

# KIFLA Quarterly

## FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE

HARPER  
TACTICS 1

MP REPORT 1

EXECUTIVE  
POSITIONS 3

CONVENTION  
SUMMARY 4

CONVENTION  
FEEDBACK 5

WRITING AN  
EDITORIAL 6

SUBMITTING A  
PETITION 7

FACES AND  
PLACES 8

**Please  
Renew Your  
Membership**

www.liberal.ca  
or  
1-977-542-4271

## Harper: Agenda and Tactics

We are approaching the first 100 days of Parliament sitting. We find Stephen Harper's majority marching in lockstep to push through his agenda to change Canada through the undermining of our democracy, and using ruthless tactics to do so. In the past few months we have seen:

- parliamentary debate stifled and taken behind closed doors;
- legislation steamrolled through the House of Commons without adequate time for debate;
- government scientists silenced on critical environmental issues;
- Canadian values on the environment pushed aside to accommodate corporate goals; and now,
- the creation of a new agenda to attack Old Age Security.

We have suffered misguided governance, including:

- responding inadequately to dire human situations like the one in Attawapiskat;
- shearing of hundreds of civil service positions needed to serve our citizens, while wasting millions on two agencies that have nothing to do — an EI financing agency and a federal appointments office;
- skyrocketing spending on government communications;
- legislation that wastes taxpayers' money to create more prisons and more Commons seats.

**Continued on page 2**

## Ted Hsu: MP Report

We've begun 2012 with a remarkable convention in Ottawa. What I saw at the convention was a spirited determination, an unwillingness to let the Liberal Party of Canada descend into irrelevance. How else can you explain the over 3,000 delegates in attendance, including so many young delegates, former MPs, new Liberals, and Trudeau and Pearson era Liberals who felt the need to assemble, talk about, and help determine the future of their party.



Coupled with the feistiness of the current Liberal party caucus, you've got the beginnings of a new movement that will revive our party's fortunes. I like the sound of the French word for party activists: "militants." That's the attitude we'll have to take as we build a new Liberal movement.

**Continued on page 2**

For only \$10 a month, you can make a difference.

Join the Victory Fund at [www.victoryfund.ca](http://www.victoryfund.ca)

Help us battle Conservative tactics.



**DIRTY TRICKS:** If you type the URL, [www.kingston.liberal.ca](http://www.kingston.liberal.ca), you will land on the Conservative website below! That's just one period different from KIFLA'S own URL, [www.kingstonliberals.ca](http://www.kingstonliberals.ca)



## MP Report (continued)

As the third party in a majority Parliament, we must focus on communication. We're going to lose nearly every vote (though we did win one in the Veterans Affairs committee when some Conservative MPs showed up late). The majority government can do what they want unless we can stir up public opposition that makes Mr. Harper feel like he is going to lose votes. The only way to do that is to communicate with the public (being careful not to merely preach to the choir) and to communicate as well or better than the Conservatives do.

So I invite you to join the Liberal movement by helping with communications. You could write a letter to a local newspaper about how it's a good idea to review MP pensions, but if we want to save money, why are the Conservatives unnecessarily adding 30 seats to the House of Commons with Bill C-20? Or you could create and circulate a petition, for me to table in the House, challenging Commons committees to stop conducting more business in secret, when the only purpose is to avoid embarrassing the government. Talk to your friends and neighbours about what the government chooses to cut in the 2012 budget, due to be released in late February or early March. There is a lot of work to be done, and a lot of work to be done together, to rebuild the Liberal party. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Finally I would like to thank and congratulate Ron Hartling for running for president of LPC. While Ron was ultimately unsuccessful, he personally put his ideas for Party reform in front of Liberals across the country, set the tone, and framed the issues for the hotly contested races for Party officers.

Ted Hsu, MP

## Harper Tactics (continued)

On the partisan front, we have seen devious phone campaigns conducted against respected parliamentarians such as MP Irwin Cotler, and attack ads on Interim Leader Bob Rae. Indeed, the Harper agenda to change the Canada we know is an end that Conservatives believe justifies whatever means they might employ.

