

Senior  
*Liberals*  
Commission



Commission  
des aînés  
*libéraux*



## 2005 Biennial Convention

*Liberal Party of Canada*

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# SENIOR LIBERALS COMMISSION

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2005  
OTTAWA CONGRESS CENTRE

***Liberal***



I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to you on the occasion of the Liberal Party of Canada's 2005 Biennial Policy Convention in Ottawa from March 3 to 6, 2005.

As Leader of the Liberal Party, I am tremendously proud to see so many Canadian seniors in attendance, and am grateful for the enthusiasm and expertise you will bring to this event. Indeed, I am proud to say that we have accomplished much of what we have set out to do, and our progress has been more than impressive. In fact, we have asserted our country's role on the international stage, increased transparency and accountability, signed a historic Health Accord with the provinces and presented a clear picture of the Canada we envision for the future.

Indeed, your presence and participation in this year's Convention will help develop a national perspective on the many concerns of interest to seniors in Canada so that our Party and Government can effectively respond to the particular needs of our country and its citizens. I look forward to joining you and discussing our objectives while renewing several ties of friendship with many members and organizers present.

Please accept my warmest regards and best wishes for a most productive and exciting Convention.

The Right Honourable Paul Martin, P.C., M.P.  
Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

O T T A W A  
2005



## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

### **Hello and Welcome!**

It is with great pleasure that we greet you at this first official Biennial Meeting of the Senior Liberals Commission.

The time has come for you all to be heard. We look forward to lively exchanges throughout the day!

Thank you!



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## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

### **Co-Presidents**

Yvette Sentenne

Henry Kancs

### **Provincial/Territorial SLC Presidents**

President, Prince Edward Island

Austin Bowman

President, New Brunswick

Eileen Malone

President, Nova Scotia

Ann Smith

President, Newfoundland/Labrador

Brendan Kelly

President, Quebec

Guy Bisson

President, Ontario

Henri Vandermeulen

President, Manitoba

Alice Cheatley

President, Alberta

Catherine Ryan

President, British Columbia

Jean Murphy

President, Yukon

Josephine Hopkins

President, Western Arctic

Albertine Roth

SLC Manager

Monique Trottier



## MANDATE

The members of the National Senior Liberals Commission shall:

- sustain the Liberal Party of Canada in its ideas and organisational structures and work for their re-adaptation when they no longer meet our needs or the needs of the country;
- work to adapt the political institutions of the country where federal provincial relations are in crisis and when representation is in question in the country;
- suggest ways to reform government programs when the elderly and disabled suffer and when the poor increase in proportion to the population.



## 2005 BIENNIAL MEETING

MARCH 3, 2005

9:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

OTTAWA CONGRESS CENTRE, CAPITAL HALL B

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adoption of Meeting Rules</li><li>• Introductions &amp; Welcoming Remarks</li><li>• Adoption of Agenda</li></ul> |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | SLC By-law Amendments  |
| <b>10:30 a.m.</b> | Review of LPC Constitution   |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Refreshment Break  |
| <b>11:15 a.m.</b> | Keynote Speaker - Hon. Tony Ianno  |
| <b>11:45 a.m.</b> | Lunch  |
| <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | Remarks by the Right Hon. Paul Martin  |
| <b>2:00 p.m.</b>  | Guest Speaker - Senator Willie Adams   |
| <b>2:30 p.m.</b>  | Review of Election Procedures  |
| <b>3:00 p.m.</b>  | Refreshment Break  |
| <b>3:30 p.m.</b>  | Review of Resolutions  |
| <b>4:00 p.m.</b>  | Adjournment  |



## RULES OF THE BIENNIAL MEETING

The rules of procedure to govern the Senior Liberals Commission Biennial Meeting shall be as follows:

