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CONVENTION 2017

Saturday November 4, 2017

9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Monte Carlo Inn

8900 Woodbine Ave., Markham, L3R 5K6

The Party holds a Convention once every three years to elect a Leader, Deputy Leader, the officers of the Party, 2 Members-at-Large, and 2 members of the Ethics Committee. This is an important Convention since the next General Election is scheduled for June 7, 2018. If you're interested in helping to manage the affairs of the Party, this is your opportunity. You can register online at libertarian.on.ca/Convention.

At 9:30 AM is registration, continental breakfast, welcome from the Leader, and reports of Officers.

Next we have a special Guest Speaker, Anthony Furey, Sun/Postmedia columnist and national comment editor, libertarian and host of SiriusXM Canada Talks Ch.167 National Post Radio, 7-10 AM, and author of *Pulse Attack: The Secret Weapon That Can Destroy North America*.

Lunch is included and consists of soup, salad, Roasted Rosemary Chicken dinner and Black Forest cake. This alone is worth the registration fee!

After lunch we will elect members of the Executive and the Ethics Committees. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, you can see a description of the responsibilities in the Constitution (available on our web site).

The next order of business will be to discuss and vote on amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party. Details of any proposed amendments will be provided to members by October 4, 2017.

Last, but not least, Rob Brooks will report on our progress to nominate candidates for every riding and our plans for the election campaign.

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Editor: Jim McIntosh

Libertarian Pub Nights and Events

Ottawa Pub Meeting – September 10, 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. Next meeting is October 1, 2017.

Toronto Pub Night - September 13, 7:00 PM (2nd Wednesday of each month) - Granite Brewery and Restaurant, 245 Eglinton Ave. E. Entrance on Mount Pleasant Rd. east side, just south of Eglinton. Everyone welcome - bring a friend. Free Parking under the restaurant. For more information email Jim McIntosh (cfo@libertarian.on.ca) or phone him at 416-283-7589. The next Pub Night is Wednesday October 11. .

Kitchener-Waterloo Pub Night - September 21, 7:00 PM (3rd Thursday each month) - Angel's Family Restaurant, 190 Weber St. N. (Corner of Weber and Lodge). Come out to enjoy friendly libertarian conversation. Invite your friends - all are welcome. Please RSVP to Paul Herriot (call 519-208-8379 or email paulforfreedom@outlook.com) so he can reserve a large-enough table. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 21.

Other Pub Nights – If you're interested in getting together with other libertarians in the following places, contact the person indicated.

Harriston-Minto—Scott Marshall, scott@harriston.ca or 519-338-3205

Peterborough—Jacob Currier, jakecurrier33@gmail.com or 705-808-2308.

Windsor-Essex—Ian Shalapata ian@windsorsquare.ca

Woodstock— Chris Swift, cswift9@hotmail.com

If you would like to organize a Libertarian Pub Night in your area, please contact Jim McIntosh by email (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

We have arranged for a discounted rate at Monte Carlo Inn - Markham. Phone 1-855-516-1090 or go online to www.montecarloinns.com (you will need the postal code - L3R 5K6). Mention the Party and use code **OLP17**. Let us know if you have special dietary needs or requires transportation to the Convention.

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.

Don't waste your vote.... — By Allen Small, Leader

During mid-August, my family and I spent 10 days driving through the mid-western United States, visiting cities like Chicago and St. Louis, but primarily to witness the total eclipse of the sun. We were in the American heartland, and I listened intently to the local talk radio shows while driving. What I heard was disturbing. Violent protest groups removed historical statues and pressed for the rewriting of American history. The books that I had read in my youth about a dystopian future seemed to be coming true. *Atlas Shrugged, 1984, Fahrenheit 451....* The LEFT is intent on pressuring governments at all levels to rewrite history to suit their views. Once we crossed the border into Ontario, the first news story I heard was that the Elementary Teacher's Federation had voted to ask for the removal of the name "Sir John A. MacDonald" from provincial schools because he had a central role in the "genocide of indigenous people." All I could do was shake my head and remind myself why I'm a Libertarian activist and why it's so important to push back.

I've run in five election campaigns as a Libertarian and I've been told many times by electors they would not vote for me because they did not want to "waste their vote" even though they agreed with my views. The typical Libertarian retort for this is: 'if you vote for the lesser of evils, you still vote for evil.' I've never been satisfied with that answer. Most people (except us) don't consider politicians evil. If they did, the jails would be filled with politicians. But they're not, and almost

half of Ontario's electors don't even vote because they think it makes no difference. We need to give people a better reason to vote for us.

Try this. People contribute to medical charities: cancer, heart and stroke, diabetes research etc. No one expects that his or her contribution will be the difference in actually arriving at a cure. Yet people still give because they want there to be a cure eventually. People don't consider their contribution a waste. People give because they know their gift sets the direction for the future, and provides the hope that the cure will be achieved, and that maybe someone in their family will be helped. That's the way I prefer to look at a vote for the Libertarian Party. A hope for the future - a vote that will help move things in the right direction. A political cure that provides more of what they want and less of what they don't want. No one stops giving to charity because the cure did not happen; they keep giving year after year, its hope and help. That's how I'd like to see voters think about their vote. A Libertarian vote is NOT a wasted vote; every vote is counted and the totals are examined. All parties analyze the vote totals. A significant Libertarian vote total plus our goal of a full slate will make other parties and the media take notice; maybe even adopt or discuss some of our ideas.

