



The New NIPR Newsletter

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Welcome to our quarterly newsletter

Hello fellow Greens! 2024 is promising to be a busy year if this first quarter is any indication. In addition to taking part in the Green Party AGM, your executive has been busy mapping out our plans for the future, attending local events and holding our own Town Hall with Elizabeth and Jonathan. Check out "Inside This Issue". We hope you find our quarterly newsletter to be informative and interesting. Please feel free to engage with us through our website ([NIPR Greens](https://www.niprgreens.com)) or via email (northislandgreens@gmail.com).

We acknowledge that we are based on stolen land on the traditional, ancestral territories of many different First Nations, including the We Wai Kai, Wei Wai Kum, Homalco, K'ómoks, Tla'amin, Kwakwiltl, and Gwa'sala'Nakwaxda'xw Namgis.

~ Carol, Jay, Jessica, Larry, Linda, Mark, & Susan

Inside This Issue

- 2 – NIPR EDA Strategic Planning Retreat
- 2 – A tribute to Brian Mulroney
- 2 – Green Party of Canada AGM
- 3 – SOFT-CV Rally in Victoria
- 4 – Coldest Night of the Year
- 5 – NIPR EDA Town Hall
- 7 – Confessions of a Canadian Climate Refugee
- 7 – Upcoming Events

NIPR EDA Strategic Planning Retreat

To succeed, every organization needs a clear picture of where it wants to go. What do we want to achieve and by when? With that in mind the executive of the NIPR EDA (Electoral District Association) held a day-long planning retreat on Feb 5th, an opportunity to bond as a team and to focus on the task at hand.

We kicked the session off by examining our vision of ourselves, our understanding of the world that we live in, the characteristics of the world we want to live in and the kind of change that we as Greens hope to achieve. Our immediate goal is to convince residents of NIPR to send a green MP to Ottawa, but along the way we want to convey our understanding of the need for change and discuss the possibilities and issues within our communities. We want to show that a Green vote means listening, building relationships and discussing real world solutions to the issues our communities face. It takes an organized team to achieve all of this.

Jessica Wegg, our candidate for the next federal election, and Don Goodeve, her campaign manager, presented their vision for the coming campaign. They characterized it more as a “movement” than a “campaign”. It will be accessible for everyone; it will stimulate discussion and it will engage our communities in various ways.

The team then developed a detailed action plan, working backwards from that point in time when the next federal election is called. At incremental steps between now and that target date we laid out goals for events to be held, funds to be raised, volunteers to be recruited and cohesive communication to NIPR residents throughout. At the end of the day, we knew that we had a lot of work ahead of us but we felt confident that we had a plan that would focus our efforts. We’re excited about the road ahead of us! Won’t you consider being a part of the excitement? Follow us on Facebook ([Facebook - NIPR Greens](#)) and Instagram ([NIPR Greens • Instagram](#)). To review volunteer opportunities please check out our website ([Volunteer | NIPR Greens](#)). If you have any questions feel free to contact us at northislandgreens@gmail.com.

Brian Mulroney and Elizabeth May – an example of non-partisan politics

Former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney passed away on February 29. He served as Canada’s 18th Prime Minister from 1984 to 1993. Partisan politics aside, Mr. Mulroney had a significant positive impact on our world as pointed out by the Green Party of Canada leader Elizabeth May. You would not expect a former environmental activist to speak warmly of a former leader of the Progressive Conservatives, especially one who is so closely identified with the neoliberal agenda, but Elizabeth does just that in this article in Policy Magazine: <https://www.policymagazine.ca/an-environmentalist-misses-brian-mulroney-all-over-again/>

Green Party of Canada AGM and the co-leadership proposal

The Green Party of Canada held its annual general meeting February 24th and 25th. It was held virtually, the second time that they have done so, and proved to be a busy weekend. A number of policy proposals were approved and will subsequently undergo a follow-up ratification vote by the Party’s full membership.

