

Brown wins Liberal nomination on third ballot

3—The Canadian Champion, Saturday, April 10, 1993

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Mohan Anand and David Bazar — standing together across the stage, meeting chairman Jack Siegel declared Ms Brown the winner.

A loud cheer erupted from the audience as a smiling Ms Brown raised her arms in victory.

Mr. Siegel said 1,422 ballots were cast and 11 ballots were declared invalid after the first tally of ballots. He said Ms Brown emerged as the victor after the third tally.

The numbers represented a voter turnout of approximately 50 per cent. It was announced earlier in the evening that the association had topped 2,700 members.

The association employed a new balloting system — referred to as preferential balloting — to elect its new candidate. The system required voting members to select at least three candidates in order for their ballots to be counted on the final tally.

Ms Brown expressed confidence that the losing candidates, as well as their election teams, would rally around her to work toward a Liberal federal election victory in the riding.

"It's good form to maintain (the association's) tradition of backing the winner," said Ms. Brown.

Another key element which should help the Liberals take the riding is the retirement of long-time MP and Revenue Minister Otto Jelinek, Ms Brown said.

"A combination of the annoyance people feel for the Conservative party and their policies will give us an edge," Ms Brown said, "and the fact Otto stepped down will be an advantage. I think (voters) will be thinking in terms of policies."

Ms Brown took a moment to console the election teams of the losing candidates and to thank her own team for its hard work and deter-

mination. "I know what it's like to lose. But you never lose if the party is ever strengthened. We came in here in four streams and we're going to go out in one big river," she said.

She said the victory was a culmination of one year's work by her volunteer election team.

Ms Brown promised to run an "open" election campaign "where there's a job for everyone."

"I've been in a lot of elections," she told the crowd. "I've been through a lot of losses. I have a feeling this is our year. Let's go get it."

In a brief speech following Mr. Siegel's announcement, runner-up candidate Mr. Hood called on "all the people to work hard for the riding in the next federal election."

Mr. Hood, who said earlier in the evening that he had "visited the homes of 1,600 members" during his campaign, said all three losing candidates were firmly behind Ms. Brown's selection as the riding association candidate.

During the nomination and speech portion of the meeting, Ms Brown made her way to the stage as loud music blared and red banners waved.

The first candidate to speak, Ms Brown told about 800 people who jammed the hall, that "this country will not recover until we get rid of the Tories."

"It is tempting to fist their body blows against Canadians. It is more responsible for us to simply recognize the reality of the conservative legacy. The country's in a mess, with both a financial deficit and a social despair. We're short of money, we're short of hope and we want change," she said.

She said only "action" from voters would cure the country's woes. "Elections are the vehicle of change and you are in the driver's seat," she



A smiling Bonnie Brown is congratulated on her win at the Oakville-Milton Liberal nomination meeting Wednesday night by fellow candidates (from left) David Bazar, Mohan Anand and Bruce Hood.

Photo by BARRY ERSKINE

said. "Your needs must control the direction of the political process. You have the right to hold the reasonable belief in a better tomorrow."

Ms Brown said she stands for "truth", "social justice" and "fiscal responsibility." But she said the "bottom line is people and our freedom to exercise initiative and take responsibility."

The only blemish on the night was a parking problem which occurred shortly after 8 p.m. as the first rush of voters attempted to leave the St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre. Police were forced to turn some voters away and ask them to return later in the evening to vote.

That resulted in the voting being extended to 10:30 p.m. Mr. Siegel had originally announced voting would end at 10 p.m.

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