Tell people to vote for what you want, vote for less government, more choices, lower taxes, and more social and economic freedom - this is why people should vote Libertarian and not waste their vote.

The Error of Depending on Government—Scott I. R. Johnston

Gene Balfour's article in the last news letter about the flooding that took place this spring in Minden was meant to address an outsider's comment of perceived mean spirit shown by libertarians. It reminds me of a common phrase that existed before the collapse of the former Soviet Union: the government only fixes problems that the government creates.

Most of us have forgotten that a hundred years ago, if someone wanted to build a house on the shores of the lake, they might first have asked advise from an old timer: is this a good place to build a house? They would likely be told no, that that is a flood plain. Today's government is more likely to sell that person a building permit with the altruistic idea that it would create jobs and growth in the community and create future tax revenue for the municipality. Furthermore, since the lake levels are well controlled by government agencies there will be no problems with flooding.

Naive government intervention usually ends in disaster, followed by generalized complaints about na-

ive government intervention, and when it finally gains general acceptance, it ends in more disaster. Not doing something, allowing people to figure things out on their own, does not appear to have been part of government's mission for many decades now.

Like most things in life, perceptions are based on what an individual's expectations are. People who have grown up in a culture used to doing things for themselves and for others without thinking, just getting things done without reflecting on the community value that is being created, as described by Mr. Balfour when the Mennonite neighbours helped, have a stronger community than when government assumes the role of provider of help.

When the government "helps" the cultural fabric of the community unwinds and expectations change with larger numbers of people feeling that they don't want to, don't have to and don't care to do for themselves or others any longer. It becomes for them, not

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Full Slate—Progress to date — By Rob Brooks, Campaign Director

As most of you probably know, the party has undertaken to run a full slate in the upcoming election, scheduled for June 7, 2018. I say scheduled, because the election could actually be called any time. The Election law in Ontario was changed last year, bringing in all sorts of new rules and regulations. None of this really helps us overall, but we do have to react and take best advantage of the rules, whatever they might be.

The bottom line is for a full slate we need 122 candidates in 122 ridings. Only when we accomplish this will we take the next step forward. Voters will give our ideas the better attention they deserve when our party moves out of “fringe” party status, into “credible” status. We know we can do it, so that is our #1 objective. We have saved money for the expenses we foresee, and now we are in the middle of making it happen.

One of the new rules is the idea of a “Standing Nomination”. What the law has done is significantly shorten the amount of time available for getting a candidate nominated during the writ period, the 29 days of the actual election campaign. On the other hand, the law now allows you to register your nomination early. Instead of doing everything you previously had to do during the writ period, you now can do it all in advance of the writ period. So that is what we are doing.

Our first step was to identify seven “pathfinders” and have them go through the Standing Nomination process. We did this so we could become well acquainted with the process and then do it as efficiently as possible for the remaining candidates. We have had success and have moved on to the next step.

Now we are working on assigning a candidate to every one of the 122 ridings, and going through the process to have each candidate designated as a Standing Nomination by following the process. We are making good progress. We are not done, and you can help.

- 1) If you are already assigned a riding, please complete the paperwork. If you need help just ask. Members that live close by, or our Nomination Support Team will help.
- 2) If you are not assigned a riding, but you are willing to be a candidate, even only to have your name on the ballot in one of the 122 ridings, even in a riding perhaps a long way from where you live – please step up and get your name assigned to a riding. Any remaining riding where there is no prospective candidate is yours for the taking. First come, first served.

- 3) If you are in a riding that is not yet assigned, but you have indicated you are willing, and two or more members are also willing, please work it out. The best thing you can do to help is by doing point 2) above – offer to fill another riding where nobody is assigned and where no other option exists. That may kill two birds with one stone, by filling a riding that needs a candidate, and possibly by making the riding where you live have only one prospective candidate.
- 4) I could ask you to make a donation, but truthfully, while that might help AFTER we have 122 candidates, it won't help before. We have saved all the money we need to make this happen. We don't need money from our members right now for this project. We need commitment from our members to be a candidate.

Have a look at the Nomination Dashboard to see the progress: <https://libertarian.on.ca/utilities/nominations/nomination-dashboard.php>

We REALLY need you and 121 other members like you to be assigned to a riding and to complete the process to become a Standing Nomination.

Some people think being a candidate is hard. At the very minimum, it takes you a few minutes to sign your name on a couple of forms. That's it! If you are willing and able you can do more. It takes 3 or 4 hours to collect the signatures needed. If you are willing you can do more still. You can attend an all candidates meeting if you are invited, and answer how we would address the problems the province faces. If you are willing you can do still more by putting up some signs and handing out some flyers. But, and this is an important but, we do not require or even expect everyone to be an active candidate. If you can, great – do it! But if you can't, but you can do the minimum required and sign a few forms and get your name and the Party name on the ballot in a riding, then do it! That will help us tremendously to achieve our full slate objective.

