



Scarborough Southwest NDP

Summer 2013 Newsletter

New Executive Elected!

Spring of 2013 was a busy one for the SSW NDP, and summer doesn't look to be slowing down. The SSW NDP is looking to the future and is planning events and strategizing ways in which we can get our message to reach more people. In the last two years since the 2011 election your riding association has grown, and has taken a very active role in the community to promote our shared values as New Democrats. We plan on continuing this effort in the coming months.

From April 12th-14th, 2013, delegates from the SSW NDP attended the NDP Federal Policy Convention in Montreal. At this convention delegates voted on changes to the preamble of the NDP constitution. Needless to say these changes were a hot topic. SSW delegates were divided in their vote for or against changes to this preamble. The SSW NDP executive discussed the preamble changes prior to convention at one of our meetings. Many executive members reaffirmed their commitment to social democratic principles contained within the original preamble, and the importance of these principals in governing our future action as New Democrats. Others welcomed the changes to the preamble as a way of being more inclusive and helping the NDP grow its base in the future.

On May 26th, 2013 members of the SSW NDP elected a new riding executive for the 2013-2014 term. This executive has a blend of both long standing and new executive members, and will chart the course for reelection of our MP Dan Harris in 2015, and also the activities of the riding association for the coming year.

The threat of a general election in Ontario is always looming with a minority government, however with the NDP's support of the amended budget we likely won't be facing an election for at least another few months. Tim Hudak and the Conservatives appear eager to head to the polls, and likely will want to bring

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down the minority Liberal government as soon as they can. A Hudak government in Ontario is probably the worst thing that could happen. Hudak harkens back to the slash and burn days of Mike Harris. I predict a Hudak government would be even worse.

We must work to stop Hudak, and other conservative minds like him (Rob and Doug Ford, and Stephen Harper). We as NDPers have a responsibility to shift the conservative narrative of the “taxpayer” versus others, back to a narrative about being citizens of a society with social and economic responsibility to one another. Corporate tax cuts and attacks on social spending only bolster the profits and salaries of the corporations and their wealthy CEO’s, and undermine the rest of us who aren’t earning \$200 000 a year. We must stand up for our unions, and we must become vocal about the need to change taxation policies to stop the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few.

Growth will always bring change. Your riding executive is committed to balancing our growth as a party with our commitment to being progressive, vocal, and active in our struggle to improve the lives of all people.

Thank you for reading this month. If you are willing to help us out, please do not hesitate to email or phone me.

As always, stay in touch, and visit our website at sswndp.ca.

Tom Grinnell,
Membership Organizer
Scarborough Southwest NDP Riding Association

SSW NDP Member Profile: Jessica Shaw

Jessica grew up in Northeastern Ontario, and says she can’t remember not being involved in social justice issues. “My mother was a chief negotiator for her labour union, and I can remember her regularly having to leave our small town to go to Toronto for negotiations around pay equity and access to benefits. My father was a progressive Anglican priest, who advocated for queer rights and for the rights of prisoners. Labour rights, women’s rights, queer rights... these were all things that I grew up talking about.”

After high school, Jessica moved to Ottawa to “be at the centre of where all the political decisions happen”. She completed a degree in Women’s Studies at the University of Ottawa, before accepting a job at Canadians for Choice. As the organization’s research coordinator, Jessica produced the internationally recognized report, Reality check: a close look at accessing abortion services in Canadian hospitals. After realizing how poor access to information about abortion is, she was involved in the creation of the only abortion information and referral line that operates across Canada 24/7. Described by Chatelaine magazine as,

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“emblematic of the new breed of pro-choice activist”, (Jessica is both an abortion rights activist and trained as a birth doula), she spent the next two years travelling across Canada, discussing the myths and barriers that continue to exist for women seeking reproductive options.

Seeing that there was much more to be done, Jessica decided to go back to university to study social work, or what she calls to get “a professional activist degree”. Currently, Jessica is a doctoral candidate and sessional instructor with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary.

Of being a New Democrat, Jessica says, “Having the progressive parents that I do, having grown up down the street from Charlie Angus, having been in Ottawa at a time when I was developing my own sense of social justice, all of these things lead me to the NDP. I am committed to the party because it is the only party that has consistently stood up for the human rights issues that are of upmost importance to me.”



