

Green Party candidate fears voter apathy

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change and not just a shift in power between old-line parties.

That's why Mr. Grice has been familiarizing himself so thoroughly with the Green Party platform in order to convey its six key principles to voters — ecological wisdom, non-violence, social justice, participatory democracy, sustainability and diversity.

As lofty as these goals are, Mr. Grice's biggest fear is voter apathy — another reason he doesn't like the idea of a winter campaign. Inclement weather, after all, may play a part in not getting people out to debates and even to the polls. All Mr. Grice hopes is that people are willing to open their doors on cold days long enough to listen and be open-minded.

The Halton Green Party campaign office is located at 1197 Cobban Rd. Call (905) 876-9080.

While Halton NDP candidate Anwar Naqvi — political activist, poet and former prisoner of conscience — has already hit the campaign trail, he said people's thoughts right now seem to be on Christmas, not an election.

"But we are ready, and we're working very hard," he said.

Mr. Naqvi ran in Halton against Mr. Carr in the last federal election and he was also the NDP's Oakville riding candidate in the 2003 provincial election.

He said he feels the main issues in the coming election will be the same as last year. For Mr. Naqvi and the NDP party, health care tops the list of priorities.

"The NDP party is the only party truly committed to universal health care," he said.

Another issue of particular interest to Mr. Naqvi is the results of a recent report from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that said the income gap between high and low-income households has increased in Halton.

The document revealed that in 1991, there were five times as many higher-income families than lower-income, before taxes, with a ratio of four to one after taxes.

Ten years later, there were 7.5 times as many wealthy families, before taxes, and 5.3 after taxes. Mr. Naqvi told The Champion he'd like to find out why this is happening in Halton.

He said he'd also like to see more help for immigrants in their search for jobs.

Since it's going to be a winter election and inclement weather may prevent some people from making it out to campaign

offices, Mr. Naqvi said the NDP in Halton is trying to set up three offices throughout the riding — one each in Oakville, Milton and Burlington.

Mr. Naqvi can be reached at (905) 257-1737 or (416) 453-1955.

The Riding of Halton includes Milton, Georgetown, a portion of north Burlington and north Oakville from Upper Middle Road.

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