

# Kingston & the Islands NDP

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## Riding Association

The Newsletter of the Kingston & the Islands New Democrats **NDP**  **NDP** Dec 2008

### Kingston & the Islands to host provincial leadership candidates' debate

The four candidates for the leadership of the Ontario New Democrats will appear in Kingston on Saturday, December 13 on Queen's University campus. Gilles Bisson, Andrea Horwath, Michael Prue, and Peter Tabuns will debate the issues and take questions. This is a great sign of recognition for our Riding Association.

The debate will take place at 1:00 p.m. at the Bioscience Complex at 116 Barrie Street (between Barrie and Arch Streets, south of Union Street) on Queen's campus. All Party members are welcome to submit questions in writing prior to the debate; see contact information below.

Following the debate, there will be a meet-and-greet with the candidates

from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

The next leadership candidate debate will be early in 2009 in Ottawa, at a time and location to be announced.

For more information about this event, phone Jamie Masse at 613-547-6697 or email [jmasse@ndpkingston.org](mailto:jmasse@ndpkingston.org). For information about future debates, and the Ontario New Democrats generally, visit [www.ontariondp.com](http://www.ontariondp.com).

To learn more about the candidates, visit their websites:

- Gilles Bisson: [www.gillesbisson.com](http://www.gillesbisson.com)
- Andrea Horwath: [www.andreahorwath.com](http://www.andreahorwath.com)
- Michael Prue: [www.prueforleader.ca](http://www.prueforleader.ca)
- Peter Tabuns: [www.tabuns09.ca](http://www.tabuns09.ca)

### General Meeting in January

The Riding Association will hold a General Meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2009 in the Wilson Room of the downtown public library (130 Johnson Street).

We will discuss the provincial Convention in March 2009, and vote on who we will send as our Delegates. Our Riding may send up to thirteen Delegates, plus additional Delegates representing specific interests. Any Party member can be a Delegate.

We will also discuss any Policy Resolutions, and vote on which ones to send to the Convention. Any Party member can suggest a Resolution.

For more information, phone Jamie Masse at 613-547-6697 or email him at [jmasse@ndpkingston.org](mailto:jmasse@ndpkingston.org).

### Changes to the Riding Association Executive

In October, Renée Stephen resigned as President of the Riding Association. The Riding Association Executive wishes her well in the future. She remains a Party member and supporter.

We are pleased to introduce the new lineup of the Executive. To contact the Executive, phone 613-549-2444 or email [information@ndpkingston.org](mailto:information@ndpkingston.org).

- **President** Dan Beals
- **Vice-President** Allison Boone
- **Secretary** Damian T. Lloyd
- **Membership Co-ordinator** Jamie Masse
- **Membership Administrator** Matthew Hodgetts
- **Financial Agent** Gary Wilson
- **Provincial CFO** Ted Worth
- **Trustee** Richard Priestman

### "Eastern Council" to offer training and discussion

From April 18 to 20, 2009 Kingston & the Islands will stage a training and networking opportunity. Eastern Council is eastern Ontario's first annual conference for New Democrats to learn how to build a stronger, more visible caucus in our portion of the province.

Some of the plans for this April include:

- Training workshops with the Party's
- **Labour Representative** Jim Neill
- **Women's Representative** Ya Wen Zhang
- **Provincial Council Delegate** Pauline Kuhlmann
- **Member at Large** Cameron Holmstrom
- **Member at Large** Helga Mankovitz

most effective organizers in areas such as fundraising, membership and Riding infrastructure, activist organization, and election readiness

- Panel discussions on developing Party structure in Eastern Ontario, as well as the impact of mass job losses in the east
- Co-ordinating policy-proposal processes for eastern Ontario, to stand united at the August's federal Convention in Halifax

For more information, phone 613-549-2444, email [eastern09@ndpkings-ton.org](mailto:eastern09@ndpkings-ton.org), or visit [www.ndpkingston.org](http://www.ndpkingston.org). To volunteer help in organizing the event, phone Jamie Masse at 613-547-6697 or email [jmasse@ndpkingston.org](mailto:jmasse@ndpkingston.org).



