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Editor: Jim McIntosh

## The Compassionate Side of Libertarianism in Action - an essay— By Gene Balfour

Recently, Lance (a contributor to our Facebook page) posed an excellent question that has arisen when he has spoken with others about Libertarianism. Some people seem to think that our Platform does not adequately address the needs of people in crisis or society's most needy people in general.

My wife, Cynthia, reminded me of a recent example of Libertarianism In Action. Many of you may have similar stories, but allow me to begin story-sharing with her example—The Minden Flooding Crisis.

Water levels this Spring are at record highs, and flooding is common in the Kawartha region owing to extremely high river and stream levels. The town of Minden was badly hit; flooding damaged homes. Who was one of the first there to help? The Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) organization!

The MDS is a group of skilled Mennonite residents who volunteer (no payment expected) to help residents in this sort of crisis. These men and women help load sand bags along swollen river edges to minimize flooding. They enter your home to remove damaged walls, floors, etcetera and rebuild them with new wood. Food, shelter and clean water is offered to residents whose lives have been seriously disrupted. These volunteers receive no help or direction from any level of government except for permission by the reeve who controls when they can get started; then, they just show up, offer to help, and do so cheerfully.

Ironically, a news report during that period announced that a government meeting was planned to discuss how to improve government aid during crises such as these. Of course, this will begin the process of determining policies and budget requirements for this public initiative, and it will then become just another

## Libertarian Pub Nights and Events

### 20th Annual Libertarian BBQ—Rain or Shine

Sunday June 11, 2017 10:00 AM—4:00 PM  
Doctors McLean District Park  
8100 Islington Ave., Vaughan, ON

This will be the fourth year Paolo and Teresa Fabrizio have hosted the BBQ in Vaughn. Come and enjoy great burgers, hot dogs and soft drinks (no charge). Bring your family and friends. We welcome Libertarians and others. Lots of parking, and a shelter in case of rain.

**Toronto Pub Night - June 14, 7:00 PM (2nd Wednesday of each month)** - Granite Brewery and Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Ave. E. For more information email Jim McIntosh ([cfo@libertarian.on.ca](mailto:cfo@libertarian.on.ca)) or phone him at 416-283-7589. The next Pub Night is Wednesday July 12.

**Kitchener-Waterloo Pub Night - June 15, 7:00 PM (3rd Thursday each month)** - Benny's Family Restaurant 183 Weber St. N., Waterloo. RSVP to Paul Herriot (519-208-8379 or [paulforfreedom@outlook.com](mailto:paulforfreedom@outlook.com)) so he can reserve a large-enough table. The next Pub Night is July 20, 2017.

**Ottawa Pub Meeting - July 9, 2-4 PM (usually 1st Sunday of each month)** - O'Brien's Eatery and Pub, 1145 Heron Road. Everyone welcome. For more information contact Damien Wilson, [j.damien.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:j.damien.wilson@gmail.com). Next meeting is August 13, 2017.

**Peterborough Pub Night - July 15, 12:00 PM** The Black Horse Pub and Restaurant, 450 George St. N...Peterborough. Contact Jacob Currier, [jakecurrier33@gmail.com](mailto:jakecurrier33@gmail.com) or 705-808-2308.

*If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night in your area, please contact Jim McIntosh by email ([cfo@libertarian.on.ca](mailto:cfo@libertarian.on.ca)) or phone 1-855-ONT-LIBerty or 416-283-7589 in the GTA.*

*For the latest, visit [http://www.libertarian.on.ca/pub\\_nights](http://www.libertarian.on.ca/pub_nights)*

one of many initiatives that will compete for priority, funding and policy approvals in the years to come.

When the Ontario Libertarian Party speaks of enabling Non-governmental Options to become available without regulatory restrictions, it includes examples like this one where friends, neighbours, community groups, non-profit enterprises, for-profit businesses and yes - government services - can all have a role to play in addressing people's needs.

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THE PARTY OF CHOICE—Our Vision is communities of freedom, harmony and abundance.

The Mission of the Party is to enable endless possibilities through recognition of, respect for and protection of individual liberty.