Even locally, we've seen the Conservative calling card. During the election campaign, the second highest spender on phone calls from the same company that made the bogus calls in MP Irwin Cotler's riding was the Conservative candidate right here in Kingston and the Islands.

Now more than ever, we need you to become politically active: write letters to the editor, volunteer with the local riding association, call in to talk shows or donate money to the permanent Liberal campaign. Together, the Liberal party and its members offer Canada a better vision for democracy, for government, and for Canada's future.

**For only \$10 a month,  
you can make a difference.**

**Join the Victory Fund at  
[www.victoryfund.ca](http://www.victoryfund.ca)**



**Help us battle  
Conservative tactics.**



**KIFLA is a Volunteer Organization**  
**Consider Running as an Executive Officer**  
**Elections held at Spring AGM**

Thank you to our 2010-2011 Executive for their hard work in setting the stage for rebuilding the Liberal Party

**TORONTO-DANFORTH NEEDS OUR HELP**

On March 19, Toronto Danforth will hold a by-election to fill the House of Commons seat formerly occupied by Jack Layton.

*"If every member of our riding donated just \$5, together we'd be able to send a strong message in support of Liberal values in our riding to the House of Commons."*

**Mission Accomplished!**  
In just 5 days, Liberals across the country raised \$151,266 for the Toronto Danforth Campaign!

**Donate Directly to the Toronto-Danforth Liberal Riding Association**

<https://action.liberal.ca/en/donate/riding/35094>  
or  
call 1-800-701-7789  
(9am – 5pm, ET, Mon-Fri) to donate by phone.

**PLEASE DONATE**

**Should I Run for the KIFLA Executive?**

Do you care passionately about Liberal values being enacted in Canada? Can't stand to see Stephen Harper run away with your country? Have talents that you want to share to fight against the narrow-minded thinking of the Conservative agenda?

**Then, join the KIFLA Executive!**  
**Elections to be held at spring AGM**

Officer positions are elected annually:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership Director
- Fundraising Director
- Policy Director
- Communications Director
- Events Director
- Volunteer Director

If you are hard working, ready to devote time and energy and carry a substantial responsibility, please consider running.

**Executive meetings are held once a month. Please request a work description, time commitment information and inquire about deadlines to submit before submitting your intention to run for a position.**

[info@kingstonliberals.ca](mailto:info@kingstonliberals.ca)



Maddie Webb launches Beyond the Numbers at the Liberal Biennial Convention

## CONVENTION SUMMARY: Rebuilding the LPC

January 13-15 saw 3,200 Liberal party members converge on Ottawa to participate in the national convention. The focus: Rebuilding. The convention consisted of commissions, plenaries on constitutional amendments and policy resolutions, delegate sessions, database training, keynote speakers on current political ideas, and critics corners where MPs and Senators answered questions from delegates.

The press was present in full force at the convention. The Liberal party provided incredible live streaming services through the Internet, the Honourable Peter Milliken chaired the constitutional amendment session, and the Interim Leader Bob Rae brought down the house with his inspiring speeches.

Kingston and the Islands sent 20 riding delegates and more than 40 back-filled delegates to the convention. The current President of KIFLA, Ron Hartling, worked hard for votes on the floor in the home stretch of his campaign for national president. Here is some take-away information:

### The newly elected Liberal Party of Canada National Executive:

National President: Mike Crawley  
 Vice-President (English): Chris MacInnes  
 Vice-President (French): Imran Ahmad  
 National Policy Chair: Maryanne Kampouris  
 National Membership Secretary: Matt Certosimo

### Results from the constitutional amendments and policy resolutions:

[www.convention.liberal.ca/convention-documents/](http://www.convention.liberal.ca/convention-documents/)

## BEYOND THE NUMBERS: Liberal Young Women

The Biennial Convention in Ottawa saw the launch of Beyond the Numbers, an initiative by Young Liberals that seeks to engage, empower and encourage young women to become involved in the Liberal Party. Founded by Maddie Webb -- vice-president of the Young Liberals of Canada -- and Alyx Holland -- a recent graduate of the London School of Economics and a young professional in Ottawa -- the program focuses not only on recruitment, but getting young women involved in the Party in meaningful ways.

