

Bonnie Brown to seek federal Liberal nomination

Calling Canada's Mulroney years a "story of constant disappointment," Bonnie Brown has decided to write a new chapter to the tale as a candidate for the Liberal nomination in the riding of Oakville-Milton. Ms Brown — who announced her

candidacy Monday at a press conference in her Oakville home — said the current government's "dreary, heavy-handed '50s-style of leadership" has no place in the '90s and must be replaced if the country is to survive.

"Like most Canadians I'm totally fed up, angry and annoyed at the present government," Ms Brown explained. "So to oust them is my main purpose."

Equality

To fill the void, Ms Brown pro-

poses to supplant the "top-down" Conservative bureaucracy with a consensus-building style which she has seen first-hand perform admirably at the municipal level. Instead of an "elite at the top" forcing their ideas on the people, Ms Brown's Liberal vision would allow for

equality and participation.

"This frees people to be the best they can be," said Ms Brown, clarifying that she is not a career politician but rather someone with valuable skills who can put them to use at a crucial time.

This input-style decision making at the local level may take longer, Ms Brown continued, but the results are far more equitable. "We have tried to build a community here to be proud of," said Bonnie Brown



Ms Brown, who has lived in the riding for 22 years. "It is something to teach the rest of Canada.

Ms Brown believes she would make a good instructor. A former Town of Oakville and Halton regional councillor and trustee and teacher with the Halton Separate School Board, she has served in a host of volunteer capacities with the United Way, Halton Children's Aid Society, Oakville Galleries and many others.

She is currently special assistant to MP Beth Phinney and a board member of Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital as well as chair of the Halton Cancer Study Steering Committee.

Negative government

Upbeat though Ms Brown may be, her reasons for running rest with the dark and unfulfilled legacy of the Mulroney government.

"They focused on the negatives (the national debt for example) and brought about negative results," stated Ms Brown. "We are now suffering social deficits and a deficit of hope in the future. That's why I want to get rid of them."

More specifically, Ms Brown decided to run because she believes the federal Conservatives are directly responsible for the disunity now facing the country which is manifesting itself as conflict between regions, between races and between labour and management.

"No matter what layer of society you look at people are pitted against each other," said Ms Brown.

Free trade

Another thorn in the candidate's side is Free Trade, which Ms Brown says has become "synonymous with the export of jobs and the unemployment rate." Finally, she said, she's fed up with the erosion of national pride and traditional institutions like VIA Rail and the CBC.

"If we don't stop them this time I wonder if we'll have a country. Those fears are based on reality," said Ms Brown. "There is a tremendous level of anger, frustration and sadness, especially among seniors who have survived the Depression and a war and now see their country being dismantled."

The job of the next federal government, said the candidate, will be to rebuild Canada and high on her priorities for the coming years is education.

"If we are to restore hope and rebuild the economy we have to focus on people. Without the best educated people and jobs, the system will collapse. Education is not an expenditure but an investment."

Ms Brown, who failed in a 1988 bid to unseat Otto Jelinek, will face the incumbent.



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