Green Notes
Bimonthly Newsletter of the Green Party of Manitoba

FALL 2026

GREENPARTY.MB.CA

Leader's Message
YOUR Voice for Health, Ecology, Fairness, and Care!

A belated, heart felt Happy Fall Equinox to all readers! It is a privilege to write to you again as the seasons shift and our lives shift with them.

Fall is a time of agricultural harvest and a time of Gratitude. Gratitude is extended to all our GPM and GPC volunteers and all our Donors of time and resources! A BIG Thank you to Dennis Bayomi for bringing his Green values and questions to the discussions on what it means to be a City of WPG councillor candidate while he juggles being our President. Best of Luck Dennis!

An especially sweet thank you goes to Laura Potts, as her life changes, resigning from being an active GPM supporter, which she has been for years. Please enjoy her smile and the flowers we sent to represent all our appreciation for her many hours of efforts in GPM Membership Outreach and Secretarial roles! Best of Luck in your future endeavours Laura, your friendly attitude will help wherever you join in!

Equal gratitude goes to the patient and understanding Dan Yarema as he resigns from the Treasurer role he has carried for many years and taps Brent Bjorklund to take a turn! Thanks for stepping up Brent, and all the best to you in the future Dan!

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Leader's Message

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In this time of struggle for so many, here in Manitoba and across our world, this message is intended as a sharing of encouragement to be more completely yourself, living in the ways which provide the most meaning and joy for you as an individual, and as a community member. It is when we care for ourselves deeply, we are able to make the increasingly challenging decisions of where to place our limitied time and energy in the many communities in which we are a part.

With that I have to also deeply thank Jesse Waters-Wolfe for his work as our GPM Community Newsletter editor! Staying in touch with each other and our Green ideas / values, our struggles to live and be well and make a difference in our world, is key to building Green solidarity and sustainability!

This busy fall has many events in support of changes the GPM would like to see. Please see our back page for a brief list of October events. Follow our Facebook page for more info on how to get involved and talk with us directly!

Fighting Back: Manitobans Against Factory Hog Barns has been written by Vicki Burns, Fred Tait, Bill Massey, Brent Bjorklund and myself, with contributions from the many Manitobans who have struggled with the hog industry. We will show a brief video, have a panel presentation and then a discussion on the choices we make for our future! We envision a resilient agriculture that never relies on torture and poisons. The book is $20, please get in touch if you'd like a copy!

Hope to see you at one or many Green event this season! Please consider inviting someone you know to join us, all who share our health, ecology fairness and care based approaches for 2027 government, are welcome in the Green Party of Manitoba, a community based on care, sustainability, and hope for all!

Be well!

-Janine Gibson, GPM Leader

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Volunteers Wanted!

The Green Party of Manitoba is always looking for new members and volunteers! Regardless of your experience, interests or skill-set, if you believe in a sustainable future, there's a place for you in the GPM.

Drop us an email at info@greenparty.mb.ca to volunteer, click here to join the party. Membership is free for anyone under 30.

Be a part of a Green Manitoba, today!

-Jesse Waters-Wolfe, Editor, GPM WPG Representative

Council Vacancies

Several Council positions are up for election this year:

- GPM Membership Coordinator (incumbent)
- Northern Manitoba Rep
- Treasurer (incumbent)
- Winnipeg Regional Rep (incumbent)

Drop us a note if you'd be interested in getting involved with the GPM in any of these (or other) ways!

- Dennis Bayomi, GPM President

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

We're busy getting ready for the next election, with the goal of electing our first Green MLA! But the reality is, in politics, one needs $$$ to succeed! We have a fundraising target of $10 000, and every penny counts.

So PLEASE help by making a donation today!

Consider signing up for a monthly donation of $10 or $20/month.

And remember, for any donation you make, you'll receive a 75% tax credit on the first $400 you donate for the year.

Make your donation on our website or by e-transfer (e-mail us for address).

THANK YOU!!!

