

Parti Vert NB Green Party Annual General Meeting - April 22^{nd-23rd}, 2017 Woodstock, NB

April 22:

10:00 Acknowledgement of the Woodstock First Nation territory by Brian Beaton

10:15 Welcome from the Mayor of Woodstock – Mayor Arthur Slipp

10:25 Introduction of the local hosting RDA members – Sam Arnold

10:30 Blanket exercise – Alma Brooks and friends.

12:45 POTLUCK LUNCH

1:20 Information session on Immigration – Josie Marks, New Brunswick Refugee Clinic

2:05 Women's issues panel – Le Regroupement féministe du Nouveau-Brunswick, Pay Equity

3:00 Information session on Public Banking – Keith Helmuth

3:45 Discussion of Tax Assessments – Wayne Dryer, Saint John (with props)

4:30 Transportation and Climate Change – Yves Bourgeois, Ph.D, by Skype from Moncton

DINNER

8:00 until 10:30 Evening Fundraiser – The War on Food in Song and Story with Richard Wetmore

Silent Auction

April 23:

1.0 Preliminaries: (Wayne Dryer, President)

Wayne called the meeting to order at 9:04 and confirmed quorum. He said, "We must be patient with ourselves as we learn to govern ourselves in preparation for a governing role in the Provincial Legislature."

2.0 Leader's Report: (David Coon, Leader)

The Legislature's party machinery is rolling across the Province. David is going to work toward creating a Department of Rural Development. We can't afford another majority government: the environment, the relationship with Aboriginal Peoples, forests, impoverished people; all these are suffering under the present government. We have real solutions to solve real problems. People are asking "Who are the Greens? What are they about?" We are the party of local self-reliance, where everyone has a basic livable income. Green MLAs represent their constituents and want to collaborate, but the present partisanship in the Legislature is poisonous to getting anything done.

What can we do to move the NBGP ahead? We can organize events; push social media: www.davidcoonmla.ca; create and grow your RDA; and most of all, CHANGE THE VIEW THAT NOTHING CAN CHANGE IN NEW BRUNSWICK! (Standing ovation)

3.0 General Business: (Wayne Dryer)

Motion: (John Sabine, Dorothy) Adopt agenda. Carried.

Motion: (Raissa Marks, Dorothy) Accept the minutes from the 2016 AGM in Sackville as presented. Comment: The minutes should have been posted so that we could have read them before this meeting. Reply: The minutes of 2017 will be posted. Carried with one nay vote.

4.0 President's Report:

Wayne thanked everyone for their presence, thanked the RDA for hosting the event, and everyone involved in organizing it. He said we have the energy from the all the winter's frozen water melting outside. He said that our purpose is to change cultural values in NB to those we hold dear to our hearts. What do we need to do? Get other MLAs elected!

5.0 Treasurer's Report (Stephanie Phillips)

5.1 Stephanie reported that at year's end of 2016 we had a net income of \$4,600. Gross income was \$126,000, expenses were \$118,000. We received \$47,000 from Elections New Brunswick for the per vote subsidy. Donations were \$63,000. Office expenses were \$30,000, wages \$86,000. We had a \$7,600 grant for ----- . Our loans are paid off.

5.2 Budget 2017: We will have a surplus of \$37,000. Our donation target is \$75,000.

Motion: (Stephanie P., Chris) Approve the Treasurer's report. Carried.

6.0 Executive Director's Report (Carmen Budilean)

6.1 Carmen iterated the responsibilities of the Head Office: providing all relevant information to Elections New Brunswick as required; fundraising; supporting the Policy Working Group; supporting the Growth and Development Committee; organizing the Campus Clubs; overseeing the internships; organizing the AGM; updating the database and website; fostering good relationships with other Green Parties and the Global Greens.

6.2 In 2016 we had donations of \$5,853 from individuals; we received \$8,500 from small businesses; \$57,400 from Elections New Brunswick. We had 463 donors in 2014 (election year), 189 in 2015 and 202 in 2016. We spent \$4,000 to raise \$72,000.

6.3 The Policy Working Group has 10 policy resolutions coming forward.

6.4 RDA training sessions: We did one in Fredericton on March 4th, and are planning another in late May in Rogersville. Folders are on Google Drive for each RDA to use, with information on how to organize, fundraise, have events, write publicity. We have Campus Clubs and Young Greens organized at UNB Moncton, STU, and UNB Fredericton.