Over the years, Jessica has worked on several campaigns in Ontario and Manitoba. She is the former Vice-president and Fundraising Chair of the River East NDP Riding Association (Winnipeg, MB), and has done contract work with the Manitoba NDP Provincial Caucus. Last year, Jessica made a permanent move to Scarborough, and at the May 2013 Scarborough Southwest NDP Annual General Meeting, was elected to the Riding Association’s Executive Committee as Women’s Representative and Provincial Council Delegate. “I think it is important that we reach out to new people. People who are new to the NDP, and people who are new to Scarborough. I hardly knew anyone when I moved here, yet I found my home with the NDP family.”

Looking forward to the next year, Jessica invites contact from any person or organization interested in women’s issues. “It is important that we know what resources we have for women in Scarborough Southwest. I turn to our members for help in identifying needs, events, and issues that are pertinent to women, and therefore to the NDP.” Jessica can be reached at jcashaw104@gmail.com or 647-464-5421.

Jessica Shaw PhD(c), MSW, HBSW, BA

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The Bluffs Advocate Newspaper

By Tom Grinnell

The Bluffs Advocate Newspaper has been an exciting initiative launched by Bob Spencer and friends. The Advocate has now distributed five editions to 15 000 readers across East Toronto. Although this is not a NDP newspaper, the advocate presents a progressive view point to East Toronto residents.

We have several progressive columnists addressing labour, environmental, community, and education issues that effect the East Toronto community. The advocate is a welcome progressive voice to our local media environment that has been largely conservative.

The Bluffs Advocate is hosting a fundriaser on June 25th, 2013 from 7-10PM. Tickets are \$50. If you want to purchase a ticekt please contact Tom Grinnell at the phone number below.

The Bluffs Advocate needs your help! We need help delivering papers, selling advertising, and much more. If you are interested in assisting, or joining the co-operatively run newspaper please contact Tom Grinnell at 647-461-9988

tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca or visit the website at <http://bluffsadvocate.ca/>



Bluffs Advocate
You are invited to our
**Official
Launch
Party**
Tuesday, June 25, 2013 7 to 10 pm

*Meet the authors,
the editors, the staff*

Hear great music

Dora Keogh
141 Danforth Avenue
(3 Minutes walk from Broadview Station)

General admission \$50
Student admission \$25

**Music by
Medicine Line
Peter Collins**

Finger foods will be served
Cash bar is available

Riding Association Report

By Tom Grinnell

Provincial Candidate Search Alert!

The SSW NDP has started a candidate search committee looking for anyone who is qualified and interested in running as our candidate in the next Ontario election, and you are anyone you know is interested, please contact Dan Danielson at johndantoronto@gmail.com

Fundraising Update!

Contribute directly to the SSW NDP to help re-elect our MP Dan Harris. Make your contribution today at:

<https://secure.ndp.ca/riding/index.php?riding=35084&language=e>

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Looking for Membership Committee Volunteers

The SSW NDP Membership Organizer Tom Grinnell has started a membership committee. We are seeking 8 active members to assist with membership recruitment, renewal, and membership updates. If you are interested in assisting with organizing our membership please get in touch. Time commitment is 4 Hours per month. Call Tom Grinnell at 647 461 9988 or email tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca

Outgoing Executive

The SSW NDP would like to thank Dave Gracey for his many years of service on the SSW NDP executive. Dave has chosen not to sit on the Riding Executive for 2013-2014 and declined the nomination for Federal VP. We look forward to Dave returning to us after a short break!

Check out the SSW NDP Online

For the latest updates from SSW NDP and for selected posts from our MP Dan Harris, visit us online at <http://sswndp.ca/>

The SSW NDP held the Annual General Meeting on Sunday May 26, 2013

During this meeting the Association elected the executive committee for 2013-2014.

The minutes for the AGM are below (Recorded by Rosemary Dale, Secretary):

Call to Order - 3:00 p.m. - Dan Danielson, Outgoing President (Federal & Provincial)

1. Opening Remarks -

a. Dan D. thanked:

-Bill Signal for the use of the Plumber's Hall.