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Climate Changing the Polls

In 2026, a major event increased NDP support nationwide; one of the most significant changes in federal NDP support this year. It was noticed by every Canadian, widely reported in world news, and is certain to be an even bigger event next year.

And it had nothing to do with Avi Lewis.

It was the heat. Climate change brought us a summer of record-breaking temperatures and massive wildfires. and at the same time, NDP support rose four points. 15% of Liberal 2025 voters switched to the NDP. 50% of those former Liberals listed climate change as a top concern. As of September, the share of former Liberal voters intending to vote NDP remains 15%.

In a time when the pendulum of public sentiment has swung hard towards the Red-Tory-centre, even a few percentage points are a big deal. The polls reflect the way economic concerns and the environment are becoming intertwined for the average voter. It is officially impossible to ignore the effects of climate change, everywhere.

Europe's example says a lot. European economic output drops by roughly 3% per work-hour for every degree above 30°C. Europe is also the world's fastest-warming continent. In 2026, Europe lost roughly $208 billion to extreme heat. That's about 1% of the EU's GDP. Even worse, its higher than the year's expected economic growth for the bloc. That's unsustainable for capitalism.

Economists and bankers are taking note. No one wants to be left on the wrong side of the new economic reality. Average people are no different. The economy is always the number one issue, and our environment is the economy, in so many ways.

As much as I respect and admire Mr. Lewis & his (impeccable) credentials as activist and intellectual, the polls speak for themselves. The NDP leader has so far been uncompetitive with the other parties. The NDP averaged around the high single digits to roughly 10% upon Avi's election in March, and today remains broadly in the low double digits nationally, with some polls higher, and others under 10%.

This might change if and when Mr. Lewis wins his first seat in his political career. But until then, what drives voters towards his party?

The answer bears repeating: the climate. Climate change has finally begun to break apart the economic habits of the western consumer. Their voting habits will be next to go.

-Jesse Waters-Wolfe, Editor, GPM
Winnipeg Regional Representative

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2026 Winnipeg Municipal Election

The Winnipeg municipal election takes place on October 28.

Please remember to vote! Municipal elections are extremely important, but turnout remains poor. The 2022 Winnipeg election saw only 35.7% of eligible voters participate.

The municipal level of government has the biggest impact of any government on our day-to-day lives. Municipal governments make the decisions that directly affect you the most, from infrastructure, to public health & safety, to zoning, and environmental standards. Municipal laws are the easiest to influence for the community's benefit.

You can make an impact at City Hall by voting for a progressive candidate, for Mayor or for Council. Take a family member, convince a friend, and make sure you yourself get out and vote. Help create a sustainable future and a more representative government - for all Winnipeggers.

-Jesse Waters-Wolfe, Editor, GPM WPG Representative

AGM

Our AGM will take place this Fall.

Look forward to an exciting program, with news on our plans for the upcoming provincial election, policy motions, Council election results and reports from our Councillors and committees.

If you'd be interested in helping us organize the AGM or would like to run for a Council position, e-mail us: info@greenparty.mb.ca

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Stay Green

As a wise frog and many Green party members have said; “it isn’t easy being green”. This is painfully true, particularly for prairie Greens; we have difficulty attracting volunteers and candidates, while registering more than 5% in an election can be seen as an achievement.

It is no wonder we sometimes have to do a bit of bellybutton gazing and wonder whether it is all worth it.

And of course it is.

When the Green Party of Canada was founded in 1983, we were dealing with acid rain and ozone holes. We were fighting to protect old growth forests. We knew, vaguely, about climate change (aka global warming) but it seemed like a far away thing.

Women’s reproductive rights were assured (we thought) and support for LGBT rights was growing and(we thought) we were leaving bigotry and racism behind.

Yet here we are in 2026, decades after Regan and Thatcher unleashed an as-yet unchecked wave of neoliberalism, which has now but many of those very achievements in jeopardy. We need Greens more than ever.

While I admit to some relief when Mark Carney became the PM, because, thanks to our increasingly decrepit first-past-the-post electoral system, the alternative was worse, I am not happy with the direction the federal Liberals are going. What are they doing bringing in legislations that will trample environmental protections and Indigenous rights to fast-track infrastructure and extractive industries?

