

Paul Martin Watch - Which promise will the Liberals break first?

Paul Martin spent the election criss-crossing the country, committing your money to unnecessary projects and making outrageous promises he just can't keep.

Here is a list of the most expensive, recycled and just plain ridiculous campaign promises. Which ones do YOU think Paul Martin and the Liberals will break first?

A wise use of your tax dollars?

Twinning Trans-Canada Highway: Martin promised to revisit the issue of four-laning the Trans Canada highway across the country. Liberal estimates put the cost of this project at \$10 to \$15 billion dollars.

Windmills: The Liberal platform promised \$400 million for wind power, including creating a "Canadian National Wind Atlas" - a government program to determine where it's windy.

Where have we heard this before?

New Deal for Cities: The Liberals have been recycling this promise since 2002. Paul Martin failed to deliver on it in his

first budget as Prime Minister. Judging from his past track record, you can bet Paul Martin will keep on promising, while our crumbling cities keep waiting for their long-promised share of the gas tax.

New Jobs: The Liberal platform promised to create 1.3 million new jobs by 2009, but tax hikes to businesses under a Liberal-NDP coalition will only hurt already overtaxed small businesses. Only the Conservatives have a plan to create jobs by lowering taxes and cleaning up the wasteful spending and scandals that plague the Liberal government.

That's ridiculous!

The View from Chester Yacht Club: standing on the wooden veranda of the Chester Yacht Club in Chester, Nova Scotia, Paul Martin announced that he "will protect that view!" (Ottawa Sun, June 28, 2004). It's still not clear from whom the view needed protecting.

No Civil Wars?: Paul Martin's overheated rhetoric got away with him again when he suggested that only the Liberals could pre-

vent a civil war in Canada: "We have the possibility of building one of the greatest countries in the world but we cannot do it if we are always going through civil wars." (Montreal Gazette, June 26, 2004).

Promises that were made to be broken?

"Honesty": After 11 years of being at the helm of a government known for its waste, mismanagement and corruption, Paul Martin had the audacity to make "honesty" an election pledge. After suffering through Adscam, the HRDC boondoggle and the \$2 billion gun registry, this promise rings hollow.

Sponsorship Scandal Answers...eventually: In another attempt to sweep the Sponsorship scandal under the rug, Paul Martin promised he would answer questions about where your tax dollars went. The bad news? You won't get the answers until after the NEXT election: "It's going to take a long time. It may well take longer than we would have in terms of this mandate." (Globe and Mail, June 8, 2004).

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Required

Maurice Vellacott, M.P.
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YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

**MAURICE
VELLACOTT**

Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Wanuskewin
Fall 2004

Dear Constituents,

On June 28th, you elected me to represent you in Canada's 38th Parliament. It is an honour and a privilege to be chosen as your Member of Parliament, and I would like to thank you sincerely for your support.

What an exciting time to be a parliamentarian! For the first time in 25 years, we have a minority government. Now, more than ever, the government will need to be responsive, transparent and accountable to the people of Canada.

Under the strong leadership of Stephen Harper, I believe our new, united Conservative party has an unprecedented opportunity to influence decision making in Canada's government. The talent and energy of my caucus colleagues can be found in the strong shadow cabinet that will face off with Paul Martin's tired, old Liberal team when the House of Commons reconvenes in October.

In both the House of Commons and committee chambers, where legislation is negotiated, the Liberals have lost their majority stranglehold. No longer will they be able to use their tried and true tactic of ramming through their legislative agenda, stifling dissenting opinions or shutting down debates. This means we will be able to truly reflect your priorities, while the Liberals will have difficulty sweeping their scandals under the carpet.

The Liberals have a limited mandate, and I know you will be watching this government very carefully. I urge you to contact me often with your concerns and thoughts on the issues that matter to you and our riding.

I have included my contact information for my constituency office. I hope you will take the time to get in touch with my office if there is anything I can help you with. Don't forget that mail to a Member of Parliament can be sent postage-free.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Maurice Vellacott

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Fixed Election Dates

What do May 17, 2005 and October 4, 2007 have in common?

These are the dates that the voters of British Columbia and Ontario, respectively, will be going to the polls.

If you're tired of guessing when the next election will be and sick of watching your tax dollars being spent on the Prime Minister's pre-election campaigning, then fixed election dates are the answer.

True democracy means that election dates aren't decided on the personal whim of the Prime Minister and daily polling results.

Notwithstanding the inherent uncertainty of a minority government situation, the Conservative Party believes that election dates should be fixed, not left up to the partisan decision-makers and pollsters in the Prime Minister's Office.

Only a Conservative government led by Stephen Harper would set fixed, predictable election dates and provide Canadians with meaningful democratic reforms.

Stephen Harper speech excerpt

Speaking to a crowd of energetic supporters in Calgary on election night, Stephen Harper, Leader of the Opposition responded to the election night results.

We've increased our seats and broadened our base across this nation. I congratulate you for this remarkable achievement and remember, that until someone someday achieves a majority, the fight is not yet won or lost.

Mr. Martin has been given a mandate but it is a modest mandate. I accept this mandate. We will accept the verdict of the Canadian people. But we will remind the Liberals they have been sent a message and we, the loyal opposition of this country will continue to hold them accountable.

We will work in this minority parliament to build a better future for our fellow citizens, to make our parliament work in their interests and to ensure that your priorities are the priorities of your national parliament.