Due to the busy schedule the anticipated proposal to amend the constitution to implement co-leadership was not addressed. As a result, on February 28 the Federal Council voted to plan a special general meeting this spring to debate and vote on co-leadership proposals. The date is yet to be determined. For more details see [Green Party Planning Special General Meeting on Co-Leadership](#). Watch for further announcements and do plan to participate.



SOFT-CV Rally in Victoria

The Save Our Forests Team - Comox Valley (SOFT-CV) travelled to Victoria on Feb 12th to deliver a challenge to the BC Investment Management Corporation (BCI) to improve the logging practices on its lands. BCI manages provincial pensions (government employees, teachers, BC Hydro, etc.) and is the major shareholder in Timberwest (TW) and Island Timberlands (IT) who own most of the land on the east coast of Vancouver Island from Victoria to Campbell River. These lands are being mismanaged by Mosaic Forest Management, which is owned by TW and IT. The rally highlighted our four significant requests:

- 1) End all old growth logging NOW!
- 2) Prioritize watershed and ecosystem survival by reducing the rate of harvest NOW!
- 3) On all lands managed by Mosaic, create old-growth recruitment areas by permanently protecting 30% of second-growth stands NOW!
- 4) STOP robbing from our children to pay pensions today!

Out front of BCI headquarters SOFT-CV supporters were joined by Green Party supporters and members of Elders for Old Growth. Green Party of BC leader Sonia Furstaneau also joined this rally and indicated how the BC Greens strongly support a move to real sustainable forestry, NOW. Grandma Losah spoke and indicated indigenous support for these actions. Gary and Ann Relyea also provided Operatic songs to make sure that our request was heard by BCI.

This rally and the letter delivered to BCI is only one step in SOFT-CV's actions to make Mosaic Forest Management prioritize the watersheds and ecosystems on the east coast of Vancouver Island during this time of climate and biodiversity crisis. See <https://www.saveourforeststeam.org/> or send an e-mail to SaveOurForestsTeamComoxValley@gmail.com for more information.



The Green Team at the Comox Valley Coldest Night of the Year

The Green Team made up of 24 members from Comox Courtenay Green Party BC and North Island Powell River Green Party Canada raised over \$10,700 for Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY). In the Comox Valley CNOY supports the Transition Society which supports women, children and families experiencing or fleeing abuse, overcoming trauma or working toward recovery. CNOY also supports the Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society which helps individuals take direct actions to solve immediate problems. There are more than 190 locations across Canada which have these CNOY social action fundraising walks. The Green Party candidates Jessica Wegg (NIPR GPC) and Arzeena Hamir (Comox Courtenay GPBC) and their teams attended and contributed significantly to this fundraising effort, highlighting Greens in support of local community action. The CNOY fundraising efforts in the Comox Valley had over 500 walkers and raised more than \$180,000 of the \$200,000 goal. Amazing!! Donations are being accepted until March 31st. See [Comox Valley \(Comox Valley Transition Society & Dawn to Dawn\) - CNOY 2024 Canada](#).

North Island – Powell River Townhall with Elizabeth May and Jonathan Pedneault

The North Island-Powell River (NIPR) Greens recently had the special opportunity to bring the two leaders of the Green Party of Canada (GPC) to our ED (Electoral District) for a Townhall as part of their cross-Canada Leaders' Tour. It's not often that [Elizabeth May](#) and [Jonathan Pedneault*](#) are able to come to this northern part of our very west coast island!



An enthusiastic crowd arrived at the Campbell River Maritime Heritage Centre on March 2nd, eager to hear what the party leaders had to say about the many issues facing our communities...and the world.

GPC Deputy Leader [Rainbow Eyes](#) (Angela Davidson), whose home is now Campbell River, welcomed us onto the traditional lands of the Laichkwiltach people. A member of the

Da'naxda'xw/Awaetlala First Nation near Knight Inlet, she had been invited to represent George Quocksister, Jr., Hereditary Chief Gigame of the Laichkwiltach Nation.