The focus on rebuilding that has emerged from within the Liberal Party, especially evident at Biennial, presents an opportunity to tackle the barriers that exist to female engagement. Beyond the Numbers will do this by working closely with other members of the Party to create a network of women to recruit, engage and mentor other women, and ultimately increase the number of young women in the Party.

By engaging women in the Youth Wing and providing them with opportunities to make a difference, women will be more likely to be engaged at higher levels within the Party, and subsequently more likely to continue pursuing politics in the senior party.

Increasing accessibility to the Liberal Party for young women is an attainable goal, albeit a challenging one. Beyond the Numbers is looking for enthusiastic young women and men to help us meet this goal. If you would like to get involved, please contact us. Together, we can change politics as usual.

Website: [www.beyondthenumbers.ca](http://www.beyondthenumbers.ca)

Submitted by Maddie Webb,  
 Executive Vice-President Young Liberals of Canada  
*Maddie is currently a Queen's undergraduate student and a member of Queen's University Liberal Association*

The riding association seeks an experienced volunteer to assist in developing a document management system to support KIFLA's business and permit ready access retrieval.

Please contact [info@kingstonliberals.ca](mailto:info@kingstonliberals.ca)

## Convention Testimonials: What You Had to Say

"The convention was very well attended with 3,200 participants, but there was ample space to accommodate everyone in the plenary sessions as well as in the numerous special interest presentations. I found everything that I attended to be stimulating and instructive. For anyone who is hesitant to attend in the future, I would recommend doing it. I know that I would go again if I were chosen as a delegate."

-- **Jean Angi, KIWLA membership director**

"The 2012 Liberal Biennial Convention was an exciting and inspirational weekend, and I'm very glad I had the opportunity to attend on behalf of Kingston and the Islands. The enthusiasm and passion of delegates from across the country was infectious, and together we took big strides in terms of passing progressive policy resolutions and opening the party up to 'supporters.' I also had the privilege of working on Ron Hartling's presidential campaign throughout the weekend, and talking to countless delegates who were thoroughly impressed by his substantive plans for renewal reminded me how lucky we KIFLA members are to have him at the helm." -- **Renatta Colwell, member**

What has to be done by Liberals was summed up best at the Convention by Ron Hartling in the Presidential candidates debate when he said, to the largest applause of the evening, "We have to vote *for* someone, not *against* someone." To succeed, Liberals, starting at the grass roots, must focus on letting Canadians know what Liberals stand for and will do, so voters can vote for Liberal candidates to implement these plans, not against bogeymen. This will require Liberals to stick to our principles, not polls and back-room operatives." -- **Justin Connidis, member**

"The convention was a great success. It brought together many party members and gave them a chance to meet, exchange views and appreciate the value of working together to advance the sensible policies of the Liberal Party of Canada and to redefine and discuss those policies." -- **Hon. Peter Milliken, former Speaker of the House**

"The convention was a wonderful experience. Being a part of the discussion and the Liberal party right now at such a challenging

and exciting time is something I would have never imagined when I joined before the last election! Seeing so many people there not only ready to rebuild the party, but also willing to go head to head with each other to discuss how to move forward in the best way possible, made me proud to be a Liberal, regardless of what happened last May." -- **Darrell Dean, member**

"It was wonderful watching KIFLA's own pro, Ron Hartling, go ahead with such talent, dedication, and an all-star performance. He will have an important effect on the direction that the party takes both now and in the future. Because he has raised the bar so high, members of the new executive of the LPC have their work cut out for them! After seeing the grand spectacle, after hearing the unbridled enthusiasm and exciting new ideas, and after feeling the tremendous optimism and energy, Peter C. Newman is now BELIEVING tremendously in the 'reincarnation' of the LPC! (He's the guy who wrote previously about its death.) After witnessing the presence of 1,000 bright and well-informed Young Liberals who were fully engaged, all I can say is - très, très merveilleux!!!" -- **Debbie Rudan, member**

