of the following Standing Committees:**

**\_\_\_ Fundraising**

**\_\_\_ Media/Communications**

**\_\_\_ Election Planning**

**\_\_\_ YES, I will actively promote GPM membership.**

**\_\_\_ YES, I am willing to be a candidate for Regional Representative for my region of Manitoba.**

**\_\_\_ YES, I will renew my membership for 2010.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signed)

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