The event was moderated with warmth and alacrity by Comox Valley's [Jessica Wegg](#), Green Party Trade Critic and NIPR Green candidate for the next federal election. After introducing [Don Goodeve](#), her newly appointed campaign manager, she welcomed Elizabeth and Jonathan to the podium. They were a great tag team as they spoke about big picture issues such as the dangers of uncontrolled capitalism and globalization, climate change, an economic system based on "extractivism" and endless growth, the politics of division, and how to encourage the much-needed voice of our younger generations to engage in politics. The conversation then turned to more local matters, such as old growth logging, raw log exports, and the foreign



monopolization of Canada's pulp and paper industry.

The two leaders are very different in almost every way! Elizabeth, MP is a well-known seasoned veteran of Canadian politics. Jonathan brings a younger, yet mature voice that includes a broad vision and insight from his remarkable background as a human rights worker in some of the most dangerous and strife-torn regions in the world. Elizabeth is an encyclopedia of Canadian politics and environmentalism, delivering rapid-fire talks full of data and information, often punctuated with humorous personal stories. Jonathan speaks in a calm, measured way about the deeper social and psychological currents underlying the many dilemmas our world faces. Both are passionate representatives of Green values and their transformative potential for a population aching to come together as we face a seriously challenging future.

In the Q and A that followed they responded to written questions from the audience. Concerns such as protection of old growth, Albertan contrariness, and overpopulation were addressed. Some audience questions that time didn't allow for included concerns such as housing and homelessness, engaging more Canadians in politics, government green washing of the true state of our beleaguered forests, and helping people get beyond the fear of change as we enter an era of rapid societal transformation. We will save these questions for our next Townhall!



The final event of the afternoon was Elizabeth's famous "Dutch auction" fundraiser. It took only 20 rousing minutes of energized "bidding" to raise over \$8000, which will be split between the NIPR EDA and GPC head office as we all begin preparing for the next federal election, to be held by the fall of 2025.

The Green Party is very much alive, with a pair of vibrant leaders who champion cross-party cooperation inside and outside of the halls of Parliament. These dynamic leaders are backed by a growing national membership eager to bring fresh ideas for helping our communities move into an equitable and sustainable way of living together on this planet.

Here's a [link to a partial recording](#) of the Townhall -- use Passcode: Kw3C9GX! For more coverage go to [Campbell River Mirror](#) (March 6 edition, p. A6) and [Cortes Community Radio](#)

* Elections Canada does not yet recognize dual leaders for a political party. For this reason, officially Jonathan P. is one of two GPC Deputy Leaders (the other being Rainbow Eyes). However, most members of the Green Party regard them as co-leaders, since that is how they function as they closely confer on all decisions and statements.

Confessions of a Canadian Climate Refugee

Here is a sad and compelling article about how formerly typical and happy Canadians are becoming climate refugees. We must not continue to delude ourselves into believing climate refugees are those “other people” over on the other side of the world. We’re all already being impacted by the ravages of a changing climate, and almost certainly this will only continue to grow in severity. We MUST end our addiction to fossil fuels immediately.

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2024/02/22/opinion/confessions-canadian-climate-refugee-Okanagan-vineyards-fire-heat-dome-drought>



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Upcoming Events

Here are a few upcoming events that we know of at this time:

- Local members of the Green Party Canada will be attending the **Earth Day** event at St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Comox on **Monday April 22**, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Stop by and meet others who share your interest in forests, watersheds and our natural environment.
- **NIPR EDA Annual General Meeting**: We have set Sunday **June 2** as the date for our next AGM. We’re now busy working on location, speaker, time, etc. Mark your calendar and watch for details!
- And...as noted earlier, you can expect a Green Party of Canada special general meeting to address co-leadership proposals. Watch for that as well.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

General Inquiries or Comments and Newsletter Submissions: northislandgreens@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities and Volunteering: northislandgreens@greenparty.ca

Donation Questions: susaneshort20@gmail.com

NIPR Greens Executive

Mark de Bruijn
CEO

Larry McCumsey
Secretary

Susan Short
Financial Agent

Carol McCuaig
Membership Director

Jessica Wegg
Director at Large

Jay Van Oostdam
Linda Ash
Directors at Large