

# 10 Reasons Canadians Deserve Better

## 1. Ethical malaise

70% of Canadians believe the federal system is corrupt. It's no wonder.

It seems that Liberal government scandals are everywhere. Vacations with rich donors, dodgy sponsorship contracts and Ministers resigning in disgrace reflect a government that's out of control!

## 2. Canada/US relations

Over the last decade, Canadian-American relations have dropped to an all-time low. Canada's refusal to support our allies in Iraq and high-profile name calling have only worsened the situation.

## 3. Same-sex marriage

On June 8, 1999, the Chrétien-Martin Liberals promised Canadians they would take "all necessary steps" to preserve the traditional definition of marriage. Yet, on September 16, 2003, a majority of Liberal MPs stood up in the House of Commons and rejected that position, breaking the promise they made to Canadians only four years earlier.

## 4. GST

10 years ago, Paul Martin authored the Liberal Red Book campaign pledge to axe, scrap and kill the GST. A decade later, Canadians are still paying the GST.

## 5. Gun Registry

The Chrétien-Martin Liberals promised Canadians the gun registry would cost \$2 million. A review revealed the real cost to be over \$1 billion dollars. The gun registry is a failure. It doesn't work and doesn't keep Canadians safe.

## 6. Defence spending

In the 10 years since the Liberals took office, Paul Martin has slashed over \$20 billion from the defence budget. Canada now ranks near the bottom of G8 and NATO countries in defence spending.

## 7. Airline taxes

A decade of Liberal rule has crippled Canada's airline industry. A glance at the cost breakdown of your airplane ticket tells the tale: excessive taxes and landing fees have caused prices to skyrocket.

## 8. Advertising and sponsorship scandals

The Chrétien-Martin Liberals are currently under investigation by the RCMP in 13 criminal investigations after the Auditor General reported the Liberal government broke "every rule in the book" in awarding \$1.6 million in contracts to Groupaction.

## 9. Child protection and age of consent

Despite Opposition calls for child protection legislation, the Liberal government gave us the "artistic merit" defence for possessing child pornography. They have also refused to raise the age of consent for sexual activity from 14 to 16.

## 10. HRDC boondoggle

In 2000, an internal audit at HRDC revealed that \$1 billion had been wasted in the mismanagement of the grants and contributions programs. The audit found that money was handed out without any background checks, financial monitoring or even a description of where the cash was going.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

As we begin a new Parliamentary session under a Paul Martin government, please take the time to tell us which of these Liberal messes matter most to you.

- Agriculture
- Health Care
- Defence
- Corruption and Scandal
- Marriage and Family
- National Security
- Wasteful Spending
- Taxes
- National Debt
- Environment
- Crime
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

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# Maurice Vellacott

## Member of Parliament

### Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

February 2004

### Vellacott endorses creation of new Conservative Party of Canada

History was made on October 15th, 2003 when an Agreement in Principle was signed between Canadian Alliance Leader Stephen Harper and Progressive Conservative Leader Peter MacKay.

The purpose of the Agreement was the formation of the new Conservative Party of Canada. The federal Canadian Alliance Party and the federal Progressive Conservative Party has now come together to present Canadian voters with one strong competitive alternative to the Liberals in the coming election.

As a fiscal and social conservative, I see the benefit of forming the new Conservative Party of Canada. As long as we stay involved in the process, we can shape the outline and affirm the policies that we believe to be best for our country.

The vote for the Leader of the new Conservative Party of Canada will take place March 19th to 21st.

We expect a federal election to be called on or about April 4th for a May vote.

Although this timeline is very short, there is a great advantage to going into the election offering voters one strong alternative to the Liberals. Many young Canadians are already showing enthusiasm about involvement in a strong, competitive party. Citizens frustrated with vote splitting will once more have real hope for change.

In November, Global Television released a poll showing that in an election, 36% would vote Liberal and 31.2% would vote for a new Conservative Party. Under this scenario the

Liberals would be headed for, at best, a minority government.

The new Conservative Party is well positioned to campaign vigorously to send Conservative Party MPs to Ottawa. I anticipate being the new Conservative Party candidate in this Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Constituency.

Under this Liberal government Canada has lost a lot of ground in terms of waste of public money, a trend towards judge-made laws, damage to our international reputation, mishandling agriculture, worsening the democratic deficit and, especially, ethics. Canadians deserve better, much better. We must end the vote splitting that has for too long given the Liberals a free ride and allowed them to govern with only 38% of the popular vote.

A new, vigorous, broad-based conservative alternative is now in place. With strong leadership, proven and seasoned MPs, and an army of dedicated members across the country, we will be a force clearly able to truly make a difference in our country's future and deliver better government for Canada. There's an opportunity for many of us to help build this new Conservative Party, shape its direction and gather voters' support.

I look forward to working with others in the future in this important endeavour, the new Conservative Party of Canada.

Sincerely,

*Maurice Vellacott*

Dr. Maurice Vellacott, M.P.



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## Right Reunited

Last October, Canadian history was made when Stephen Harper and Peter MacKay announced an Agreement-in-Principle to merge the Canadian Alliance and PC Party of Canada to form the new Conservative Party of Canada. Endorsed overwhelmingly by over 90% of the members of both parties, the merger was made official on December 8, 2003.

