

# Opponents in 2008 nailbiter battling in next federal election

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As his candidacy shows, despite it being less than a year since the last election, there is plenty of new blood in the local political waters.

Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown faces a new opponent in King Mayor Margaret Black who was acclaimed as the Liberal candidate last month.

"I hear all sides on the issue (of an early election)," Ms Black said. "I'm going to trust the party."

In York Region, she said, a major concern with the federal govern-

ment has been the dispersal of infrastructure stimulus funds.

The region has yet to see any money and the whole process has been rushed and flawed, she said.

Her opponent, Ms Brown, agreed with Mr. Landon that Canadians don't want another election right now.

"We have seen some improvement in the economy that is giving people hope," she said. "We are going to continue down the same path. An election would be a distraction."

There are changes in the local Liberal ranks as well.

Peter Kent narrowly unseated two-time Liberal incumbent Susan Kadis in Thornhill and Ms Kadis has decided not to run again.

Dr. Karen Mock will pick up the mantle and even though she has yet to be formally acclaimed as the Liberal candidate, she has no qualms about an early election.

"If the time is right, we'll be ready," she said.

"We can't just make elections and who is going to run the country a matter of whether we're fatigued or not," Ms Mock said about if it is too soon to go to the polls again.

In Oak Ridges-Markham, which

includes Whitchurch-Stouffville, Conservative Paul Calandara beat incumbent Lui Temelkovski by less than 1 per cent of the vote in 2008.

Mr. Temelkovski is set to run again for the Liberals.

For his part, Mr. Landon said the spring or summer would be a more appropriate time, if Liberals are determined to force the issue.

Mr. Ingatiff reminded party members they have had the prime minister "on probation" since the near-collapse of the government in January.

The other two national opposition parties — the NDP and Green

Party — have repeatedly voted against the minority Conservative government, as has the Bloc Quebecois.

Despite posting their worst-ever election results in 2008, the Liberals still hold the balance of votes required to trigger an election.

Voter turnout for the 2008 contest was the lowest in history and Mr. Harper has said Canadians have no desire to return to the polls once again.

— With files from Teresa Latchford and Torstar News Service

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