



Campaign Update - Forward Together!

July 5, 2019

About David

One of the questions I'm asked on the doorsteps is: "**What work experience do you have** that would help you to become a good Member of Parliament?"

My answer is that, for 28 years, I served as a lawyer in Ottawa and Victoria, advising government Ministers on legal issues, constitutional reform, Cabinet and Parliamentary procedure, litigation, dispute resolution, and justice transformation initiatives. For the first 16 years, I served in Ottawa at the Department of Justice and the Privy Council Office. For the last 12 years, I worked at the BC Ministry of Attorney General on innovative ways to cut cost, delay, and complexity in the justice system.

This experience taught me that gradual reform implemented by lawyers, judges and bureaucrats very rarely helps users of the justice system. For the justice system to change in ways that has a measurable impact on the users of the system, *deep transformational change is essential*.

One example of how my team applied these lessons relates to litigation over strata disputes in BC. In the past, such disputes required people to hire lawyers and file lengthy documents in court house registries, then wait months for a conference with a judge or master, then potentially go to trial and wait months for a decision. Time from filing to resolution of such a case would normally range from **18 months to two years**. This painful process was slightly less painful for those who could afford to hire a lawyer and spend thousands of dollars in legal fees. Our justice system favours the rich - people who can afford lawyers enjoy a very significant advantage over people who cannot afford a lawyer.

To level the playing field and fix enormous problems of cost, complexity and delay, we avoided the same old solutions from lawyers, judges, and bureaucrats. We brought in new people with different ways of thinking to join our team and develop an entirely new system: the **Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT)**. The entire resolution process is now online and can be accessed through your smartphone or computer. Early resolution experts serving the public have replaced lawyers serving their clients. The **average time to resolution has been cut to 60 days, saving British Columbians time and money**.

From a Green perspective, this solution also represents a massive reduction in the carbon footprint of our justice system. We're no longer cutting down forests to file millions of pages of legal documents and we're not driving huge distances to get to a courthouse.

Canada needs fundamentally different ways of thinking in Parliament if we are to implement the big transformational changes that are essential to our future. By teaming up with Elizabeth May's transformational leadership and a huge Green caucus, I hope to meet that need as your MP.

At the Doorstep

Green party volunteers and I are spending a lot of time knocking on doors, listening to people's concerns about the future of this country. We're hearing about issues that are vitally important to voters and their families in the upcoming federal election.

In this new section, *At the Doorstep*, we will be sharing what we're hearing and the conversations we're having.



A topic that frequently comes up is access to post-secondary education and skyrocketing tuition costs. How can we possibly ensure that Canada develops engaged, well-educated and highly-trained young people when we've placed such a heavy financial burden on them?

The Green Party platform on this is clear. It starts with the basic belief that universal access for qualified people to affordable post-secondary education and training, is in Canada's national self-interest and should be treated as a right, not a privilege.

The social benefits of a well-educated population are countless. Education is the key to personal growth and enrichment, equality of opportunity, informed democratic debate and decision-making, social mobility, and to research and development essential for dealing with climate change. I also know from my own experience, that education is transformational on a personal level.

Simply stated, education is the key to a good economy, a prosperous society, and the development of good citizens. The Green Party is saying that Canada must invest in the education of Canadians.

I invite you to join me on one or all of our door-to-door canvassing sessions, so you too can hear what voters are most concerned about. **Please come out to canvass with me** - it's fun, educational, and great exercise! We hold regular training sessions and the next one is scheduled for **Sunday, July 14 at 12:30PM**. Click below to volunteer.

I want to
volunteer!

For more information about times and dates of our canvassing excursions, please email our volunteer coordinator, volunteer.ess@greenparty.ca

Recurring Events

We have regular events happening at our office. We hope that you can join us.

Tuesdays at 10:30AM - Coffee Party with David

Tuesdays at 5:30PM - Phone Canvassing Party

Wednesdays at 11:30AM - Data Entry Party

Thursdays at 4PM - Door to Door Canvassing Training

Also, we have volunteer orientation sessions and the next session is **Tuesday, July 9 at 2PM**.

