

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Proportional representation needed

While still in the "undecided" category with regards to whom I will support in the federal election, I went to the Green Party of Canada website and read its platform.

It was interesting to learn, in addition to placing a high priority on the environment, the party is taking a preventive stance on health care, i.e. improving health, not just treating illness.

I was also interested in a number of strategies it is proposing to improve quality of life for families at all income levels.

I am very tempted to support this party. However, like many Canadians, I am afraid in doing so I may inadvertently help elect a party I do not want to win the election, the Conservatives.

The Green Party's website includes a discussion on the concept of a "proportional representation" voting system.

My understanding is in this system, a vote for the Greens would count in that the percentage of seats in Parliament held by the Greens would equal their percentage of the popular vote.

To me, this is a true democracy. So why don't we use this system?

TAMMY MORRELL-BELLAI  
UNIONVILLE

### Markham deserves better than McCallum

I hope Markham Unionville voters remember a few things about Liberal MP John McCallum when they vote Monday.

Mr. McCallum was appointed by Jean Chretien in the 2000 election. Mr. McCallum is not even from Markham. So much for Liberal Party democracy.

As minister of defence, Mr. McCallum did not even know about the Second World War bat-

tle of Dieppe, a major Canadian raid on the coast of France in 1942. What an embarrassment.

Mr. McCallum also voted not to defend the traditional definition of marriage in September 2003. He took this position to selfishly protect his position in Cabinet. So much for maintaining the moral high ground.

Markham deserves better than Mr. McCallum and the Liberal Party with its corruption, arrogance and fiscal waste. I will be voting for a better Canada with Stephen Harper and the Conservatives.

GEORGE ROLLAND  
MARKHAM

### Each federal party distinctive

Here is one way to consider the major political parties in the federal election:

• Liberals — During a campaign, every party wants to be all things to all people. The Liberal party has the best chance of accomplishing this goal. The sponsorship scandal had its roots in desperate efforts by the government to keep Canada together during the 1995 Quebec referendum. It was doing battle with secessionists sitting alongside them in the House of Commons. I can understand their need to play it close to the vest. And so can you.

• Conservatives — Make no mistake, this is not the Progressive Conservative Party we knew and loved. Even eternal Tory Joe Clark is supporting a Liberal candidate and he hails from the West. These guys can't wait to plunder Ontario and Quebec and send the money to Alberta, where they think it belongs. Their friends in the oil business really should govern Canada. Maybe Alberta Premier Ralph Klein could be minister of state. Or pick another redneck, there are lots to choose from.

• NDP — Before Jack Layton became like Ross Perot ("Can I say something here?"), this was a party we couldn't dislike. It's not ready for the reigns of power, but it has safe and sensible people with the right motivation. The New Democrats were instrumental in getting some pretty good legislation passed. Forming a government? I don't think even they want that. A minority scenario would be their best shot.

• Bloc Quebecois — Can you imagine any other civilized, sovereign nation on Earth granting party status to secessionists? Elect a Conservative government and say au revoir to Quebec.

DENIS REILLY  
MARKHAM

### Leaving decisions to courts cop-out

Re: Battle heats up at debate, June 19.

This article reported, "In the loudest exchange of the night, Tory challenger Joe Li replied elected MPs have the final say on laws, not judges appointed by a prime minister."

Frankly, I cannot understand why such a statement would create controversy. The BNA Act, which brought the Dominion of Canada into existence, made no mention of such a court.

The only court envisioned was one that would decide if a matter was a provincial or federal responsibility.

It is interesting to note the mother of parliaments in Great Britain does not acknowledge any superior courts. Even appeals to the House of Lords, the highest court in the land, are not binding on parliament.

Like it or not, Mr. Li is right in this instance. Leaving decisions to the courts is a parliamentary cop-out.

ERICA VICCARY  
MARKHAM



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