

# Leadnow.ca's Liberal Leadership Candidate Survey - Joyce Murray

For a summary of the candidates' positions, and background information, please see: <http://cooperate4.ca/report-card>

## **1. Political Cooperation**

*Do you support cooperating with the NDP and Greens before the next election to defeat Stephen Harper's government? If so, how? If not, why?*

Yes, I do support cooperation with the NDP and Greens before the next election to defeat Stephen Harper's government. It is clear that the majority of Canadians would like to see the Conservative Government defeated. The Government has taken Canada in the wrong direction on so many issues that an overriding objective for the progressive parties must be to defeat the Harper Government in 2015. We must then reverse the damage that has been done by the Conservatives and set our country on a more democratically, environmentally and economically sustainable course.

We can only achieve electoral reform, and get a truly representative government, if we defeat the Conservative Government. This is why [I have been calling for my party to cooperate](#) with the NDP and Green Party of Canada (GPC) to implement proportional representation and stop the vote splitting among our parties that led to a Conservative majority government.

As Leader, I would empower Liberal riding associations to work with GPC and NDP associations to determine how best to defeat the Conservative candidate in their riding. Our priority would be the 57 ridings in which the Conservative candidates won due to vote splitting among progressives. In other words, our primary focus should be on those ridings where incumbent Conservative MPs took power with less than 50% of the vote.

Liberal riding associations, together with local NDP and Green riding associations, will work to put forward the strongest candidate — the one best able to take that seat from the Conservative. In Simcoe North, the Greens, the NDP and the Liberals have been holding monthly meetings to figure out the best way to cooperate and unseat the Conservative MP. Some ridings will choose to hold their nomination meetings first and then hold a run-off. Others may prefer to negotiate a joint nomination meeting between the GPC, NDP and LPC (or two out of the three). I will be a leader who listens to and works with the local riding associations -- this will not be run in a top-down fashion.

## **2. Electoral Reform**

*Do you support changing the voting system? If so, to what? If not, why?*

Yes. The undemocratic nature of our electoral system is undermining the representative nature and legitimacy of our government. In the last federal election, for example, Stephen Harper took power

with less than 40% of the popular vote — meaning the Conservatives were elected by less than one quarter of Canadians. Our electoral system allocated seats in the House of Commons in a manner that deviated from the percentages of votes cast for the parties [by 22.2%](#), effectively disenfranchising more than a fifth of those of us who voted. This number of wasted votes cannot be tolerated in a modern democracy.

We need a system that allocates seats based on a made-in-Canada form of proportional representation so that the Government can more fairly and accurately represent voters' desires. A fair, representative electoral system will also engage voters who have been tuning out of our politics in droves, reward those parties who build consensus among Canadians, elect MPs who will do more than stand up to vote "yes" or "no." Electoral reform will encourage a more respectful, constructive conversation in Parliament, and deliver sound, evidence-based policies that will better position Canada to tackle the major challenges facing the country.

*If yes, will you actively campaign on the issue of electoral reform before the 2015 election, and are you willing to cooperate with other parties once in government to make it happen?*

Yes. I am now actively campaigning for electoral reform and I am the only candidate in the Liberal leadership race to say very clearly that I am willing to cooperate with other parties to both defeat the Conservatives and then make electoral reform, with a focus on proportional representation, happen early in the mandate of the new government.

### **3. Climate Change**

*What are your positions on:*

*(a) Continuing expansion of the oil sands?*

We must transition to a clean energy economy, shift to alternative sources of energy and diversify our nation's economy to lessen our dependence on the oil sands for our prosperity. I have a very detailed [Environmental Sustainability policy](#) on how this can be achieved that includes setting comprehensive national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and creating a carbon pricing regime. This policy is a key component in the overarching theme of my whole campaign: it's all about building a Sustainable Society in Canada.

One of the reasons David Suzuki endorsed my campaign is that I am the greenest candidate in the Liberal leadership race.

*(b) Reducing CO2 emissions below 1990 levels, as previously agreed under the Kyoto Protocol?*

I am in favour of achieving this target and I have committed in my environmental policy to re-engage Canada in constructive negotiations toward a post-Kyoto international agreement that will limit average temperature increases to a science-based maximum average warming of 2 degrees centigrade. I have further committed to appointing a Canada-USA climate envoy to explore joint efforts and increase continental cost-effectiveness of climate action.

I have a long track record of placing the principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship at the core of my policies and my work, and did so while Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection

(Environment and Parks) in British Columbia. For example, a key accomplishment was spearheading partnerships and negotiations that resulted in the \$70 million purchase and protection of Burns Bog, now a 5000-acre World RAMSAR site in the center of Metro Vancouver. My work with both business and environmental advocates as a minister earned me a Sierra Club of Canada Eco-Olympic Medal in 2005.

During this Liberal leadership campaign I have also released a comprehensive policy on [Stewardship of Biodiversity and Protected Areas](#). This policy fits into the overarching policy framework for my leadership campaign: it's all about building a Sustainable Canada.

*(c) Federal subsidies for fossil fuel companies?*

I do not support the federal government granting subsidies to fossil fuel companies. Indeed, as part of my environmental sustainability policy, I have committed to meeting Canada's international obligation to eliminate current subsidies for carbon resource exploration and development. These funds should be redirected to support the development of new and green energy resources.

#### **4. Inequality**

*What is your plan to close the growing income inequality gap and what steps will you take to reduce poverty in Canada?*

Growing income inequality is a challenge facing many countries in the global economy and the trend in Canada has increased dramatically in the past few decades. The federal government must set specific goals to reduce income inequality and implement policies to achieve those goals.

Government can do a great number of things to reduce income inequality. The size of the problem and its entrenched nature require a broad range of solutions. For example, here are just some of the things I would do: work with other levels of government to reduce child poverty and overall poverty; develop a National child care and early childhood development strategy in cooperation with the provinces to prepare children to succeed at school and enable the participation of parents in the labour force and in continuing education; preserve and enhance pension benefits for Canadians, including [creating a voluntary Supplementary Canada Pension Plan](#) to help the many Canadians without a private sector pension, including at-home parents, to save more through our trusted national pension and create a more secure retirement; rescind the Conservatives' planned delay in OAS eligibility which hits single low-income women the hardest; review programs to improve women's access to the labour market; ensure increased support for home care, often provided by women, for family members who are sick, disabled, or frail elderly; enforce employment rights such as maternity and parental leave and pay equity in the federal sphere; enhance the availability of affordable housing; and [ensure that access to high speed \(fibre optic\) internet is available to all Canadians](#), including ensuring no lower income household is left behind.