For more information, please send an email to vote.merner@greenparty.ca

Special Events

Victoria Pride Festival



July 7 is the 25th anniversary of the Victoria Pride Festival. Join Elizabeth May, Racelle Kooy, our latest elected Green MP, Paul Manly, and BC Greens Deputy Leader Sonia Furstenau by participating in the Pride Parade with me. The organizers have asked that all participants meet at Fisgard and Government and **arrive by 10AM**. Our volunteer team will then advise where to assemble for the start of the parade. Please wear Green and/or rainbow colours, as well as sunscreen. Most importantly, bring your enthusiasm!

We are also looking for volunteers to table at the Pride Festival. There are three shifts, starting at 12PM, 2PM, and 4PM. If you wish to volunteer, especially for the 4PM shift, please send an email to volunteer.ess@greenparty.ca

Knitting Workshop

We are knitting toques as a fundraiser project for our campaign. **Sylvia Olsen will be hosting a knitting session on Monday, July 8 at 5PM.** An avid knitter, Sylvia has a long history in First Nations wool-working and from these, is the creative force behind Salish Fusion, the contemporary Salish knitwear company. She has learned Salish, Fair Isle and other traditional knitting methods, taught herself the art of felting, and is creating modern fashion. She's the author of three books about knitting: *Knitting Stories, Personal Essays and Seven Coast Salish-inspired Knitting Patterns*, *Working With Wool: A Coast Salish Legacy & the Cowichan Sweater*, and *Yetsa's Sweater*, a children's picture book.



Sylvia designed two special patterns - the wave and the orca -- for this project. If you would like to learn to knit, do colour work, and knit a pattern, then Sylvia's workshop is for you!

Join her at the Saanich office on Monday, July 8 at 5PM.

Bring your own circular knitting needles (size 4.25mm) or double pointed knitting needles; other supplies will be provided. If you need to buy knitting needles, check out the [Beehive Wool Shop](#) on Douglas Street.

For more details about this event, contact Anita at anitacox@shaw.ca

Speaker Series



Our Monday evening Speaker Series continues on **July 8, at 7:30PM with Gord Kerr talking about 'Tiny Living on Wheels'**. Faced with a difficult rental market in Victoria, Gord began looking for alternatives to rental. He bought a used 24' school bus and converted it into his mobile dream home where he not only lives full-time, but also runs his businesses.

Gord will be bringing his bus over for everyone to check out!

Come join us to learn about the process and ask questions. We'll be serving light refreshments.

#GreenBecause - Volunteer Profile

The day after Blair Robertson saw a student in his McMaster science class wearing a Green Party button, he was sitting down with the CEO of the Hamilton Greens Electoral District Association (EDA) asking about ways he could get involved.

Two months later, Blair was staring out at the mountains from a plane window, marking the start of his journey across the country to join our Paint the Island Green Program.

Since arriving on the island, Blair has spent the majority of his time working on the data portion of the campaign - **and has taken on a crucial role.**

"We are trying to organize all of the information that the canvassers have been getting from people at the doorstep so we can honestly speak to the problems they raise," he explained.

The purpose of the data team, he said, is to track unknowns and fill in the gaps in voter information so the campaign team can get a better sense of Green support, based on location. Tracking this information ensures canvassers are sent to areas where they are likely to find potential Green support.



When Blair returns home in August, he plans to teach these skills to his McMaster Green Party campus club, assist on the campaign in his own riding, and **advocate for the divestment of fossil fuels at McMaster.**

In the long term, he hopes to become a Certified Professional Accountant and potentially run provincially in the next Ontario election.

Want to help us grow our reach?

If yes, follow David on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to keep up to date with events, Green Party policy, general ESS information, and campaign updates.

[Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#)

Sincerely and gratefully,

David

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