## Social Network Politics — By Allen Small, Leader

A bit of history here: if you have been following the Ontario Libertarian Party you will know that we have made great progress in recent years. Since the Party's inception in 1975, it grew steadily until it fielded 45 candidates in 1990 attracting almost 25,000 votes.

Then came the Mike Harris "common sense" revolution. The next two elections 1995 and 1999 were devastating for the Party, fielding just 7 candidates in both years and even worse in 2003 with only 5 candidates.

Things began to turn around in 2007 when the Party had 25 candidates, in 2011, it was 51, and in 2014 it had 73 candidates. In each of those years the vote total increased, a 100% increase between 2011 and 2014. The last General Election, 2014, was the Party's best showing ever with almost 38,000 votes.

How did this happen, what made the numbers turn around? It's clear now, that our increased popularity had much to do with our determined use of social networks, especially Facebook. I don't think I can overstate how important Facebook has been to almost every aspect of the Party.

The Party has 5 officially sanctioned Facebook groups and one Fan page. There is one group for discussions where anyone can join, one for members only, and a couple for special creative activities. All these groups are closed and private from the greater Facebook community, and some are restricted to just Party members. Other Party members have created their own groups, which adds to the mix.

Five years ago I repurposed the Fan page, which was doing nothing, to use it as a "mouthpiece" for Party positions, news and views. It was a way to spread our message and let people know we exist. Prior to that our

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Governments generally like to be in control when "sh\*t happens" because every politician learns to "never let a crisis go to waste" for the opportunity to expand government reach into, and impose more government controls onto our communities and their citizens.

We have the polar opposite view - to empower our citizens with more options to fight disasters in a timely and cost-effective manner.

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from which to choose in order to receive the same types of services that government institutions have exclusively delivered up until the present time. Who can complain about more options, more convenience and various price ranges for the services they desire?

web site, the *Bulletin*, election exposure, and word of mouth were the most common ways the Party received any notoriety or media attention.

The Party had an open Facebook discussion group that was quite active prior to the 2011 election campaign and it proved very useful in growing the Party for that election. Back then we had just a handful of people that came to the Fan page. It was at about that time I committed to "feeding" the Fan page daily. Each day I searched for media stories or shared and created memes that promoted libertarian ideas and especially the Party. I also had all the Fan page posts feed into our Twitter account. Eventually I began using the Fan page account as an advertising tool, paying Facebook to promote the page itself and then various posts.

The truth of the proverbial phrase "persistence pays off" became evident, the Fan page reaches thousands of people on a daily basis. I know this because Facebook supplies statistics (Facebook Analytics) to its Fan page users, and when Rob Brooks came on board with the Party we began targeting certain populations within the Facebook community in our paid advertising. But most of what we do on the Facebook Fan page is "free" if you neglect the time and effort it takes to create the daily posts.

I'm relating this story now because in the last days of May and early June 2017, as this *Bulletin* goes to press, the Fan page reached well over one million views for the first time ever. It's estimated that by 2018, 19 million people will use Facebook in Canada occasionally, at least half of those from Ontario. How will that affect our prospects in the coming election campaign? Who knows, we'll just have to wait and see.

If you agree with our Platform, join our Party and a rapidly growing community of citizens that plan to vote for our Limited Government + Non-government Options vision for Ontario. Make a donate to our War Chest. Getting our message out is expensive and every looney helps to inform & remind our citizens that government aid should not be our only option for aid, and is likely not even our best option. All citizens deserve access to their preferred "best options" in times of need and crisis and this is a bedrock belief in Libertarianism.

To make this 'everybody wins' scenario a reality, the first required choice is to vote Libertarian in all elections. Ideally, if we can achieve a **Libertarian 20% of the popular vote**, this will be enough public support to begin the transformation of bringing a new level of liberty and economic freedom to every citizen.