### **A. General Rules for the Proceedings**

1. The official languages of Canada, English and French, shall be the official languages of the Senior Liberals Commission (SLC) Biennial Meeting. Announcements from the Chair may be made in either language and to the greatest extent possible, shall be simultaneously translated; verbal and published proceedings and official releases shall be in both languages.
2. The Co-presidents of the SLC shall preside at the SLC Biennial Meeting, delegate their authority, interpret and enforce all rules, decide questions of order and any other matters, subject to an appeal to the Meeting without debate.
3. The elections and voting of the Co-presidents of the SLC shall be conducted under the supervision of the Convention Organizing Committee at the Biennial Meeting. Voting will take place on Saturday, March 5, 2005. The elections and voting of all regional representatives will be held in accordance with the SLC bylaws.
4. Except as otherwise provided, whenever a vote of the Biennial Meeting of the SLC is required, the Chair shall put the question to the SLC Biennial Meeting by asking for a show of voting cards. The Chair shall declare the result.
5. An appeal from the declared result may be taken if such appeal is supported by 25 delegates rising in their places.
6. Appeals shall be decided by a standing vote under the supervision of the Chair.
7. The quorum for the Biennial Meeting of the SLC shall be at least 25 senior delegates.
8. All reports shall be provided in writing prior to the SLC Biennial Meeting.
9. Interventions during the open mike discussion shall be no more than two minutes per speaker. Supplementary questions shall be at the discretion of the Chair.
10. Only senior delegates may vote or move resolutions or amendments. The Chair shall ask if such resolutions shall automatically be put to a vote without debate. Unless 25 senior delegates rise to indicate in interest in debate on the resolution, it shall be put to a vote and there will be no debate on it.
11. The Chair will recognize speakers debating a resolution or amendment alternatively from “in favour” and “not in favour” microphones. Subject to the discretion of the chair, one speaker “in favour” and one speaker “not in favour” and delegates, will be recognized for up to one minute each. Only senior delegates will be recognized as speakers.
12. The rules and agenda, once adopted by the Meeting, shall not be amended.

### **B. Rules Governing Amendments to the SLC Bylaws**

13. Subject to Article 8 of the SLC bylaws, the bylaws may be amended at the SLC Biennial Meeting by two-thirds majority, provided notice of the amendment was presented in writing to the Co-presidents at least one month prior to the Meeting. Failing notice, the bylaws may be amended by a unanimous vote.



14. Proposed SLC amendments in the plenary session on the SLC bylaws will be put to and dealt with in the order in which they are printed in the Meeting documents, and such amendments shall not be further amended.
15. Each amendment will be referred to by the Chair and deemed properly moved and seconded. The Chair shall allocate at its discretion a time period and instructions regarding debate for the disposition of any amendment.



## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SLC BYLAWS FOR THE 2005 BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Whereas the SLC National Executive has reviewed the by-laws and recommends amendments as listed below.

Be it Resolved that the SLC By-laws be amended as follows:

- Article 3.1 (d) - Amend three (3) regional directors to four (4) regional directors
- Article 3.1 (d)(ii) - Amend Central region to Ontario region
- Article 3.1 (d)(iii) - Amend to Québec region
- Article 3.1 (d)(iii) - Change actual iii) to iv)
- Article 3.2 (b) - Amend three (3) regional directors to four (4) regional directors
- Article 7.2(a) - Amend age 65 to age 60



BYLAWS OF THE SENIOR LIBERALS COMMISSION  
OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

November 2004

*“The nation must be something greater than the sum of its parts. If it is not so, it ceases to exist, it has lost the will to continue. By this elusive yet valid test, the Canadian people have created and are creating a nation”.*

- George W. Brown



Rooted in the evolving tradition of Canadian Liberalism, we, the members of the National Senior Liberals Commission, declare that:

- in every aspect of human relations, there are new horizons to be discovered , new forces to be harnessed and abuses to be abolished;
- there are limitless aspirations for individuals to fulfil, based on honesty, responsibility, integrity, dignity, worth common sense and human well being;
- the purpose of government is to legislate for the liberation and development of the human personality and the removal of obstacles that stand in the way of individual and collective progress;
- an approach to government through moderation, tolerance and the rejection of extreme measures is the cornerstone of Canadian Liberalism;
- we encourage social security but reject socialism, we encourage free enterprise but reject anarchy, monopoly and global dominance, we encourage humanitarianism but reject paternalism;
- we insist on equality of opportunity but reject any imposed equality that would discourage and destroy a person's initiative and enterprise.

