

Raitt, a moderate Conservative, wants to lead 'fiscally responsible government'



Milton MP Lisa Raitt is running for the Conservative Party leadership. She is photographed speaking at the Party leadership event in Burlington March 5. *Graeme Frisque / Metroland*

Raitt calls herself a moderate Conservative and says she has been her entire life.

"I think voters are looking for a moderate Conservative who has a lot of experience and a strong desire to lead a fiscally-responsible government," she added.

Raitt, who managed to raise about \$450,000 for her bid, took to the phones last week for up to 10 hours each day, in an effort to drum up support for herself and ask members to vote for her, all the while caring for her 12-year-old son. During this time, her 15-year-old enjoyed some time away in Brockville.

"Bruce is doing well, he's fine," she said. "Everything is fine, other than my house — the kids decided to paint the basement ... it's a normal Milton life."

to visit the page and provide email addresses. She questions how O'Leary can skip leadership debates, noting that automatically comes with a \$10,000 fine.

"Are people thrilled that he's avoiding going to these leadership debates?" she said. "And that fine, who's paying for that. My ears perk up — that fine is the money that people have donated."

She also claimed it's well known that if he doesn't win, O'Leary won't be coming back to help the Conservative Party. She believes

O'Leary or Leitch, if chosen as leader, would set up the Conservatives to fail in the next federal election.

Raitt tweets regularly, asking supporters to join the Conservative party so they can elect her.

In order to vote for the new leader of the party, Canadians must hold an active membership that has to be purchased prior to March 28. Voting is done via a one-member, one-vote basis using a ranked ballot. Votes are calculated so that each of the 338 electoral districts has equal weight with each allocated 100 points; the party's ballot papers allow members to rank 10, not 14, candidates in order of choice.

Party members at the May 27 convention will mark all leadership candidates numerically from most to least preferred, with the least favourite eliminated after the first ballot. Then, the second and third choices on the eliminated ballots are added to the remaining candidates' votes and then they are all counted again. This is repeated until someone reaches 50 per cent of the votes, or 16,900 points.

Raitt believes she has a good chance of winning the leadership.

She was raised by her grandparents in the mining town of Sydney, Cape Breton and enjoys a following all over the east coast. With the support she enjoys here, she feels she has a lot of votes.

CEO of the Toronto Port Authority.

As for her running-mates in the 14-month long leadership process, she doesn't mince words and has in the past accused two of her competitors, including Kevin O'Leary, the former *Dragons' Den* star, and MP Kellie Leitch of "antics," "theatrics" and "cheap talk."

In January, Raitt, a former cabinet minister who's represented Milton since 2008 (the riding was formerly called Halton), launched a website, stopkevinoleary.com, asking members of the Conservative Party and supporters