## BC Libertarian Party Makes Progress—Clayton Welwood, Leader

### By all measures, a major success!

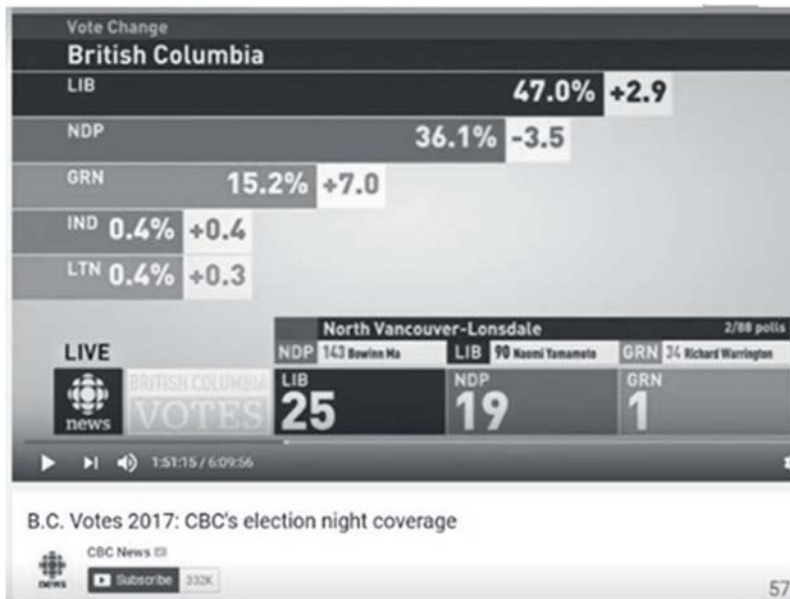
To understand what a huge advance this election was for us, we need to put things in perspective. A year ago, the BC Libertarian Party had only a couple dozen members, no leader, an inactive outdated website, no regular communication with supporters, and only a couple thousand dollars in the bank account. In the 2013 election, we ran 8 candidates, and got a total of 2050 votes (0.1% of the popular vote). Though that put us in 5th place, we were still very much a minor regional party in terms of our influence. The high-water mark in terms of number of candidates was 1996 when we ran 17 candidates under Ken Wiebe's leadership.

Fast forward to October 2016, and we had an engaged board of ten directors (a good mix of veterans and new blood), a Party Leader and Deputy, an active presence on social media, and the goal of running 25 candidates in the election. At that point, that still seemed like a tall order, but when we got our new website up in January and started making connections with people on Facebook, things really picked up steam. My model for a revitalized provincial party was the Ontario Libertarian Party, and the advice of Allen Small and Rob Brooks has been instrumental in our transformation.

We managed to get 30 candidates on the ballot, but there were nearly twice that many who expressed some interest in running. So we beat our main measure of success by a large margin, and feel confident that we'll be able to run candidates in at least 2 thirds of BC's ridings next election. And number of candidates is the most important metric at this point, because it's the best way we can demonstrate that our ideas are reaching larger audiences. We surely did that--our post reach on Facebook hit 22,000 the week of the election, and over 600,000 voters saw the name Libertarian on the ballot. This reach has translated into increased membership as well, and we now over 120.

Here are some other relevant results from the 2017 election:

- Total votes for BC Libertarians out of the total 1.97 million: 7838 (0.4% of votes in the province), nearly 4 times our previous best.
- Top vote getter: Alex Joehl in Langley East with 448 votes.
- Highest Percentage: Jon Rempel in Nechako Lakes with 4.5% of votes



Our vote percentage in the electoral districts where we ran candidates: 1.06% average. We got some notice in the mainstream media (including our own bar on the graph of election results on CBC's website) but not as much as we'd hoped. We thought there was a great story in that we'd leap-frogged over the historic 4<sup>th</sup> BC party, the Conservatives, who ended up running only 10 candidates. But

aside from a Vancouver Sun article on Keith Komar's high profile run in Kootenay East, the major outlet reporters didn't pick up the story. Our candidates got in all the local papers though, and with a financial boost from Marc Emery, we were able to make a big splash at the 420 rally in Vancouver, attended by over 30,000 people. We gave away 2000 "Stop the Arrests" stickers and Keith gave a speech on our marijuana platform on the main stage. We even managed to take advantage of CBC's free election advertising offer, and aired two minute midday ads on CBC radio and television.