Furthermore, we believe RESPONSIBILITY to be the prerequisite condition of FREEDOM.

We commit, in this world of global evolution:

- to protect and nurture public space in which individuals, institutions, political parties and governments can continue to operate for the benefit of all citizens in the nation, Canada:
- to encourage the knowledge of who we, as Canadians, are and what we have achieved as a federal nation.

The members of the National Senior Liberals Commission shall:

- sustain the Liberal Party of Canada in its ideas and organisational structures and work for their re-adaptation when they no longer meet our needs or the needs of the country:
- work to adapt the political institutions of the country where federal provincial relations are in crisis and when representation is in question in the country;
- suggest ways to reform government programs when the elderly and disabled suffer and when the poor increase in proportion to the population.



## **1. The Role and Purpose of the Senior Liberals Commission**

- 1.1 These are the by-laws of the National Senior Liberals Commission (NSLC) of the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC). The by-laws shall be the operating rules of the National Senior Liberals Commission. Where a difference in interpretation exists between these by-laws and the LPC Constitution, the latter will prevail.
- 1.2 The name of this organization shall be the National Senior Liberals Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC-NSLC).
- 1.3 For the purpose of these by-laws, the following names and acronyms have the following meaning:
- (a) “Commission” means the National Senior Liberals Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada;
  - (b) “Region/regional” means provincial, territorial regions of the NSLC, East, Central, and West, as per Article 3.1(d) of these by-laws;
  - (c) “Club” means a local duly constituted group of the NSLC as per Article 7 of these by-laws.
- 1.4 The Commission shall:
- (a) Encourage local clubs to participate actively in the political process at all levels of the LPC;
  - (b) Assist in the promotion and encourage the establishment of local clubs;
  - (c) Develop, determine, promote, update and communicate LPC policies;
  - (d) Provide assistance and leadership to regions and local clubs.

## **2. Membership**

- 2.1 The NSLC is open to all seniors who have reached 65 years of age and who are members in good standing of a federal liberal constituency association. (Provincial and Territorial clubs may consider lowering the age to 60 for membership but official recognition will be obtained at the national level only under the conditions set out in Art.7 of these by-laws).

## **3. National Executive**

- 3.1 The NSLC shall, according to Art.1(f) of the LPC constitution, respect the principle of equal participation between men and women and the recognition of English and French as official languages of Canada in the structure and operations of the NSLC.

The National Executive shall consist of:

- (a) Two co-chairs, one of whom shall be English-speaking and one of whom shall be French-speaking, one male and one female;
- (b) The immediate past co-chairs;
- (c) One representative appointed by each Provincial and Territorial Association;



- (d) Three (3) Regional Directors, regionally elected in accordance with Art. 16(11)(a)(b)(c) of the LPC constitution, for the following areas:
  - i) The Western region encompasses Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Western Arctic and the Yukon;
  - ii) The Central region;
  - iii) The Eastern region, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland-Labrador and Nunavut.
- (e) A policy chair;
- (f) Such members (non-voting) as may be appointed thereto by the NSLC Executive;
- (g) In the event that a region does not have an active Regional Director, the NSLC Executive, in consultation with the Provincial and Territorial Associations in the region concerned, may designate a SNLC director from that region;
- (h) The LPC Commissions' Manager (non-voting).

## **TABLE OFFICERS**

- 3.2 The Table officers are the administrative body that directs the business and administration of the NSLC. It consists of:
  - (a) The two co-chairs;
  - (b) The three (3) Region Directors;
  - (c) The policy chair;
  - (d) The LPC Commissions' Manager (non-voting).
- 3.3 Vacancies
  - (a) In the event the co-chair position becomes vacant, a meeting of the NSLC Executive will be called to elect an interim replacement from its members;
  - (b) In the event a Regional Director position becomes vacant, the NSLC Provincial and Territorial presidents of the regions concerned shall appoint a replacement from the region to complete the term of the position vacated;
  - (c) Any Executive position vacancy shall be filled within two months of the date of that vacancy.
- 3.4 An Executive or Table officer who is absent from two (2) consecutive meetings of the LPC National Executive or of the NSLC Executive and who has not sent an alternate, will resign provided that due consideration be given to mitigating circumstances.
- 3.5 Executive positions shall not be held for more than two (2) consecutive terms; an elected term shall be the time between Biennial Conventions;
- 3.6 Within two (2) months of a Biennial Meeting of the NSLC, the Executive will appoint a bilingual policy chair and such other chairs as required.