"I thought the Convention was invigorating. I was wondering if I would continue to be a Liberal before I attended. I thought the work on the minor constitution changes could have been handled in another venue such as an online vote for those who had interest. Premier Dalton McGinty's speech was wonderful. I remember one of his first speeches in Kingston at the City Hall where he seemed to be afraid of his own shadow. Congratulations Liberals!" -- **A renewed Liberal, Sherry Stayer**



Delegates lining up to vote in the elections at the Liberal Biennial Convention



### VICTORY FUND

For only \$10 a month, you can make a difference.  
Join the Victory Fund at [www.victoryfund.ca](http://www.victoryfund.ca)



## Submitting a Petition

### Why submit a petition?

1. There is value in COLLECTING signatures. Obtaining signatures allows a person to communicate with the people around them about an important issue.
2. A Member of Parliament may only speak in the House of Commons when allowed. Tabling a petition allows the local Member of Parliament to speak in the House of Commons, on record, on behalf of 25 or more constituents on a topic that is of concern to them.
3. The Government of the day will respond to the petition.

### What are some examples of recent petitions?

- Steady funding for the CBC.
- Separating Omnibus Crime Bill (C-10) into its components.
- Funding cuts to veterans
- Action on climate change
- Post office closures

### How to Submit a Petition

1. Always contact your local MP's office to indicate that you would like to submit a petition.
2. Petitions MUST be completed in a very specific manner, which your MP's staff can help with.
3. Always submit a DRAFT of a petition to your local MP's office to assure that wording and format are correct BEFORE obtaining signatures.

### General Guidelines for Writing a Petition

A petition must be respectful, use temperate language, and not contain improper, disrespectful or unparliamentary language. In particular, there should be no disrespect shown to the Sovereign or charge made against the character or conduct of Parliament, the courts or any other duly constituted authority.

### To Whom are Petitions Addressed?

- A petition must be addressed to one of the following:
- \* the House of Commons;
  - \* the Government of Canada;
  - \* a minister of the Crown; or
  - \* a Member of the House of Commons.

### What Does a Petition Contain?

1. A petition must contain a request (not a demand), sometimes also referred to as a prayer, for the addressee to take some action (or refrain from taking some action) to remedy a grievance.
2. A petition may also include a more detailed description of the grievance and/or a statement of opinion. However, a statement of grievance or opinion alone cannot be received as a petition.
3. The request should be clear and to the point.
4. A petition must concern a subject within the authority of the Parliament of Canada, the House of Commons or the Government of Canada [i.e. items within federal jurisdiction]. A petition must not concern a purely provincial or municipal matter or any matter which should be brought before a court of law or a tribunal.
6. A petition may include a request for the expenditure of public funds.
7. A petition must contain a minimum of 25 original valid signatures with addresses.
8. A petition should contain signatures of residents of Canada only. Persons not resident in Canada cannot petition the House of Commons of Canada. A petition signed exclusively by non-resident persons is not acceptable.

Additional information can be found online at [http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/PracticalGuides/Petitions/petitionsPG2008\\_Pg02-e.htm](http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/PracticalGuides/Petitions/petitionsPG2008_Pg02-e.htm).



Ron Hartling works the floor at the Convention



Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae and MP Ted Hsu at the Convention

## Tips for Writing a Letter to the Editor

### MUST-DOs

1. **Give Your Information** - Include your name, address, email address and phone number at the top of your letter. Editors often require this information because they will need to verify your identity. You can state that this information is not to be published.
2. **Give Your Reason** - If you are responding to an article or letter, say so right away. Name the article in the first sentence of the body of your letter.
3. **Make ONE Point** - Be concise and focused. Letters to the editor usually make one simple point. Since your letter may be edited, you should get to the point early. Don't bury your point inside a lengthy argument.
4. **Make it Short** - Limit your letter to two or three paragraphs. (150-300 words) Try sticking to the following format:
  - In your first paragraph, introduce your problem and sum up your objection.
  - In the second paragraph, include a few sentences to support your view
  - End with a great summary and a clever, punchy line if possible
5. **Read it Over** - Proofread your letter. Editors will ignore letters that contain bad grammar and poorly written rants.
6. **Use E-mail** - Submit your letter by email if the publication allows it. This format enables the editor to cut and paste your letter.