-Candace & Marie Jazvac for organizing the event, and preparing food.

-Andrew Cash & Paul Loewenberg for the entertainment.

b. Dan D. explained how SSWNDP has always organized Provincial and Federal Executives into one. However with the change in riding boundaries, we are expected to have two constitutions and we want to run the two executives as in the past. Motion: The membership approves our intention to operate as we've always done. Moved by Val Taylor, seconded by Michelle Chateauvert - Carried.

2. Riding Executive Report - Dan Danielson

-reviewed the history of the SSWNDP Riding Association

-commented on the encouraging changes that have taken place since Dan Harris was elected our MP in 2011.

-applauded the series of public events and fundraising occurrences that have taken place since Dan Harris' election

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3. Membership Report - Tom Grinnell, Membership Organizer
 - outlined the initiatives taken to encourage membership participation
 - reported on the writing and distribution of a monthly newsletter
 - talked about the Door-to-Door canvas in November, and the Pints & Politics gatherings
 - announced that a Membership Committee will be created in the near future

4. Financial Report - David Harris, Federal CFO / Provincial Treasurer
 - distributed a Financial Statement 2012 for SSW Federal NDP and a Financial Statement 2012 for SSW Provincial NDP
 - announced that we had finally received the rebate of \$12,211.00 from Elections Ontario
 - urged us to be mindful that we're responsible for our federal fundraising for Dan Harris, MP
 - thanked Bill Signal for clarifying that unions can donate provincially but not federally
 - handed out a newspaper report of a Mulronev Fundraising Benefit ... How different are our worlds!!

5. Outreach Committee Report -Rosemary Dale, behalf of Diana McLaren, Chair
 - spoke of the mandate of the Outreach Committee and its importance in setting direction for the committee
 - mentioned how readings and discussions were initiated at the monthly executive meetings to develop our understandings of political, social & economic issues.
 - applauded the organization of two major community meetings: Inequality & Tax Fairness on June 24/12 and the Jobs and Justice Forum on October 23/12 when more than 60 people from the community attended
 - reported how more email addresses were acquired. Lists of church groups, other NDP Scarborough riding contacts, SSW progressive United Church contacts, Catholic Social Justice activists, and community groups and organizations were generated.
 - thanked Coline Guardhouse for her efforts in proposing, drafting and developing the action plan to encourage our party to publicly advocate for changes to the marginal tax rates
 - commented on the committee's involvement in all the activities and events held by SSWNDP and its participation in Scarborough wide events, i.e. BBNC, SCAN.

6. Adoption of the Constitutions -
Moved by Dave Gracey and seconded by Val Taylor - Carried.

7. Election of Executive - Stephen Yardy
The following officers were elected to the SSWNDP Executive.

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President, Fed. & Prov. Federal V.P.	Dan Danielson Paul Bocking
Provincial V.P.	Candace Jazvac
Secretary, Fed. & Prov.	Rosemary Dale
Fed. CFO / Prov. Treasurer	David Harris
Membership Organizer	Tom Grinnell
Youth Officer - female	Grace Jin
Youth Officer - male	Glued Arale
Women's Rep	Jessica Shaw
Disability Rights	Vacant
Provincial Council Delegate	Jessica Shaw
Provincial Council Delegate	Bob Spencer

Members at Large Ian Roberts, Michelle Chateauvert, Jeremy Lu, Bruce Budd, Coline Guardhouse, Diana McLaren, Debessai Ghermatzion, Brenda Thompson, Richard White, Alexander Wilson, Oliver Wilson

8. Member of Parliament's Report - Dan Harris, MP, spoke of:
- the senate situation, how NDP would abolish the senate, the abuses of the Senate
 - his role as Deputy Industry Critic, raising the bar for foreign investors, effect of Foreign takeovers, the unemployment of young people, upcycling in construction & technology
 - subsidies for public transit and a National transit plan

9. Motion to Adjourn - Bruce Budd - Carried

Anyone Can Save a Life by Becoming an Organ Donor

By Diana McLaren

I'm not a big fan of delivering necessary public services through charity. Yet there I stood on a dark and rainy Sunday morning on Toronto's lakefront with several other dozen fundraisers, tallying the donations we'd brought in to support the Canadian Liver Foundation.