#### **4. Responsibilities of the Executive Officers**

4.1 The co-chairs, or their designate, where required, shall:

- (a) preside all meetings of the Executive of the NSLC;
- (b) preside all biennial meetings;
- (c) be the official representatives of the NSLC to the LPC National Executive;
- (d) have overall responsibility for the activities of the NSLC;
- (e) in consultation with the Executive, name persons to represent the NSLC on any committee of the LPC.

4.2 The Regional Directors shall:

- (a) promote communication among Liberal seniors in their region;
- (b) develop and co-ordinate activities and programmes for and by seniors in the region;
- (c) promote an awareness of political issues, LPC principles and policies among seniors;
- (d) represent the interest of Senior Liberals on the LPC Executive;
- (e) approve official Club status requests to the LPC in their respective regions; and
- (f) sit as ex-officio on the Executive Committee of the region where one exists and receive notification and minutes of all meetings of their region's Clubs.

4.3 The Provincial/Territorial Presidents shall:

- (a) promote communication among Senior Liberals in their province/territory;
- (b) encourage the participation of seniors at all levels of the LPC;
- (c) develop and coordinate the activities and programmes of the NSLC in their province/territory including the formation of and communication with Senior Liberals Clubs;
- (d) promote the awareness of political issues, Liberal principles and policies among Canadian seniors; and
- (e) represent Senior Liberals of their province/territory on the National Executive of the NSLC.

4.4 Committee Chairs

(a) The NSLC Policy Committee Chair shall:

- (i) develop policy on behalf of the NSLC, in co-operation with the regions and local Clubs;
- (ii) provide follow-up on policy and resolutions passed at the NSLC biennial meeting and Executive meetings;
- (iii) represent the NSLC on the LPC Standing Committee on Policy Development (SCOPD).

(b) The NSLC Communications Committee Chair shall:

- (i) assist in all the publications of the NSLC;
- (ii) establish communication links with NSLC member organisations;
- (iii) represent the SNLC on the LPC standing committee on Communications.

(c) The NSLC Organisation Chair shall:



- (i) organize support to provincial and territorial Senior Liberals Commissions and Clubs;
- (ii) organize materials for conventions, meetings and elections;
- (iii) help to develop strategies for the recruitment of members, the involvement and participation of the NSLC within the LPC;
- (iv) represent the NSLC on the LPC Standing Committee on Organization.

## **5. Meetings of the NSLC Executive**

- 5.1 The NSLC Executive will meet at the call of the co-chairs, or at the call of a majority of the Executive membership. The Executive shall meet in person at every meeting of the LPC Convention but in any event, at least once a year. The meetings of the NSLC Executive will be chaired by the co-chairs, or in their absence by such other NSLC Executive member chosen by the members present. Reports of these meetings shall be distributed to all Executive members.
- 5.2 The NSLC Table Officers shall meet upon the call of the co-chairs, or a majority of the voting members. The Table Officers shall meet before every meeting of the LPC Executive, but in any event, at least twice a year.
- 5.3 The NSLC Executive and the Table Officers cannot hold a formal meeting without a majority of voting members.

## **6. The NSLC Members Biennial Meeting**

- 6.1 A biennial meeting of all senior delegates will be held at every LPC Convention.
- 6.2 All co-chairs of the NSLC shall be ex-officio delegates to the NSLC biennial meetings.
- 6.3 Candidates for the NSLC Executive positions must be in attendance or delegate representation to a delegate in attendance, and be recognized as a delegate.
- 6.4 Only senior delegates and alternates present at the LPC Convention are eligible to vote for the co-chairs of the NSLC.
- 6.5 Voting for Regional Directors will be limited to senior delegates of the respective regions they represent.