### TIPS

1. If you're responding to an article you've read, **be prompt**. Don't wait a few days or your topic will be old news.
2. Remember that the more popular and widely-read publications receive hundreds of letters. You have a better chance of getting your letter published in a smaller publication. **Don't be disappointed if your first letter does not get chosen; keep sending them!**

3. **Don't appear to be overly emotional.** You can avoid this by limiting your exclamation points. Also avoid insulting language. "Editors are more than willing to print opposing points of view, but not those that are libelous or fly in the face of community standards."

4. **Try to reframe the argument**, if possible. Example: Reframe "Bill C-20" to be "Adding More Politicians Bill" or "Too Many Cooks in the Commons Bill"

8. **Avoid setting yourself up for rebuttal by making absolute statements**, or by using facts and figures that cannot be corroborated.

### Where to Send Your Letters

Kingston Whig-Standard

<http://www.thewhig.com/feedback/1/LetterToEditor.aspx>  
and

Kingston This Week

<http://www.kingstonthisweek.com/feedback/1/LetterToEditor.aspx>

The Globe and Mail

Letters to the Editor should be sent to  
[letters@globeandmail.com](mailto:letters@globeandmail.com).

Consider commenting online to articles in these LOCAL on-line resources:

Kingston East News [www.kingstoneastnews.ca](http://www.kingstoneastnews.ca)

The Kingstonist [www.kingstonist.com](http://www.kingstonist.com)

Kingston Herald [www.kingstonherald.com](http://www.kingstonherald.com)

Kingston Electors [www.kingstonelectors.ca](http://www.kingstonelectors.ca)

Kingston EMC [www.emckingston.ca](http://www.emckingston.ca)

Kingston This Week [www.kingstonthisweek.com](http://www.kingstonthisweek.com)

Kingston Whig Standard [www.thewhig.com](http://www.thewhig.com)

### Marijuana Policy Resolution

May we suggest a visit to a page on a sister website: Lambton-Kent-Middlesex Liberal Association, where you can find links to current fact pages, discussions, government information, etc. on the issue:

<http://lkm.liberal.ca/issues/be-informed-marijuana/>

# 2011 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS

CONGRATUATIONS!

- Jean Angi
- Sam Gregory
- Renatta Colwell
- Pam Murray
- Ted Katsiroumpas
- Diane Johnston
- Sean Torrie
- Ernie Byers
- Peter Walker
- Ann W. Hutka
- Chris Jones
- Josette Gauthier



Ann W. Hutka receives a Volunteer Recognition from MP Ted Hsu



A packed house for the 2011 Holiday Gathering



Renatta Colwell receives a Volunteer Recognition from MP Ted Hsu

## STAY IN TOUCH!

Visit the interactive **Liberal website** ([www.liberal.ca](http://www.liberal.ca)) to get more detailed Liberal Party news and to join the conversation with Liberals across the country

## CONTACT INFO

Please note the change in KIFLA's mailing address:

PO Box 22061  
Kingston, ON  
K7M 8S5

[www.kingstonliberals.ca](http://www.kingstonliberals.ca)  
1-866-899-1613



Volunteers Prepare Snail Mail Newsletter Send-Out



Arlene Perly Rae and KIWLA President Lana Coe at Rae Speaking Event



Delegate selection meeting and "Liberal Values" workshop



### VICTORY FUND

For only \$10 a month, you can make a difference.  
Join the Victory Fund at [www.victoryfund.ca](http://www.victoryfund.ca)