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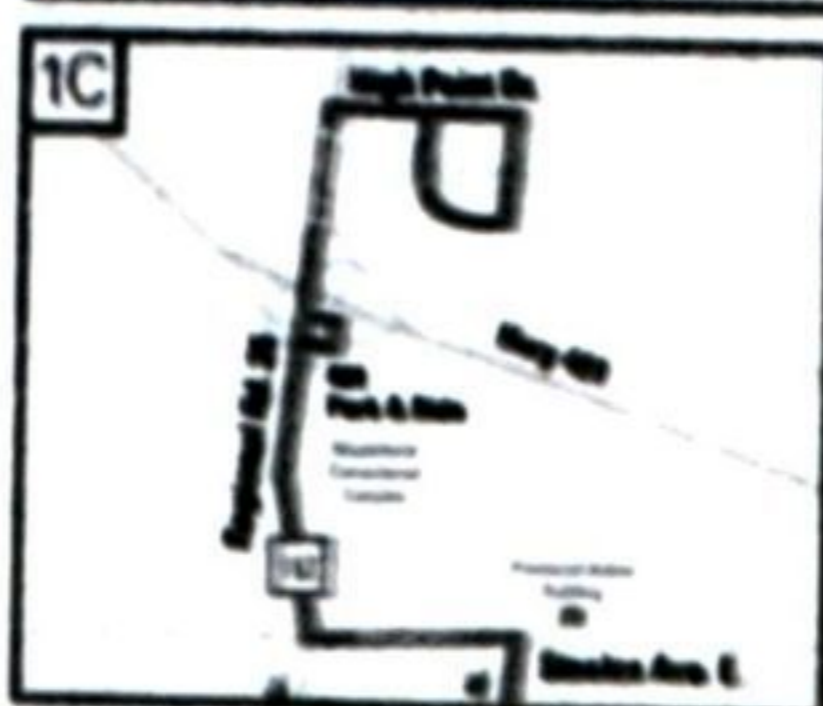
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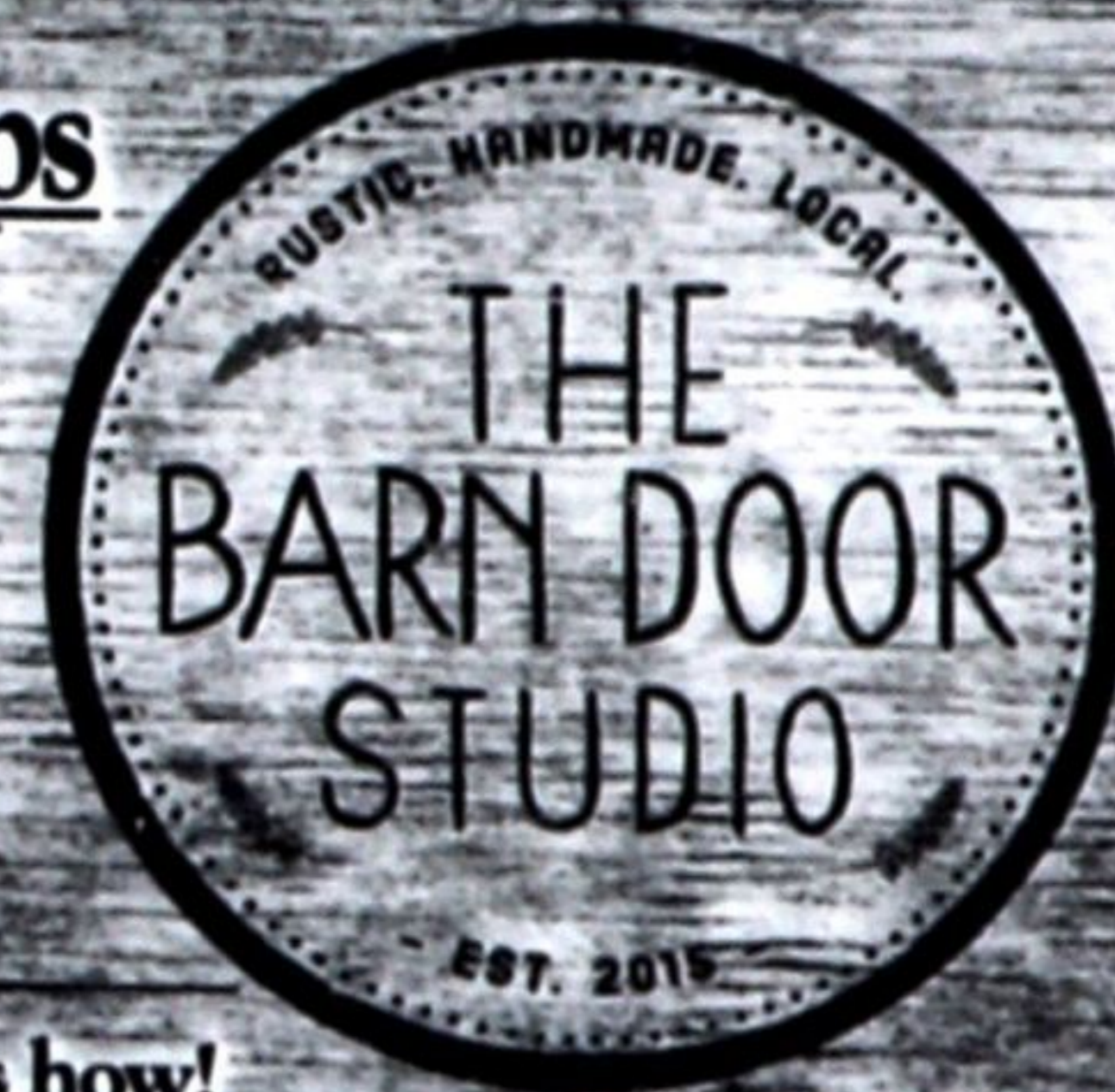
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