What is the Manitoba NDP doing pursuing pipelines, gas turbine energy generation, and reopening the whole Sio Silica debacle? Especially when the last two years in Manitoba have seen some costly extreme weather from forest fires to floods to a large increase in the number of tornadoes.

And, meanwhile, we have Poilievre demanding tax cuts (do they have nothing else?), the provincial PCs still worrying about parental rights and school trustees worrying about the “trans agenda”.

This year’s record El Niño will likely bring extremes that we have never seen before. At some point, the 80% or so of people who now claim to be worried about climate change will have that worry bubble up to the top of their concerns. The costs will become undeniable and un-ignorable.

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Stay Green

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And here we are. Greens that have been saying this for years. We've been discussing the problems, the risks, and the opportunities. We've been installing solar and heat pumps and driving EVs and reducing or eliminating meat consumption.

We've been reading the books on the risks and the possibilities of a fossil fuel free future. (We've also been reading the books about guaranteed basic income, modern monetary theory, Truth & Reconciliation, and improving democracy).

And this is the key, in a word that has become dominated by the failed promises of trickle-down economics and Neoliberal hate and fear, we need Greens to be a positive alternative.

Because preventing further climate degradation has positive pathways that lead to energy independence, cleaner water, cleaner air, and a sustainable future.

Stay Green.

-Blair Mahaffy, GPM Policy & Platform Chair

BECOME A CANDIDATE!

The next provincial election is scheduled for Fall '27. Come and join us!

Our goal is to elect the first Green MLA in Manitoba history! And to do that, we're looking to have a candidate in each of the province's 57 ridings.

Want to be part of our exciting slate of candidates? Drop us a note, let's talk!

E-mail: FirstGreenMLA@greenparty.mb.ca

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Fool Me Once...

Our Prime Minister has a pattern of expressing lofty values, then abandoning them. Mark Carney, the man who wrote, “Values,” has turned out to be a copycat version of Pierre Poilievre.

He did this when he said he'd stand up to the USA, then proposed paying for their LNG terminal & pipeline with funds obtained from slashing public services. He showed his strong principles against Trump’s tariffs by proposing to fire-sale our public airports and utilities to Trump’s private equity MAGA buddies. His, “values” include unjustified spending on our 70% US supplied military, even as Trump cuts off all aid to Ukraine.

Now Carney is floating the idea of associate membership in the EU to protect Canadians from American greed. Many of us will be excited about cheaper imports of EU goods and opportunities for exports. Carney floats a romantic vision of Canadian students learning in the EU. But this agreement has the potential to be another example of bait-and-switch “values.” Based on his previous actions, it could be an outright assault on the wages of working Canadians and their affordability.

Canadians may have a misconception of what the EU is. They likely envision a collection of liberal democracies with left-leaning governments. Today’s Europe is a cauldron of class warfare and division, just like us, but with less potential to self-correct. Right-wing populism and inequality have grown while social peace and prosperity have declined, even in Nordic countries. Businesses and finance have taken control of institutions while labour unions and workers have suffered. The EU Central Bank, IMF, OECD, and decisions made by the European Court of Justice are working to dismantle union power, enforce government austerity, and privatize the commons.

There are many examples of how financial deregulation has damaged Europe but the clearest one that should concern Canadians is Greece.

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GreenChat!

“*GreenChat*” is GPM’s online discussion platform. Since 2023, it’s where GPM Council, Leadership Team, Committees and Caucuses conduct the bulk of our work. As well, all GPM members can participate in *GreenChat’s* Member Forum section for sharing news, ideas and other information.

GreenChat let’s you interact directly with your Manitoba Greens! If you’d like to take part, just e-mail us at info@greenparty.mb.ca and we’ll set up your free account.

Fool me once...

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In the fall of 2009, Greece was forced to accept a crushing austerity program. The previous conservative government had worked with Goldman-Sachs to falsely declare bond issues as current revenue.

