

# NDP NPD

## Pickering-Scarborough East

[pickering.scarboroughndp.org](http://pickering.scarboroughndp.org)

May 2007

# More to news than the headlines!

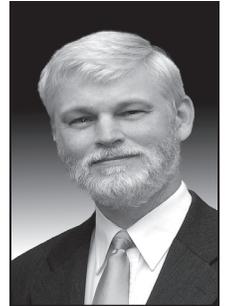
Being in the NDP, we're used to not getting good press coverage. Take for example the reporting of the Afghanistan votes. We saw extensive coverage that the NDP voted against a Liberal motion to not extend the current mission. What was not reported was that it conflicted with a motion we presented calling for an immediate withdrawal. No mention of course that the Liberals voted with Harper to defeat our motion.

Nor has there been significant reporting of the Afghanistan government's call for a ceasefire, withdrawal of foreign troops and a negotiated peace with the Taliban. Even if we didn't have our own motion on the issue, we would have been obligated to

vote against any motion that endorsed the continued combat mission.

Provincially, we have reports of the NDP not being environmentalists for trying to amend the Liberal's Endangered Species Act. What the press didn't tell you is that the Act was drawn up without consultation with the First Nations people who will be dramatically impacted by certain provisions. It also contained loopholes that allow industrialisation of sensitive habitats. In the end, the NDP had to support the act without our amendments because on balance it was better than what was in place. However, it is still inadequate - a word that also describes the provincial Liberal government of the last few years.

**Gary Dale**  
President



### Where can we go to get the real story?

Visit [ndp.ca](http://ndp.ca) and [ontariondp.ca](http://ontariondp.ca). There are also e-mail discussion groups. A national one exists at [list.web.ca/lists/listinfo/mouseland-sourisiel](http://list.web.ca/lists/listinfo/mouseland-sourisiel) while an Ontario list is on [groups.google.com/group/ondp](http://groups.google.com/group/ondp). The Scarborough group is at [groups.google.com/group/scarboroughndp](http://groups.google.com/group/scarboroughndp) and a Pickering-Scarborough East group at [groups.google.com/group/pse-ndp](http://groups.google.com/group/pse-ndp). No need for your e-mail inbox to be suddenly flooded. If you prefer to view the messages online, just set your delivery options to "no e-mail".

### Two ways to pitch in ... why not do both?

**One:** Decide on a convenient monthly amount to be processed through your Visa or MasterCard. Your contribution will appear near the end of every month and next February, you'll receive your official tax receipt. **This is the best way to support your NDP candidate and the work of your riding association.**

**Two:** Make your one-time contribution by card or by cheque. Either way, indicate your choices by completing and mailing the coupon below to:

**PSE Fed NDP, c/o 392 Friendship Ave, TO ON M1C 2Y4**

Better yet, bring the form below when you join us at the AGM.

- Be sure to enter your name and address
- You must be a citizen or Canadian Resident to contribute.
- The Elections Act limits your total annual contribution to a nomination contestant, an election candidate, and a riding association to \$1,100.

## Annual General Meeting

of the  
**Pickering-Scarborough East**  
Federal NDP Riding Association

will be held  
**7:00 pm, Thursday, 7 June 2007**

at the  
**East Shore Community Centre**

(910 Liverpool Rd, south of Bayly, steps from the GO)

- Election of new officers
- Executive and Financial reports
- Light refreshments, Open to the public

**Need a lift?** Contact Gary at 416 616 9370 or [garyd@scarboroughndp.org](mailto:garyd@scarboroughndp.org)

## Pickering-Scarborough East Federal

*Yes!* I know that this is the time to act. Please process my monthly contribution to Pickering-Scarborough East Federal NDP.

and/or

I'd like to provide a one-time contribution of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- cheque enclosed  
 process my Visa/MC





\$10

\$20

\$40

other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

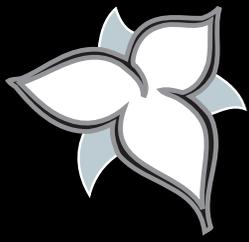
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# Pickering-Scarborough East provincial NDP

MAY 2007

## Seize the moment!

This October's provincial election will be like no other. As well as voting, you'll be asked to endorse or reject the first ever reform to our electoral system. The Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform has recommended a modest change that will go a long way towards bringing our system into the 20th century (a 21st century electoral system will have to wait for another time).

The reform calls for citizens to cast two votes. One for a local candidate, the other for a party. 30% of the seats in the new Legislature would be assigned to balancing the party representation to reflect that second vote. For example, if the NDP won 10% of the seats but got 25% of the party vote, they would get "topped up" from pool of extra seats to give them 25% of the total seats.

Under the proposed system, a party will need at least 3% to win a seat. There is no requirement for a party to field a local candidate. Even if a registered party cannot put up candidates in all ridings, they still get listed on the ballot.

The effects will be dramatic. People will no longer have to vote against a party. Everyone will be free to vote knowing that their votes translate directly into seats. Governments won't change from one majority to another simply because 5% of the voters switched their votes. Getting a majority will require that

more than 50% of the voters actually support you. Otherwise, parties will have to negotiate with one or more other parties to put forward a common agenda.

A similar system has served Germany well for more than 60 years. They have actually had fewer elections and greater continuity of policies than Ontario during the same period.

The forces against election reform are already working to defeat it. They are happy with a system that keeps the Liberals and Conservatives in power as voters choose between fear and loathing. Opponents of reform will be using the usual tactics of fear, uncertainty, and doubt.

Some will suggest that we should be choosing another system. This tactic worked in the U.S. to defeat Clinton's universal medicare initiative as people fought over which system to use and ended up with none. However, our choice is not for some mythical best system. We can only accept or reject the proposed system. If we reject it, it may be another century before electoral reform resurfaces.

This is a historic opportunity. Ontario cannot be called a democracy as long as people are afraid to vote for the party of their choice. We need to seize this moment and vote for a clearly superior system. Let's make this the last unfair election!

## the Annual General Meeting

of the Provincial  
Pickering-Scarborough East NDP Riding Association

will be held

7:00 pm, Thursday, 7 June, 2007

at the

East Shore Community Centre

(910 Liverpool Rd, south of Bayly, steps from the GO)

The agenda for meeting will include:

- constitutional amendments to conform with provincial restrictions on the executive,
- election of new officers

In addition, there will be the usual reports from the President, CFO, and membership secretary, plus reports from the provincial council.

## Pickering-Scarborough East Provincial NDP

*yes!*

I'd really like to help the Provincial Riding. I'm enclosing my cheque to help win Pickering Scarborough East for the NDP this October.

name \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail your  
contribution to:*

104 East Avenue  
Toronto ON M1C 3P8

If today is not convenient, please feel free to date your cheque for later this year. As long as its dated by 29 Dec, you'll qualify for a 2007 contribution.