6.5 Communications include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and the Website. It's up to the RDA's to connect with local people.

7.0 Nominations Committee Report (Janice Harvey)

7.1 Janice presented the slate of candidates:

Motion: (Evan, Roger) to acclaim Wayne Dryer as President. Carried.

Motion: (Wayne, Chris) to acclaim Burt Folkins as VP Anglophone. Carried.

Motion: (Raissa, Mary Ann) to acclaim Nicole Richard as VP Francophone. Carried.

Motion: (Jenn Wambolt, Jules Maitland) to acclaim Tom McLean as Secretary.

Carried.

Motion: (Norman, John Reist) to acclaim Benoit LeBlanc as Youth Representative.

Carried.

Motion: (Tom, David) to acclaim Raissa Marks as Chair of the Policy Working Group.

Carried.

7.2 Janice explained that there are 6 openings for Members at Large out of a total of 8 places. Since we want half to be elected every year, 2 of those 6 positions will be for 1 year terms, and 4 will be for 2 year terms. The members were asked to keep in mind that we want gender, regional, linguistic balance on PC if possible. Dorothy Diamond (Stanley) and Annie Therieau (Chaleur Region) will start their second year now. Eight nominations had been received before the AGM, one of which withdrew when it was noted that an election needed to be held for the seats. Janice called for nominations from the floor; Sam Arnold nominated Karen Arnold, seconded by -----. Karen accepted the nomination. Nominations closed at 12:06.

7.3 The election of Members at Large was held after lunch. Janice, Burt, Blondine and Shannon counted 40 ballots.

Motion: (Burt, -----) to accept a slate of 6 candidates that received the most votes.

Carried. The slate will decide on the terms of each member at large. Daren, Vernon and Stephanie conferred and decided that this will be done at the first meeting of the Provincial Council. Elected Members at Large: Aaron Shantz, Karen Arnold, Ken Walker, Sarah Colwell, Stephanie Coburn, Vernon Faulkner.

Motion: (Tom, David) to destroy the ballots. Carried.

8.0 At 12:15 we connected with Elizabeth May by Skype, who greeted us all with pleasure. She mentioned the BC elections and how exciting it is to have such good candidates with the possibility of more being elected to the BC Legislature. She had attended the meeting of Global Greens in Liverpool with 3 other Federal Council members. She spoke about seismic events in BC induced by fracking. She said that the path to reconciliation is not a "file" -- it's work to be done by the settler population. She promoted Pharmacare and the abolition of student debt as important Green principles. "Let's get a bigger caucus of Green MLA's in New Brunswick." She also talked about her work with the Special Committee on Electoral Reform that travelled all Summer last year, and said that it's not too late for JT to change his mind about Proportional Representation: we just need 20 Liberals to go against their party, so go to your MPs and press the issue. She also mentioned Karen Ludwig's (Liberal MP NB Southwest) help in advancing the work on Lyme Disease with her in Parliament. Great applause was heard.

Lunch from 12:35 to 1 pm.

9.0 Policy Working Group 1:05 pm – Raissa Marks: The PWG was mandated by the members at the 2016 AGM, with Raissa as its first Chair. The first teleconference was in May of 2016, when interested members decided on a team structure re policy areas. We had a face-to-face in September. In the New Year, draft policies were put on-line; members

commented. We met again in March by phone. Policies can also be put forward by individuals, not just by the PWG.

9.1 Affordable Housing (Adrienne, Stephanie C.)

9.1.1 Friendly amendment to include landlords in the list of partners.

Carried.

9.2 Early Childhood Education (Raissa, Lillian)

9.2.1 Friendly amendment (Mary Ann) to delete 7th bullet, "Encourage families to enroll their children in early childhood education programs at least two days per week, even in cases where childcare (ie, "babysitting") is not needed."

9.2.2 Friendly amendments (David): Change "encourage" to "facilitate" in the 9th and 10th bullets.

Carried with one opposed.