The newly-elected progressive government found itself with a 12% budget deficit, 8.5% over the EU limit. Since Greece no longer had its own currency, it was forced accept austerity as part of a bailout.

Greece was powerless to manage its crisis. Civil servants' wages were cut by 16.7% and pensions were slashed. Public assets were sold off and 22% was cut from the minimum wage. This made everything worse and the debt-to-GDP ratio exploded. This is also what happened in Saskatchewan in 1993, when a newly elected NDP government was forced to close 53 hospitals. Like Greece, Provinces cannot print money.

Carney says that he isn't seeking to follow Europe's monetary policy or austerity. But membership requirements create an excuse to use these policies domestically.

The result of Neoliberalism has been the same in Europe as in Canada. Union membership has plummeted. Wages have lowered, and job security has been reduced for all comparable workers, including those not directly covered by agreements. Public service employees have managed to retain decent payment and benefits, and so are resented by the rest of the labour force. This in countries that used to enjoy high wages & benefits, low inequality, high productivity, full employment, and strong unions.

In 2006 Sweden delinked union membership from unemployment insurance, and stopped centralized bargaining. An EU rule called Posted Workers Directive allowed corporations to send workers from low-wage countries like Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria to high-wage countries without increasing their wages or benefits. The humanitarian refugees of recent events were not the cause of populism; it was corporate greed supported by Neoliberal courts and institutions. If Canada were to enter into a trade agreement with the EU, we must insist that corporations cannot use the agreement to attack what little is left of workers' wages and union rights.

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Fool me once...

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The tragic damage to these amazingly successful arrangements was not because of international trade competition or the newest waves of immigrants as the right contends. These tragic losses for working people were directly the result of bad economic policy. The 1980s belief in Neoliberalism, classic trickle-down economics and individualism over collectivism led to the election of European centre-right governments, and restrained subsequent progressive governments from reversing bad policies.

I doubt Mark Carney is secretly hoping that he can bring low-wage workers into Canada. But he does want financial deregulation and an excuse to further slash the public services, attack unions, and privatize what little is left of our commons. We won't know unless we ask these questions before anything is signed. Based on his behavior, we should assume the worst and put the burden of proof on his government.

Canadians should never agree to any standardization of monetary and fiscal policy. We must reject a race to the bottom of financial regulations. A Canadian Prime Minister who was willing to move past our failed experiment with Neoliberalism could work with Europe to develop Nordic-style labour policies; ones which develop full employment, higher wages and better job security. But Mark Carney is a conservative central banker who only talks about "values."

-Brent Bjorklund, Treasurer, GPM Finance Critic

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EVENTS!

-Oct. 6: 50-50 Transit Rally! Help call on the province to restore equal provincial-municipal funding for transit operations. 4:30–6 p.m. 450 Broadway. Speakers, music and family-friendly activities.

-Oct 6: Book launch of HogWatch MB's: Fighting Back: Manitobans Against Factory Hog Barns. Documenting nearly 30 years of resistance, advocacy, and organization against the pollution and torture of industrial hog production. 7 pm. 698 Osborne st. Free of charge. Please join us afterwards for snacks, drinks and conversation.

-Oct. 8: Environmental Professionals Meetup, bringing together people working in environmental fields across Winnipeg for networking and conversation! 6–8 p.m. 114 Market Ave. Free event.

-Oct. 9: Fridays for Future Winnipeg climate gathering calling for stronger climate action, a just transition, and solidarity with Indigenous communities. 5–6 p.m. North steps of the Legislature, 450 Broadway.

-Oct. 15: Rally to Fight Poverty organized by Make Poverty History Manitoba, calling for stronger action on housing, food security, adequate incomes, and poverty reduction. Noon–1 p.m. 450 Broadway.

-Oct. 30, Central Park: Critical Mass Winnipeg group bike ride promoting cycling, safer streets, and human-powered transportation. Meet at 5 p.m.; ride begins at 5:30 p.m. Central Park.

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