## **7. Clubs**

- 7.1 A Club is formed when a group of at least 10 senior liberals hold a founding meeting, elect an interim executive and adopt a temporary set of constitution/bylaws.
- 7.2 In order to be recognized as a Club by the NSLC at the national level, a Club shall:



- (a) have at least 25 members who have reached age 65;
- (b) hold an annual meeting for the purpose of electing an executive;
- (d) upon founding, the Club will forward its original constitution/bylaws and any amendments that it might make from time to time, to the Provincial and Regional NSLC representatives and the LPC Commissions' Manager;
- (e) provide minutes of its Annual General Meeting, a list of the Club's executive and all members, together with any affiliation fee that from time to time might be established by the Provincial and Territorial NSLC executive, to the Provincial and Regional Commission Directors and to the LPC Commissions' Manager;
- (f) be recognized by its NSLC Regional Director and by the NSLC.

## **8. Amendments to the Bylaws**

- 8.1 The by-laws of the NSLC may be amended at the NSLC Convention Meeting, by a simple majority of the seniors present at the NSLC Convention Meeting, provided written notice of the proposed amendment(s) is given to the co-chairs at least one month before the Convention. Failing prior notice, the by-laws may be amended by a unanimous vote of those present.

## **9. Differences in Interpretation**

- 9.1 In instances where there is a difference between the by-laws of the NSLC and the Constitution of the LPC, the Constitution of the LPC shall have precedence.

## **10. Official Languages**

- 10.1 All national documents of the NSLC shall be produced in English and French and both languages shall be considered equally binding and authentic. Translation services shall be provided at all NSLC meetings at LPC Conventions.
- 10.2 All NSLC Convention meetings shall be presided over in English and French.



## CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Yvette Sentenne**

It was two years ago at the 2003 Biennial Convention held in Toronto that the Senior Liberals Commission was officially recognized by the Party and we have not looked back since.

Our regional presidents have been very active in recruiting additional members and in studying new resolutions to be presented at this Biennial.

The Government's announcement that a revised format of the New Horizons program had been included in the 2004-2005 Budget was warmly received and requests for funding are being evaluated.

In November 2004, the Commission held its first ever Annual Meeting where five priority resolutions were chosen among those that we had received. As certain issues had raised a lot of interest across the country, the text for a number of them was quite similar and this prompted the Party's Standing Committee on Policy Development to blend like resolutions into one. Where one or more of the resolutions we sent in have been amalgamated, the fact is noted wherever necessary in the document included in your kit.

In addition, you will be called upon to study our own Constitution and proposed amendments brought forward at the 2003 Biennial Convention.

I would like to thank Mr. Henry Kancs who had to retire from his co-chair position. As this will be our final report as Co-chairs of the Commission, please allow us to express our deep appreciation of your help and trust through the years.

We have come a long way together... thank you!



## **PRESIDENT, SLC - PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

**Austin Bowman**

The Senior Liberals' club of Hillsboro (now Charlottetown) was formally established in early 2002. Since that time, the club has been largely concerned with policy issues. One of its first activities was the preparation of a submission to the Romanow Commission. We have also prepared resolutions and position papers for the Senior Liberals' Commission, for the provincial Policy Committee and for the Hillsboro Policy Committee, dealing mainly with issues of relevance to seniors such as Health Care, Housing, Home Care, Pharmacare and Taxation. In late 2003, the club made presentations to the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Seniors dealing with such issues as Health Care and Workforce Issues. The club also sponsored a workshop on Housing. In early 2004, we presented comments on several issues in the Speech from the Throne. We also participated in a workshop on platform issues and addressed the issues of Health Care and Adult Education. Liberals in Prince Edward Island have conducted a series of policy forums which provided input to a Policy Convention in Charlottetown in November 2004 which provided, in turn, input to the Biennial Policy Convention in March of 2005. Liberal Seniors played an active role in this exercise.

