

Calgary region Liberal newsletter

Events

July 20th Calgary West nomination 6-9 p.m. in the Varsity Community Center

Media Highlights

<http://tinyurl.com/m5xy2b>

<http://tinyurl.com/kqfkj5>

<http://tinyurl.com/ncm8v9>

Thank you for seeing our first Calgary region Liberal newsletter. Hopefully we can maintain this on a monthly basis and, if successful, move to a weekly newsletter. You can look to us for all the Liberal news in the region, any upcoming events and pertinent local media stories.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/fp/thorn+pierces+Tory+heartland/1776133/story.html>

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Political+event+scripted+like+Bond+film/1623745/story.html>

Calgary Stampede Breakfast

Saturday July 4th over 800 Liberals from across Calgary made their way to the zoo to hear the leader of the Liberal Party, Michael Ignatieff, deliver his first speech in Calgary. The Honorable Mr. Ignatieff touched on many points of both local and federal interest, he declared “We have to be a party that understands that the beating heart of the Canadian economy, the beating heart of the future of our country, is in Alberta”. He admonished the Conservatives for their history of personal attacks. "It's just a symbol of something I think is rotten in Canadian politics. This is not acceptable politics. It just goes too low." While he made his goals clear: Canada must be the most educated, healthiest and economically sustainable country in the world by 2017.

His speech was well received by all in attendance including the MPs Maria Minna, Ralph Goodale, Carolyn Bennett, Senator Grant Mitchell and LPC policy chair Joan Bourassa. After the breakfast ended members in the crowd were able to become more familiar with these guests during a Women's caucus.

The organizers were thrilled with the stirring speeches and the enthusiasm generated by the breakfast with many noting the increased size of the crowd over previous years. Whether this was due to Ignatieff's emphasis on Alberta or not; the event persuaded many people to back Ignatieff's vision for Canada with their hard earned money by joining Victory Plus. It may have also helped that joining Victory Plus provided another benefit, on top of the several already granted, a custom lanyard to demonstrate to others their commitment to the party. This encouraged the organizers to implement that all Victory Plus members may now receive lanyards that they can wear to all future Liberal events.

The region would like to thank all of the volunteers for making the event possible and the attendees for showing Canada that the Liberal cause is alive and well in Calgary. Hopefully the momentum gained from this event can carry forward to all events coming up in the region.

If you'd like more information on victory plus go to ... or fax... A lanyard will be provided for all Victory Plus members

Calgary West Nomination

Calgary's first contested nomination took place this Monday, July 20th to choose the Liberal candidate for Calgary West. While the other parties have either not put forward a candidate or have merely allowed the incumbent to return unchallenged; nearly a hundred Liberal Party of Canada members cast a vote at the Varsity Community Centre to decide who would represent them in the next federal election.

The nominees were Jennifer Pollock, the candidate in the previous two elections, and political upstart Ernest Corbett. Each nominee was given fifteen minutes with which they chose to speak and have others speak on their behalf. The crowd had a great reception to the speeches with Mr. Corbett highlighting his desire to serve the public good from a young age and Ms. Pollock emphasizing the need to unseat the incumbent MP and the herculean effort required by her campaign to do so. The National Returning Officer Andrew MacGregor summed up his feelings on the tough decision, "I'm lucky. I get to be as neutral as Switzerland".

The significance of having such a decision was not lost in the heat of the race. Many members were discussing the importance of choosing their candidate and the joy of seeing such a high-spirited competition. Mr. Corbett felt just as excited as the members, "I feel fantastic. This is the essence of democracy."

At the end of the night Jennifer Pollock was elected to run for the Liberals in Calgary West once more. "The participation tonight was outstanding. I thought members had 2 credible candidates to choose from. I feel fortunate and I feel a sense of obligation to the riding to be the best candidate to earn their votes at the next election." She continued on mentioning that the riding gained immense benefits as a result of the race. "I believe every riding in Calgary should have a contested nomination as a means to identify and develop the leadership skills better needed for running credible Liberal campaigns now and in the future. You can say I'm a convert to a contested nomination process"

Should I mention Carrol Jaques? All people who helped set up? Should I have those descriptions of the speeches? Should I have the people's names that spoke for them? Longer or shorter? Should I just say that Jennifer was nominated and not mention the race?

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