So that is it!

Our goal is to have all 122 ridings assigned before the date of the Convention on November 4, 2017. Imagine how great it would be if we can announce our full slate in November, and our special invited guest to our Convention, Anthony Furey, a national columnist for the Sun Media chain of newspapers, can cover it when he gives us a mention in one of his upcoming articles.

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such a great leap to believe that the government should be doing everything for everyone. When a group, such as libertarian minded people, states that government

can't survive economically and culturally doing everything for everyone forever, it's not surprising that many people say all sorts of things that make little sense; some even act and talk like children, calling us mean spirited, sometimes worse.

Minimum Wage Hypocrisy—By Clayton Welwood, Leader, BC Libertarian Party

This is an extract from my post in response to an opinion piece by Michael Coren published in the Toronto Star. The text of the original article is in italics and my comments follow.

[Coren] The economic arguments are various and often at odds, and while there are competing precedents the consensus is that the economy will be boosted and not blasted by the change. More to the point of course, it will give countless people more of a chance to pay the rent and feed themselves. Any society that regards itself as civilized should surely allow its lowest paid citizens at least a modicum of hope and dignity.

I'm not sure Mr. Coren has made much effort to understand the economic arguments. Wage controls amount to fixing the price of labour. There was a time when many economists thought that price controls were a good idea. However experiments with them in the interwar period were not a success, and it has been argued that they helped prolong the great depression.

What about the claim that the economy will be boosted? It's safe to assume what is meant here is the national economy as a whole grows or becomes wealthier. To answer this, we first need to understand how wealth is created; here are a few examples: a deposit of ore is discovered and mined, an engineering process is devised that allows the ore to be extracted more efficiently, a train engine is manufactured that allows the ore to be transported using less fuel, the metal is fashioned into a fence that keeps the deer from eating someone's garden. In all of these examples, the value of the manufactured output is worth more than the sum of the inputs, and both parties of each transaction consider themselves better off for having made the deal. In other words the economic exchanges are win-win.

The same can't be said of the following exchange: A restaurateur hires a bus boy at \$11 an hour. The next month, the provincial government raises the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. The restaurateur's expenses have increased, but there is no additional wealth created (no increase in sales). If the restaurateur considers the value of the bus boy's work to be below \$15 per hour, then the transaction has become win-lose: the bus boy's gain is the owner's loss. But this isn't sustainable. If the owner isn't able to boost sales or cut expenses to cover the increased wage cost, she may just decide to lay off the bus boy and clean the tables herself.

It's possible that economists who support the minimum wage do so mainly because they believe it will affect a wealth transfer from the rich to the poor. But if that's their goal, why not advocate a more direct method like raising taxes on high incomes and reducing them on low incomes?

[Coren] The Ontario government is committed to increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2019. It's still hardly a livable income but at long last something is being done to remedy the insultingly low current level of a little over \$11.

A wage that Mr. Coren finds "insultingly low" isn't necessarily viewed the same way by someone whose employment options are more limited than his, such as a high school student, an unskilled immigrant, or someone who is partially disabled.

[Coren] In many ways this is a pivotal moment. Stand up with those who earn little and deserve more, or sit down with those comfortable with the status quo. Thanks but I'll stand.

Mr. Coren may think he's being quite brave and standing with the downtrodden. In fact, he's doing nothing of the sort. He's advocating for using power of the state to limit people's choices. He's saying to the labourer who has lost an arm in an accident and his prospective employer, "I don't care if you're willing to work for \$14 an hour and someone is willing to pay you that much—I know better than you what a dignified wage is and I'm prepared to see those who disagree locked in a cage." He's saying to the owner of the little noodle shop who makes less than minimum wage herself, "you're exploiting your workers—you should be paying them a living wage, and I'm willing to see you bankrupted to make that happen." He is saying to the bright young man with autism who is eager to work but socially awkward enough that few employers would risk hiring him, "It's best that you make a career out of receiving disability payments from the government, even though the local used bookstore owner would be willing to give you a chance to fill your days with work you'd enjoy for \$7.50 an hour." He's saying to pretty much all the minimum wage workers at big retail chains, "You'd be wise to quit now and study robotics engineering or software design, because raising the minimum wage means your jobs will be automated sooner rather than later."

Mr. Coren is attempting to support the working poor, not by reaching into his own wallet, but by using the coercive force of government to reach into the wallets of others. There's nothing noble in this. And if he is willing to scratch the surface of this issue, he may just find that minimum wage hikes haven't delivered the benefits they promised. Actually there's no good reason to think that the government interfering in any agreements between consenting adults can have better effects than doing nothing.

[Editor's Note: For the full post, with a link to Michael Coren's piece, see www.libertarian.bc.ca/blog.]