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Conservatives Make History

From March 17-19th Conservatives from across the country gathered in Montreal for the first convention of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Over the weekend, delegates worked hard, played hard and came together to form the principled policy alternatives that will take the party into the next election.

In the leadership review, Stephen Harper received the resounding support of 84% of voting delegates, a clear indication that members are happy with the leadership and direction of the Conservative Party.

The convention was marked by moments of spirited debate and times of broad consensus. At the end of three full days, our members went home with many

memories and with the knowledge they had played a part in shaping Canadian history.

Mr. Harper closed his keynote speech by saying:

"When, in the very near future, we are called upon by Canadians to form a government, it will be a government that puts our country ahead of our party, a principled government, rooted in Conservative values, a government worthy of our confederation and of the country we will serve."

Conservative Leader, Stephen Harper, Friday, March 18, 2005.

The full statement of policy for the Conservative Party can be found at: www.conservative.ca/english/party.asp

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Childcare Choices

Canadian families face tough and competing demands. Rising costs, tighter household budgets and not enough hours in the day to get everything done.

Despite these challenges, every family wants to ensure the best possible care for their children.

The Conservative Party believes that all Canadian parents should have a choice in how their child is best cared for and educated. We recognize that parents are in the best position to determine their children's needs.

That's why, as part of our policy, we would provide a per-child tax credit or deduction to every Canadian family raising young children.

More Liberal promises made and broken:

Since 1993, successive Liberal governments have been promising a child care program.

This government has made the same promise yet again. Should the Liberals ever follow through on this latest promise, their one-size-fits-all solution to this complex issue may well result in a bureaucratic program so expensive that young families won't be able to afford to have children.

Conservatives believe in choice:

The Conservative alternative is all about child care choices. We recognize that all families are unique and can not be accommodated by one blanket solution.

While a majority of Canadian children are in child care programs, a significant number of children are being raised by stay-at-home parents.

Millions of other families are making alternative care arrangements, such as having another family member care for their child.

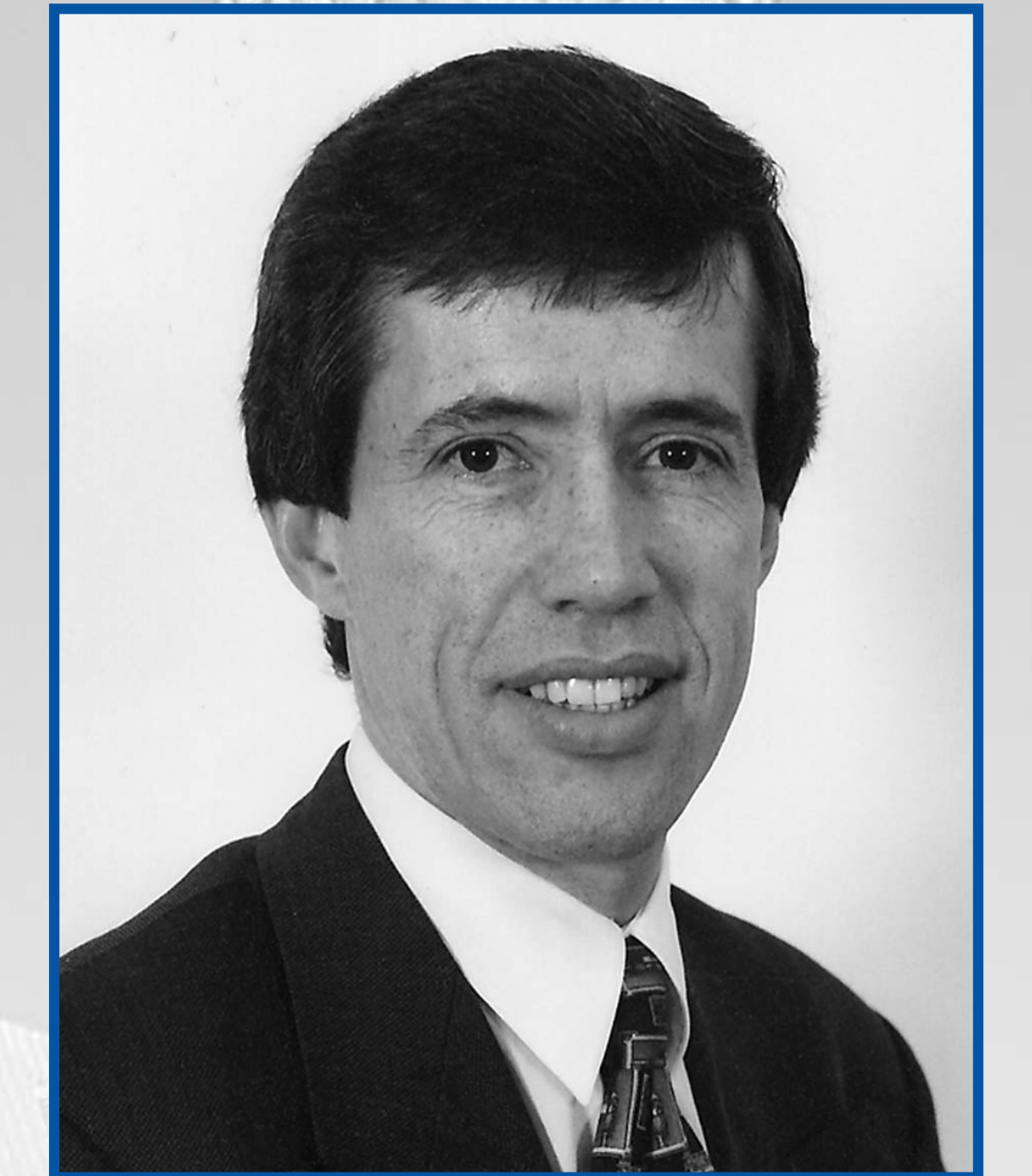
We also recognize that many parents may choose to raise their children in certain cultural, linguistic and religious environments.