9.3 Public Banking (Keith, Chris)

9.3.1 Friendly amendment (David): Add "if appropriate" to the following sentence: Based on North Dakota's public bank and other examples, explore how a public banking system could work in New Brunswick and, *if appropriate*, bring forward legislation to make public banking a reality in New Brunswick.

9.3.2. Friendly amendment: Add "public financing in general, and related fiscal strategy" to the following sentence: Establish a research group to study, analyze and compile a dossier of information on the public banking option, *public financing in general, and related fiscal strategy*.

Carried.

9.4 Farmland Ownership (Stephanie Coburn, -----)

9.4.1 Motion to table (John, Tom). Carried.

9.5 Relationship with First Nations (Susan, Jules)

9.5.1 Friendly Amendment to change "enforce" in the first bullet to "implement".

9.5.2 Friendly Amendment to change "Ask permission of" in the fourth bullet to "Strive for permission from".

Carried with 3 opposed.

9.6 Seniors (Raissa, Carmen)

9.6.1 Friendly Amendment Change 3rd bullet to "Ensure that the Basic Income Guarantee includes seniors."

Carried.

Recommendation from David that in the coming year the PWG address a Basic Income Guarantee, and Healthcare. Approved by the members present.

9.7 Women's Rights (Carmen, Susan)

9.7.1 Friendly amendment (Roger Olmstead) to add "misogyny" to the list of things the Green Party is committed to denouncing (Transforming social roles and attitudes section).

Carried.

9.8 Immigration (Carmen, Donna)

9.8.1 Friendly amendment (Janice) to add “at least six geographical” to the following sentence: Provide all newcomer services at one location in *at least six geographical* regions.

9.8.2 Friendly amendment (Susan) to remove the second-to-last bullet point and subsequently spell out Temporary Foreign Workers in the last bullet point.

Carried with one opposed.

2:40 pm

7.4 Another Election interlude: (Janice)

7.4.1 Motion: (John, Roger) that the AGM direct the Provincial Council at their first meeting following this one, to conduct a process by which the 2 1-year terms and the 4 2-year terms for members at large are allocated among the 6 newly elected Members at Large.

Carried.

7.4.2 Motion: (Raissa, Dorothy) that Provincial Council report the results of this process to the members in an appropriate manner. Carried.

7.4.3 Motion: (Mary Ann, Dorothy) that the nominations process for next year clearly indicate if a position is for a one or two year term, and nominations are made for the positions accordingly. Carried.

9.9 Labour (tackled section by section):

9.9.1 (Raissa, Carmen)

9.9.1.1 Friendly amendment (Vern) Change “set up” to “ensure” in the third bullet. Carried.

9.9.2 (Raissa, Carmen)

9.9.2.1 Friendly amendment to remove the parenthetical “scabs” in the 2nd bullet. Carried with one opposing.

9.9.3 (Raissa, Carmen)

Carried with two opposing.

9.9.4 (Raissa, Stephanie)

9.9.4.1 Motion to table (David, Tom), Carried.

9.9.5 (Raissa, Carmen)

9.9.5.1 Friendly amendment (Janice) to add “mental health issues,” after “Recognize” in the 2nd bullet.

9.9.5.2 Motion to table 3rd bullet. Carried.

Carried (1st, 2nd and 4th bullets)

9.9.6 (Raissa, Carmen)

9.9.6.1 Friendly amendment to change “Ensure” to “Require” in the first bullet. Carried.

9.10 Transportation (Benoit, Vern)

9.10.1 Motion to table 2nd and 3rd bullets (Janice, Dorothy). Carried with 1 opposed.

9.10.2 Friendly amendment (Jenn) to change “for all children in middle” to “starting in elementary” in the second-to-last bullet.

Carried.

9.11 Motions from floor

9.11.1 (Vern, Donna) Moved to eliminate double tax on non-owner occupied residential properties. Burt suggested that we table it, and add it to the policy re no double tax on apartment buildings.

Carried.

9.11.2 (Vern, Donna) Moved to add to the Labour policy: Employees will receive 3 weeks of vacation after 4 years of continuous employment and 4 weeks of vacation after 8 years of continuous employment.

Carried with two opposing.

Quote of the day: "Let's not drift into incrementalism. Don't be afraid of Transformational Change!"

Janice Harvey

Adjournment at 4:45

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Coburn
May 15, 2017