In a little more than a year, in Prince Edward Island, we have had a provincial leadership campaign, a provincial election, a federal leadership campaign and a federal election. Liberal Seniors have played an intensely active role in all of these events. We have been represented on election readiness committees, campaign committees, provincial and riding executives and policy committees.

In addition to the urgency of the policy initiative noted above, one of the priorities of Senior Liberals' is to formally organize a Senior Liberals' Commission for Prince Edward Island. It is proposed that our founding meeting will be held concurrently with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the provincial Liberal Party in early 2005.



## **PRESIDENT, SLC - QUEBEC**

**Guy Bisson**

The Commission in Quebec started a few years ago and the early years were difficult. The first years, it was obvious that not everyone was pleased with the creation of another Commission and this explains why it was so hard to obtain full status. As a result of hard work by the executives at the time, ten clubs were created, located in the Montreal area. Four more clubs are now in the process of being created in the Outaouais region.

Unfortunately, there were no records of the clubs in the Montreal office or at the LPC. We were fortunate to have Brodie Bazinet in Ottawa who was of great help in trying to correct this situation. When I became president almost two years ago, with the cooperation of other club presidents, we prepared a new structure for the province.

This new structure divides the Province into 12 areas, including four to ten ridings depending on their remoteness. Each area is looked after by a vice-president who has as a first mandate to create new clubs, work toward the establishment of a Policy Committee for his own area, which in turn will work closely with the SLC Policy Committee.

Each of our SLC club has to work within the rules and bylaws of his Riding Association. What has been done so far is to work with the Association Presidents to create clubs in their ridings. In the urban sector, we have one club by riding while for rural ridings, we have more than one. As an easy example, for the riding of Abitibi-Temiscamingue, there is 540 kilometres from south to north boundaries, which makes it impossible to have only one club. Considering the most important cities and villages, we may go to three clubs in particular cases. This example also applies to the ridings of Baie-James-Eyoou, Pontiac, Berthier-Montcalm, Bonaventure-Gaspé-Les Iles, Lac St-Jean-Saguenay, and many others.

For financing purposes, some of the clubs held brunches, maple syrup lunches or corn-husking parties. We are still waiting for a permanent ruling on Bill C-24. According to this new Bill, it is clear that all fundraising events have to be held under the jurisdiction of the Riding Association, which is registered at the Election Director General Office, and is locally supervised by his financial officer who is the only person allowed to request the issue of income tax receipts. What is not clear is the section concerning social events that are normally done for a maximum cost of \$25.00 and do not need a receipt. We are eagerly waiting for this interpretation by the legal advisors.

Currently, we are holding our regular meetings every eight weeks or so. This may vary if it coincides with provincial or national activities. These are held in Montreal for geographical reasons but eventually we will go to the other regions.



We are actually working closely with the Youth Commission to help them with their recruiting blitz in colleges and universities.

In our 2005 Action Plan, we will send a letter to all the Association presidents asking for their support in founding seniors' clubs. The vice-presidents responsible of these areas will be in touch with the president to help him with the work. We will also be instrumental in participating with the Associations in their membership blitz and fundraising events.

Recently, we had clubs participating in the Consultation forums focussing on three themes: 1- Economy and Environment; 2- Health and Social Affairs; 3- Canada and the world. A Minister chaired each forum and they were quite successful.

In 2005, we will also be working in adapting our By-laws with the National, promoting the role of seniors in their clubs and Associations and putting a lot of emphasis on the development of local policy committees.



## **PRESIDENT, SLC - MANITOBA**

**Alice Cheatley**

Manitoba's Senior Commission has moved very slowly in the past year as the Chair has been ill and in hospital for several months. However, we have had three meetings and some progress can be noted.

At present, any action has taken place in Winnipeg. Three meetings have been held (none of them well attended) and we have elected a strong executive committee which will get into action when winter is over and seniors have returned from warmer climates.

The Seniors' Commission had a spot on the agenda for both the 2003 and 2004 Annual General Meetings (AGM) - one in Brandon and one in Gimli. I had hoped there would be enough seniors present to begin forming clubs but these were both winter meetings and senior attendance was sparse, so little progress was made.