When Parliament resumes on February 2, Paul Martin and his Liberal colleagues will find themselves face-to-face with a strong and united Conservative opposition, representing Canadians from coast to coast.

This is a bold step forward for conservatives in Canada. It is an end to vote splitting and a strong force in the next election. We listened to Canadians and have delivered.

The Conservative Party of Canada welcomes conservatives of all stripes under its banner. From social conservatives, to democratic reformers, to the progressive-minded, conservative Canadians now have a political home from which to fight the excesses, scandal and waste of the governing Liberal Party.

**"Imagine, for a moment, what Canada would be like if we had the government we deserve. What you envision is a country the Liberals would not recognize."**

Stephen Harper, MP  
November 12, 2003

## Interim Leadership



Grant Hill, MP

On January 9, the Conservative Party named their interim leadership caucus officers.

The Parliamentary Leader, and Leader of the Official Opposition for the transition period is Dr. Grant Hill, the MP for Macleod, Alberta. Elsie Wayne, MP for Saint John, New Brunswick was selected as Deputy Leader.

Other caucus officers are as follows:

- Loyola Hearn, MP for St. John's West, Newfoundland and Labrador, House Leader.



Elsie Wayne, MP



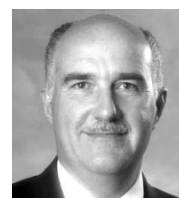
Werner Schmidt, MP



Loyola Hearn, MP



Dale Johnston, MP



Garry Breitkreuz, MP



Bill Casey, MP

- Garry Breitkreuz, MP for Yorkton-Melville, Saskatchewan, Deputy House Leader.



Norman Doyle, MP

- Norman Doyle, MP for St. John's East, Newfoundland and Labrador, Caucus Chair.
- Werner Schmidt, MP for Kelowna, British Columbia, Deputy Caucus Chair.
- Dale Johnston, MP for Wetaskiwin, Alberta, House Whip.
- Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester, Nova Scotia, Deputy Whip.

## Parliamentary Co-operation

The new Conservative Party of Canada does not start life with a blank page, it is an extension of the common philosophy that the two parties have shared, and which has been reflected in many recently fought parliamentary battles.

On issues as diverse as the gun registry fiasco, the Kyoto Accord, the war against terrorism and the definition of marriage, we have found ourselves on the same side.

### Case in point: Gas Tax revenues

Recently, both the PC and Canadian Alliance caucuses have been quick to point out Paul Martin's swift backtracking on his promise to provide a portion of the gas tax revenues to Canada's major municipalities.

"I think this shows that Mr. Martin has been running on fumes and the gas tank has begun to bottom out," said Peter MacKay the Member for Pictou-Antigonish-Guysborough.

Similarly, James Moore, the Member for Port Moody-Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam said: "If Paul Martin walks away from his commitment to put more gas tax dollars into the hands of provinces and municipalities, he will be killing two birds with one stone. He will have broken his word with Canadians, and also created yet another democratic deficit by not respecting the wishes of Parliament."

When Parliament resumes, you can be assured that Conservatives will continue to hold the Paul Martin Liberals to their promises.

# Canadians deserve better than Paul Martin

When Paul Martin became Prime Minister on December 12, 2003, he quickly tried to distance himself from the legacy left by Jean Chretien's decade in power.

In reality, as Jean Chretien's Finance Minister and right-hand man, Paul Martin's fingerprints are all over some of the most memorable Liberal messes.

- As Finance Minister, **Paul Martin cut \$16.3 billion from health and social transfers to the provinces.** If you take inflation into account, **the provinces lost \$25.1 billion in real health-care dollars.**

- Paul Martin presided over the billion-dollar gun registry.** To date, the gun registry has cost taxpayers over a billion dollars and does nothing to protect Canadian citizens from gun violence.
- Paul Martin slashed the military budget.** In the 10 years since his Liberals took office, **the Canadian defence budget has been reduced by \$20 billion.** Our once-proud military has even been called a "defence freeloader."
- Paul Martin has been caught up in spending scandals.** Audit after audit has revealed billions of

dollars gone "missing" from government departments. From the mismanagement of the HRDC grants and contributions program that **misplaced \$1 billion** to the sponsorship scandals that saw **millions of dollars channelled to companies owned by friends of Liberals**, the common thread is clear: **Paul Martin signed the cheques.**

**Paul Martin claims to be a change.**

**His record speaks for itself. Canadians deserve better.**

## DO YOU SEE A DIFFERENCE?

### Former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien

- Born on January 11, 1934
- Former Minister of Finance
- Lawyer by trade
- Supports billion dollar gun registry
- Scrapped much needed military helicopters
- Campaigned to abolish GST then defended it
- Campaigned to create independent Ethics Commissioner - then voted against it



### New Prime Minister Paul Martin

- Born on August 28, 1938
- Former Minister of Finance
- Lawyer by trade
- Supports billion dollar gun registry
- Significantly cut Military Budgets since 1993
- Campaigned to abolish GST then defended it
- Campaigned to create independent Ethics Commissioner - then voted against it



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