Not a high-profile cause, liver disease. Yet it's one that reached right into the heart of my family just over seven years ago when my daughter was diagnosed with a chronic illness, Autoimmune Hepatitis. It didn't seem possible that my beautiful, vibrant 30-something eldest child could have been handed a death sentence.

Thanks to our public healthcare system and private drug plans from employers, my daughter has survived. And there's a bright ray of hope down the road. It could come in the form of what's often called The Gift of Life.

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Also known as an organ transplant.

Yet like thousands of other Canadians, she could die waiting for this life-saving surgery. The need for transplants grows with the increase in chronic diseases but the number of donors remains flat.

In fact the lowest rate in Canada is right here in our hometown. Toronto's organ donor registration rate is an average 12% (in contrast to Hamilton's 25% and Sudbury's whopping 34% of the population signed up).

In Ontario signing a donor card no longer constitutes registration for organ donation. Instead, you simply log onto a government website -- and within three minutes you join the group of caring people who have agreed to help others with the greatest gift of all.

Here's what to do: log onto BeADonor.ca and register. Today.

Coline's Corner - Recommended Reading

By Coline Gardhouse

The Price of Inequality: How Today's Divided Society Endangers Our Future – Joseph Stiglitz

Joseph Stiglitz is one of the economists who President Obama should have listened to when he was first elected instead of appointing members from the Bush government who caused the economic mess in the first place to key financial posts. He is a winner of the Nobel Prize in economics and in this very readable book he dissects the reasons for the alarming rise of inequality in the US and its pernicious effects. He rejects the right wing mantra that 'there is no alternative' and offers a sound agenda for important reform. Canadians have a lot to learn from his analysis.

One cause of this harmful inequality is 'rent seeking' – an economic term that refers to the ability of certain groups to extract wealth from the economy. The most powerful of these groups- the financial sector- employs a host of instruments from credit cards to credit default swaps- to exploit the public. Some of these profits are used to lobby Congress to get favourable legislation such as de- regulation of the economy. The favourable treatment of Wall Street by the US government after the 2008 financial collapse proved the point.

Stiglitz shows that contrary to the dogma of the Right, inequality does not enhance efficiency or economic growth. In fact the reverse is true. Higher wages translate to higher demand and employment. Higher taxes on the wealthy allow more public spending on infrastructure, education, and a host of areas that produce real benefits for society and result in a productive and efficient economy.

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The power of money has corrupted the democratic process. When Obama accepted millions from Wall Street in his 2008 campaign he was obliged to accept their candidates in his cabinet. They in turn organized the public bailout for the financial sector that ensured huge profits, bonuses, and immunity from prosecution. People are losing trust in government, often not voting.

There are many parallels to our Canadian situation and the actions of the Harper Government as the latter continues to act in the interests of the wealthy few. This excellent book is highly recommended for anyone interested in a real agenda for positive change to a more equal and just society. It is available in bookstores and at the Toronto Public Library.

Did You know?

Many of the retail grocery stores you shop at are unionized. For example, Loblaws grocery stores are represented by UFCW Local 1000a, as well as some No Frills stores. Metro stores are represented by CAW. However, stores like Target and Wal-Mart are not unionized work places and have steadfastly fought against unions. To them, no union means lower wages and no benefits or job security for workers but higher profits for corporate fat cats and executives. Their corporate profits are built on the backs of vulnerable retail sector workers, many of whom are women and racialized workers. Think before you shop.



The workers who fuel air planes for Porter Airlines have been on strike since January 10th 2013. Workers formed a union because Porter has a history of sloppy health and safety practices. Workers did not have proper protective gear and were understaffed.

Porter workers want to make improvements to the workplace so that it's not a revolving door of people, constantly needing to train new staff. When you don't even have access to a washroom at the fuel farm, or work 9 hours without a lunch break, people get fed up and leave. We start at \$12.00/hour and average around \$13.00/h. Porter offered nothing to about half the workers and .25 cents to the others.

Once the strike started Porter hired scabs (replacement workers) for between \$12.50 and \$15.50/hour. This is fundamentally not a dispute about how much Porter can pay, but about whether we will be the first Porter workers to strike and bargain a contract at the Island Airport.