As the Manitoba Seniors' Commission has had no funding, we were happy to join the Manitoba Women's Commission in a fundraising breakfast in late October and we now have a little money in the bank (about \$250.00). We will begin to charge a small membership fee when we can get enough interested seniors to form a club.

At our meetings, we have looked at issues of concern for seniors which might become topics for resolutions for the National Policy Convention to be held in Ottawa in March 2005. Many of these are the usual concerns of seniors: poverty, supplementary pensions, prescription drugs, welfare, home care, mental and physical abuse, etc. but there were also concerns expressed regarding agriculture, plant and animal genetics, poverty (especially children), education, etc. and Manitoba seniors are also concerned about International Affairs and this will be a focus in 2005.

We believe that thinking and care seniors can still have an influence and can give the Liberal Government of Canada some positive direction.



## **PRESIDENT, SLC - ALBERTA**

**Catherine Ryan**

With the encouraging support of the Liberal Party of Canada (Alberta) (LPCA), a Seniors' Commission was established in Alberta in 2002, and clubs were formed in the Calgary and Edmonton regions. Members felt they could best serve seniors and the Party in the area of policy development. The Clubs provided a forum for the exchange of ideas, and for the development and promotion of policies that reflect Liberal values and ensure a more equitable society for the elderly, our children and grandchildren. To this end, yearly policy conferences have been held in Calgary and Edmonton.

This has been an exciting year. Seniors in Alberta have been involved in electing candidates to all three levels of government.

As well, the Calgary and Edmonton regions Senior Liberals' clubs held Policy Conferences in Calgary and in Edmonton in late October. The intent of the Conferences was to rekindle Liberal values and Liberal allegiance.

Resolutions were crafted in the following areas: Health Care; Rural issues; Governance; Income Tax and Communication.

Guest speakers Rick Bonnet in Edmonton and Ted Haney in Calgary gave presentations on the crisis facing the cow calf farming community and the beef industry. Of significance is that 68% of cow calf operators are 55 years of age or older.

The above resolutions were considered at the LPCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Calgary in January. The seniors' resolution on Health Care was selected as one of five to go forward to the Ottawa Biennial Convention in March 2005.

This Commission remains committed to electing more Liberals in Alberta. To this end, it is essential that clubs be formed in rural areas. This will ensure that seniors' voices are heard from every rural community, and seniors' issues are addressed.

From a global perspective, we must remain vigilant in our advocacy for seniors, for their children and grandchildren.

There is much work to be done, but seniors are up to the challenge.



## **PRESIDENT, SLC - BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Jean Murphy**

The Senior Liberals' Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada (British Columbia) (LPCBC) held its founding meeting at the LPCBC Biennial Convention in Penticton, November 12 to 14, 2004. An executive was elected.

There have been three seniors' clubs active in the Lower Mainland area of Vancouver for several years; Vancouver West, North Shore and Richmond. Each club has from 20 to 30 members, meeting four to six times a year. The business meeting is usually followed by speakers from the community with expertise on issues concerning the senior segment of the population, an increasing demographic, but also on areas of concern to all ages and circumstances. Most of the members have been involved in politics at municipal, provincial and federal levels.

Now that the provincial commission has been established, we welcome interested seniors throughout the province to join for an exchange of information and the promotion of discussion or action by the commission.

There will be delegates at the Convention in Ottawa from the seniors clubs, the provincial commission, and as senior category delegates from the riding associations.

We are looking forward to working with seniors from across the country to make the Senior Liberals' Commission of the Liberal Party of Canada as active and involved as the longer established Commissions.



## **PRESIDENT, SLC - YUKON**

**Josephine Hopkins**

Yukon Seniors Commission is a small one club organization. With our small population of 30,000 and vast distances it is not realistic to expect more at this time. I may add that our other Commissions are in similar situations.

Nevertheless, our club in Whitehorse meets regularly and is an important part of the LPC in Yukon. Many seniors did stalwart work volunteering during the Federal Election.

In the spring or early summer, we are planning a reception to honor our Senator Ione Christensen and M.P. Larry Bagnell. We are asking each member of our club to bring another senior. Hopefully we can recruit some more senior liberals.