The Conservative Party believes the key to meeting the unique needs of every family is parental choice, not government intervention.

Our childcare tax deduction plan puts the interests of parents and children first, leaving money in your pocket to spend as your family sees fit.

Maurice VELLACOTT

Member of Parliament for
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin



MAY 2005

Agriculture

Agriculture policy must be developed only in consultation with the agricultural producers. Farmers today are business operators, and to dictate policy which might have an adverse effect on this business community would have negative consequences and go against Conservative party principles. Balancing financial responsibility with support programs that actually work is a major priority of the Conservative Party.

Export and Diversification. To ensure that Canada has a secure supply of food, a Conservative government will encourage self-sufficiency in national food production, including increased diversification in the types of food and agricultural products produced. We will seek to enhance export opportunities for all agricultural products with special emphasis on markets for processed and finished commodities. Through diversifying, the value added process and manufacturing will create new jobs within the respective communities and Canada.

Sustainability. If we are to ensure that Canada's food supply is assured in the long term, agricultural production must be both economically and environmentally sustainable. Responsible land use and receiving a fair return for growing food go hand in hand. To mitigate against unforeseen adversity, we will put in the hands of the individual producer innovative economic tools they need to be flexible, to respond to changing market conditions and to manage the risks of weather and disease.

Rural Economy. As the agricultural base of the rural economy has declined, so too has infrastructure in small communities. To preserve the social fabric of rural Canada, a Conservative government will encourage diversity and responsible development in small towns and villages by encouraging innovation in the development of small businesses that keep these communities alive.

Supply Management. The Conservative Party believes it is in the best interest of Canada and Canadian agriculture that the industries under the protection of supply management remain viable. A Conservative government will support supply management and its goal to deliver a high quality product to consumers for a fair price with a reasonable return to the producer.

Sponsorship Scandal

Shady deals in smoky restaurants. Bundles of cash in brown envelopes and suspicions of taped conversations. Sounds like the next installment of *The Sopranos*, doesn't it?

When it's on TV, we call it entertainment.

In real life, that's your money in those envelopes and it's being used by the Liberals for their purposes not yours. Suddenly, it's not nearly as entertaining, is it?

When you pay your taxes, you expect your money to go to worthwhile causes like health care, education and paying off the national debt. Instead, this Liberal government has violated your trust, your vote and your money by using your hard-earned dollars to pay off their own campaign debts in a corrupt and cynical scheme.

Strengthening the separatist cause:

Since the sponsorship scandal first broke, Paul Martin and the

Liberals have tried to justify the sleaze of Adscam saying that Canadian national unity was at stake.

It dishonors our proud national symbol, when the Liberal government tries to wrap their corruption in our flag.

However, that's not the worst of it. Worse than having our maple leaf sullied by the actions of the Liberal government is this bitter irony: By justifying defrauding the taxpaying citizens of Canada

in the name of national unity, their sole accomplishment has been to strengthen the separatist cause in Quebec.

Corruption doesn't have to be the status quo:

Since news of the sponsorship scandal was first exposed by Auditor General Sheila Fraser last spring, Canadians have suspected the ugly truth of the depth of lies behind this corrupt, money-laundering scheme.

What must be remembered is that corruption does not need to become the standard in Canadian politics. This is not a Canadian scandal. This is not a Quebec scandal. This is a Liberal Party scandal and the Liberals can and must be replaced.

The Conservative Party of Canada has a plan to return honesty and integrity to the political process.

We will clean up the federal government and change the way Ottawa works.

A Conservative government would:

- Direct the Auditor General to audit all federal granting programs and recommend changes to reduce waste and fraud.
- Create an independent Ethics Commissioner appointed by Parliament, not by the Prime Minister.



• What do YOU think? •

Please take a moment to share your views. When you are done, mail this section, postage free.

1 Do you think the Paul Martin Liberals have lost the moral authority to govern?

Yes No

2 Do you believe families should have the financial freedom to choose the child care option that best suits their situation?

Yes No

3 Do you think the government should call a public inquiry into the Air India disaster?

Yes No

4 Are Stephen Harper and the Conservatives on the right track?

Yes No

Visit us at:

www.mauricevellacott.ca