From <http://dontflyporter.nationbuilder.com/>

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Upcoming Events

Support COPE Local 343 Porter Strikers with the SSW NDP – June 20, 2013

Porter Air FBO employees have been on strike since early January, facing harassment and lawsuits. They are asking unions to adopt a day and turn out members for solidarity events at the park at Bathurst and Queen's Quay. The strikers will be there every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 7 pm.

If you are attending, please contact Tom Grinnell at 647 461 9988. Additional drivers are required. Parking is pay parking only.

4 PM Thursday June 20, 2013

At the Toronto Island Airport Ferry Terminal
Bathurst and Queens Quay
Toronto, ON

Pints and Politics Night – July 2013 Date and Time TBA

Do you want to get rid of Rob Ford, Stephen Harper and the winter blahs? Well we do to! Join fellow SSW New Democrats as we ponder and plot how to advance the leftist agenda at our 3rd Pints and Politics night. This is where all of the thinking (and maybe some drinking) happens. If you want to get to know other NDP members from the riding, and like minded individuals, this is a good chance to make those connections. Hope to see you out!

(Date TBA) 7:30 PM July 2013

The Feathers Pub
962 Kingston Road (Kingston & Scarborough Rd.)

Walk with the NDP at PRIDE 2013 – June 29-30, 2013

Join in and show your pride! Join with other members of the SSW NDP Riding Association and our wider NDP family! Sunday June 30th - Parade starts at 2:00 - line up around 1:30 Join Tom Mulcair, Andrea Horwath, GTA MPs + MPPs

We are also seeking volunteers to staff an NDP table at Pride. Please get in touch if you are able to assist!

1:30 PM Sunday June 30, 2013

Meet at Church and Bloor - or walk down the Rosedale Valley Road
until you find the NDP float
Toronto, ON

Contact us: contact@sswndp.ca or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

Canada Day Pool Party with MP Dan Harris – July 1, 2013

Join MP Dan Harris for a free family swim on Canada Day! Hope to see you there.

12-2 PM Monday July 1, 2013

Halbert Park
24 Rockwood Dr.
Scarborough, ON

SCARBOROUGH UNITED – Dinner with Tom Mulcair and all Scarborough Ridings.

Join us October 17th as all 6 Scarborough Ridings will host a dinner with our Leader, Tom Mulcair.

This show of strength underlines our determination to win more Scarborough Ridings in 2015!

Tickets are available simply by emailing chrismockler1@gmail.com

Please provide a phone number in your reply so one of our volunteers can process your order over the phone.

The price has not yet been determined and will be announced shortly.

More details on the event will be announced shortly, stay tuned!

Hope to see you there!



5:30 PM Thursday October 17, 2013

QSiss Banquet Hall
3474 Kingston Road
Scarborough, ON

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SSW NDP at the Convention in Montreal



(L to R) Dan Danielson, Guled Arale, Tom Grinnell, Alex Wilson, Jessica Shaw, Stephen Thomas, Paula Attfield, Mary



Guled Arale



Thomas Mulcair



Dan Danielson



Tom Grinnell and Jessica Shaw

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Your Scarborough Southwest NDP Team

President
Federal VP
Provincial VP
Provincial CFO/Federal Treasurer
Membership Organizer
Secretary
Provincial Council Rep.
Provincial Council Rep./ Women's Rep.
Youth Officer
Youth Officer
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Member at large
Incumbent MP for SSW

Dan Danielson
Paul Bocking
Candace Jazvac
David Harris
Tom Grinnell
Rosemary Dale
Bob Spencer
Jessica Shaw
Guled Arale
Grace Gin
Bruce Budd
Michelle Chateauvert
Coline Gardhouse
Debessai Ghermatzion
Jeremy Lu
Diana McLaren
Ian Roberts
Brenda Thompson
Richard White
Alex Wilson
Oliver Wilson
Dan Harris, M.P.

For SSW NDP inquiries and information on how to make a financial contribution to the SSW NDP please contact:

Tom Grinnell
Phone: 647-461-9988
Email: contact@sswndp.ca
Website: <http://sswndp.ca>



MP Dan Harris with
Constituents at his
Community Skate

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