## Government should borrow from Bank of Canada to invest in infrastructure

By Richard Priestman

The \$75 billion bank bail-out has been justified by Minister of Finance James Flaherty as necessary to ease the credit crunch facing Canadian banks, and to make consumer and mortgage loans cheaper and more available. But it does nothing to help those who have lost their jobs or whose jobs are in jeopardy of disappearing. Even those with “secure” jobs are thinking twice before going further into debt.

Instead of buying \$75 billion of bank-held mortgages, it would have been a far better use of the \$75 billion to invest it in upgrading the nation’s infrastructure, including such things as roads, bridges, sewers, water treatment, health services, education, housing, and environmental restoration.

Invested in this way, it would result immediately in good-paying jobs for thousands of workers, from construction workers to engineers, accountants, managers, office personnel, nurses, doctors, lawyers, teachers, scientists,

and others. The wages received by these people would quickly find their way into the banking system, easing the credit crunch by providing the money base which banks need to make loans. As Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of Canada, said: the solution to the credit crisis is to get more capital into the banks. The money would also end up in the local grocery store, car dealer, theatre, clothing store, etc. – further stimulating the economy.

Municipalities are facing a \$130 billion infrastructure deficit. The government’s current plan for upgrading infrastructure consists of \$33 billion spread over seven years, or less than \$5 billion per year – and \$2 billion of that would be absorbed by the annual increase in the deficit. Compare that to the banks’ \$75 billion, which could go a long way to erasing that deficit, especially when coupled with provincial and municipal funds.

And where did the \$75 billion come from? Was it borrowed, and if so from whom?

Without information to the contrary (information which I have requested), I have to assume that it was borrowed from the market – part or possibly all from the banks themselves. If even part of the money was borrowed from the banks, then the banks would be making money on the interest received by first creating the money (which they do with the stroke of a computer key) and then lending that newly-created money to the government so it can buy the mortgages from them.

The billions of dollars in interest which would subsequently be paid to the banks every year is the real bail-out, and it goes on without end. It could have been borrowed from the Bank of Canada at zero interest cost, but the government has maintained for years that to do that would cause inflation.

So the taxpayer is on the hook forever – unless a government is elected which reforms the system. So far, none of the current crop of parties holding seats in Parliament have shown any interest in reforming our financial system.

Faced with high unemployment, unions should be pressing for reform of our financial system. This would be good for their members and for the community as a whole. Their strength is needed to press government to invest the \$75 billion (or what is left of it, plus more as required) in infrastructure renewal, and to borrow the necessary funds from the Bank of Canada – not the chartered banks – to do it.

The Bank of Canada can create money as easily as the chartered banks can, and it won’t be inflationary as long as it is invested in assets of equal value such as the infrastructure. In contrast, money borrowed from chartered banks is inflationary because it carries an interest charge which is added to the cost of everything.

## Renewal committee seeks “New Frills” downtown

On Saturday, November 28, a group of like-minded individuals banded together to discuss the recent closure of the Bagot Street “No Frills” grocery store.

King’s Town District City Councillor and former federal New Democrat candidate Rob Hutchison and members from the community are working on a public information campaign about what the No Frills site should become. Currently there is great concern about the ability for people to obtain food at affordable prices in this downtown community.

There are many worries in the community that this store, which has provided affordable prices for low-

income-earners and seniors in the area for the past 60 years, will be leaving a food desert in the area.

Many people believe that the city can turn this site into a useful centre for people to use – perhaps a co-op of sorts, or a child-care facility (considering the limited child-care spaces in Kingston), are just a couple of the ideas that have been discussed.

On Saturday, January 10, 2009 there will be a town-hall meeting to discuss the future of the No Frills site. The meeting will be held at the Artillery Park Aquatic Centre at 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room C. Come join the community in developing a revitalized downtown.