Canada has known minority governments before and, at all times, Canadians expect and deserve stability and certainty and we as an opposition will act

accordingly. But make no mistake, we will continue to fight for the principles, the policies and the direction that we put forward in this campaign.

We will fight for a stronger economy with lower taxes and more jobs and for an end to scandal and greater accountability in Ottawa.

We will fight for better health care and we will fight to work for, and with, and not against, our provinces.

We will work for better health care, for greater cooperation with the provinces, for the elimination of the fiscal imbalance and better achievement, better outcomes for patients.

We will fight for strength and security on our streets, in our country and in our world by fighting for stronger criminal justice and a stronger Canadian military.

And of course we will fight the long battle for our ongoing commitment to democratic reform, to ensure that the people of this country and in the regions of this country have more say in their central government.



Photo: Chris Diotte, House of Commons

The New Conservative Caucus

Desperately Seeking Sea Kings

1963 was an historic year. In Canada, Prime Minister Lester Pearson was elected to Canada's third minority Parliament in six years. In 1963, the Americans launched the Apollo space program and in November of that year, President JFK was assassinated.

This was also the year the Canadian military started flying the Sea King helicopters.

On July 23, 2004, more than four decades later, the Liberal government finally announced

a contract to replace the aging Sea Kings. After years of missed deadlines, coupled by rising cancellation and maintenance costs, Canadians can be forgiven for not applauding this announcement.

It will be another four years before our uniformed men and women actually fly the new helicopters, and in the meantime, the costs continue to mount: the Liberals' decade of delays has been a heavy burden

on taxpayers, now approaching nearly \$1 billion dollars.

Canada's brave military deserves better.

Crunching the Sea King numbers:

Age of Sea King helicopters today:41 years
 Number of years before new helicopters are in the air:4
 Number of hours of maintenance needed for each hour of flight time:30
 Number of years since the Liberals tore up the original replacement contract:11
 Cost to taxpayers for cancellations, maintenance and other costs:Nearly \$1 billion
 Cost of new helicopter contract:\$3.2 billion

MINORITY PARLIAMENTS

Minority governments are a rarity in Canada's parliamentary tradition. Since Confederation, there have been only eight minority parliaments, and for many younger voters, this is the first one in their memory. The last time Canadians gave their government a minority mandate was 25 years ago.

These unique parliamentary configurations provide opposition members with an unprecedented opportunity to influence decision-making in Canada's government. With a loss of the majority in both the House of Commons and committee chambers, where legislation is negotiated and hammered out, the governing Liberal party is forced to concede to changes they may not have otherwise done.

In the past, the governing party has tended to ally itself with smaller 'left of centre' political opponents, making trade-offs in order to succeed with their own legislative agenda. These deals have often led to rampant deficit spending and debt. This time, our Conservative team will stay vigilant, and

continue to press the common-sense solutions outlined in our election platform, to curb the out-of-control spending that will surely result from a Paul Martin/Jack Layton alliance.

Rest assured that the Conservative Party of Canada will ensure that the voices of all Canadians are heard loud and clear by Paul Martin's government.

The Liberals have been sent a message and we, the Loyal Opposition of this country,

will continue to hold them accountable. We will work in this minority parliament to build a better future for our fellow citizens, to make our parliament work in their interests and to ensure that your priorities are the priorities of your national parliament.

Stephen Harper,
 Conservative Party Leader, Election night 2004

The average duration of minority governments has been just a year and a half. Here is a profile of Canada's past minority governments:

Election Day	Governing Party	Leader	Length of Term	How it ended	Performance in subsequent election
December 6, 1921	Liberal	Mackenzie King	March 8, 1922 - September 5, 1925	Election called by government.	Won another minority
October 29, 1925	Liberal	Mackenzie King	January 7, 1926 - June 26, 1926	King resigned when the Governor General refused to dissolve parliament.	Won a Majority
June 10, 1957	Progressive Conservative	John Diefenbaker	October 14, 1957 - February 1, 1958	Diefenbaker called an election after being challenged to do so by Liberal leader Lester Pearson.	Won a Majority
June 18, 1962	Progressive Conservative	John Diefenbaker	September 27, 1962 - February 6, 1963	Defeated on a vote of non-confidence concerning nuclear warheads.	Defeated by opposition Liberal party.
April 8, 1963	Liberal	Lester Pearson	May 16, 1963 - September 8, 1965	Election called by government.	Won a Minority
November 8, 1965	Liberal	Lester Pearson	January 18, 1966 - April 23, 1968	Election called by government.	New Liberal leader, Pierre Trudeau won a majority.
October 30, 1972	Liberal	Pierre Trudeau	January 4, 1973 - May 9, 1974	Defeated on a vote of non-confidence on the budget.	Won a Majority
May 22, 1979	Progressive Conservative	Joe Clark	October 9, 1979 - December 14, 1979	Defeated on a vote of non-confidence on the budget.	Defeated by Liberals

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Please take the time to tell us which of these issues matter most to you.

- BSE (Mad Cow Disease)
- Corruption and Scandal
- Crime
- Education
- Environment
- Government Waste
- Health
- Marriage and Family
- National Security
- Taxes
- Other _____

Name _____
 Address: _____
 City/Town: _____
 Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____
 E-mail: _____