For ¾ of our candidates, myself included, it was our first time running. It was an opportunity to get our feet wet and learn how the process works so that we can be ready to run ambitious campaigns next election. We've ended up with a minority government here, so that could be sooner than later. The plan between now and then is to continue building up the infrastructure of the Party. The main part of this is reaching out to the thousands of people who voted for us to get them involved as members, donors, and volunteers. A stronger support base, particularly in the rural districts where our ideas get more traction, will be key in breaking that 5% of the vote threshold next election, which I'm confident we can do.

## The Power of Public Choice—By Gene Balfour

I am a Libertarian, not just during the Sault Ste. Marie by-election when I was the Libertarian Party candidate, but in the way I choose to live my life every day.

Libertarianism is based on “the Good Neighbour Policy” which embodied the belief that:

- There must be limits on the use of force – public or private – in society.
- The only legitimate use of force is the protection of person or property against harm imposed by others.

Historically, our governments have been authorized, via elections held over many generations, to award public servants and their leaders an extraordinary level of legislated power to apply force to all citizens and enterprises according to established legal statutes. Today, the Ontario Government is empowered to enforce over **360,000 regulations** that are, in essence, rules by which we must all abide or face consequences – fines, jail time, and other restrictions to individual liberty.

Libertarians are not convinced that keeping ALL 360,000 regulations is sustainable or has any particular merit. For this reason, we believe that all regulations must be subject to sunset laws whereby they can be re-issued or revised **only if** significant justification continues to exist. In addition, all regulations must be open to public scrutiny for as long as they remain in force.

Unfortunately, there has been no interest by any politicians who represent the existing mainstream Big Government parties (I refer to them as the BORG – blue, orange, red and Green) to contain or shrink our book of regulations. Instead, they choose to fight other social and economic causes for which they can more readily stir up public interest, and therefore, more votes. BORG politicians always champion “glamorous” causes that are sensational and newsworthy rather than the rather unsexy causes involving the delivery of good and efficient government on a day-to-day basis.

As a Libertarian politician, I believe that **the #1 issue of our time** is our inability to constrain the runaway growth of governments at all levels, and their increasingly out-of-touch bureaucratic institutions and their leaders. This mismanagement and forgotten accountability to taxpayers has been going on for over 40 years, and it needs to stop.

**It is absolutely vital to our very democracy** that every voter has the choice to vote for **Limited Government** in every election. Just as vital is the need to allow for the fair and unbiased introduction of competing **Non-Governmental Options** to co-exist and compete with our existing public services. Every citizen deserves the right to legitimate choices of service that best meet

their needs and interests rather than being stuck with only the monopoly service providers of government.

The Ontario Libertarian Party offers to the citizens of Ontario a platform that is the polar opposite of those presented by the other 4 major parties. In what way were they different?

For starters, the Liberals, NDP, Green and yes, even the Conservative parties, have always promoted the idea that **more government** is the only answer for all social and economic issues that arise in the lives of citizens. Yet, it is no secret that **excessive taxation and regulations have been the cause of hardships** for many of our citizens. Libertarians, on the other hand, believe that **the government option should be only one option of many** available to address issues and opportunities in Ontario.

So, **why should government not be the only option** for citizens?

Simply put, it's because all government services and programs are monopoly services and programs, and they suffer from all of the same inefficiencies and failings that occur in private sector monopolies- inefficiency, high prices, limited choices and poor quality of service,

But why are monopolies considered good in the public sector and bad in the private sector? The reason is simple. The voters of Ontario, over many decades, have believed the rhetoric of our Big Government politicians who have argued for the alleged merits of government-only services and never revealed their risks or trade-offs for voters to consider.

Fortunately, the voters of Ontario now have the ability to eliminate public service monopolies, but this can only occur if they vote Libertarian in sufficiently large numbers.

At this point, I wish to be very clear about what the Libertarian Platform proposes:

- for those citizens who wish to use the services provided by the Ontario Government, these will continue to be available to those who are willing to pay for them through their taxes.
- for those who prefer to use Non-Governmental Options, they will be able to defund the government services on their tax return and use these tax savings to pay for their Non-Governmental services providers – either by direct payments or via a private insurance plan.

Clearly, this is a "win-win" for all citizens. Everyone will have access to an unprecedented variety of options

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