

Campaign



Bernice Davidson

President's Message by Bernice Davidson

It's Wish List time, and my wish for the Congress this year is to see it continue to grow as it has throughout its six years of intense activity.

The Women's Campaign School is coming of age – this past year it sold out well in advance of the start date. Our long-term plan includes taking the Campaign School to other large Canadian cities.

There are so many firsts for the Congress:

- A newsletter article from a member in Regina
- Our first Candidates Forum organized by Lynda Jovanovic
- Our first request to speak to an outside group – presented by Pauline Buck, Communications Chair.

- Our first research study – headed by Renata Aebi
- Our first ribbon campaign "Get out & Vote" – organized by Anna Bloomfield
- Our first budget from treasurer Sylvia Lim

It feels as if someone handed us a bunch of rosebuds, and now they are all blooming. We will soon see branches across Canada, increased participation by women in the governing process, women politicians who are held in high regard. Our belief is that politicians with integrity will do more to elevate the governing process than anything else. Let's go find them!

Happy holidays everyone.



From Idea to Effective Change Candidates Forum - Vancouver Civic Election

by Lynda Jovanovic, Congress Vice-President, Events Co-Chair

The spirit and vigor of politics in Vancouver is alive and well. On Monday, October 21, 2002, the Canadian Women Voters Congress hosted an evening forum for Vancouver mayoralty and councilor candidates at UBC at Robson Square. Because the mandate of the Congress is to enhance the capacity of women to succeed in politics, the Congress requested that the political parties give "first right of refusal" to their female candidates. Other women candidates invited were Independents

and those representing smaller political parties.

On stage to answer questions were Vancouver mayoralty candidates Beverly Bernardo (Communist League), Larry Campbell (COPE), Jennifer Clarke (NPA), Valerie MacLean (vca TEAM) and councilor candidates Richard Campbell, Cheryl Chang, Nancy Chiavario, Sandy McCormick, Anne Roberts, Wendy Turner, Doug Warkentin and Ellen Woodsworth.

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Newly Formed Speakers Bureau - Getting the Word Out There

The Communications Committee is pleased to announce the formation of a Speakers Bureau for the Canadian Women Voters Congress. Knowing that face-to-face communication is the best way to get the voice of women heard and to spread the word about the Congress, the committee has prepared a speech that describes the history, goals and activities of the Congress. Adaptable to meet the needs of any audience, the text is available to all Congress members in response to invitations from groups who are interested in hearing more about us.

On October 22, Communications Committee Chair Pauline Buck was the keynote speaker at the monthly meeting of the Women of Whistler, a group of businesswomen who gather regularly to network and discuss issues of mutual interest. For this meeting, The Women of Whistler had provided all mayoralty and council candidates with the opportunity to come, hear about The Congress and

do some of their own face-to-face campaigning. "Addressing this group was a wonderful opportunity to inform more women about our work, plus there was the bonus of speaking to many of Whistler's municipal candidates – both male and female," said Pauline. During the question period, it was suggested that the Congress start a program for the schools and Pauline said she would look into it. In true Whistler form, the group provided Pauline and her guest, daughter Dianne Brownie, with wonderful overnight accommodation.

On November 14th, Pauline took a shorter version of the prepared speech to the Women's Canadian Club, where she represented the Congress as the community speaker following the luncheon's keynote address.

Members of the Congress are encouraged to seek out speaking opportunities. Copies of the text are available by contacting Pauline at paulinebuck @telus.net

News Flash from Sandra Finley (Regina)

The Human Rights Institute of Canada has issued September 2, 2002 a circular urging interested parties to participate in a call to the Prime Minister to get a Supreme Court decision about equality rights in Senate appointments. According to the Institute, women do not have an adequate voice in the Senate and are being denied equality rights under Section 15 (1) of the Charter.

Those who would like more information on this initiative can contact Dr. Marguerite Ritchie at hric@humanrightsinstitute.com. Phone 613-232-2920 Fax 613-232-3735



From Idea to Effective Change... *continued from page 1*

The moderator for the evening was Mary Pynenburg, a CWVC Campaign School graduate and the Director of Planning for the City of New Westminster.

The program was kept simple but fair and well controlled. Each candidate opened with a two-minute response to the question: "Why are you running?" The Congress chose to forgo the debate format. Instead, the evening's format was in the style of written questions from the audience whereby the questions and the candidates' names were randomly drawn from clear glass bowls. It was a relaxed atmosphere, complete with light laughter about such things as the "transparency" of the process.

Good News

Canadian Women Voters Congress now (at last!) owns the name Women's Campaign Schools of Canada™. We have been officially informed by Intellectual Property (Patents and Trademarks), Hull, Quebec office, Government of Canada, that our name is now ours.

Circle the Date and Tell Your Friends

Women's Campaign School
UBC at Robson Square
April 24, 27, 2003 inclusive

Lois Brassart, opened her home to Congress members during a visit this Spring of guests from Serbia. *Left to Right:* Lois Brassart, Miriam Tratt, Milica Panic, Mirjana Kovachevic, Kathy Sainty, Jacquie Wigginton and Aleksandra Petrovic-Gradnic



Charlene Brisson

Speaking Tips by Charlene Brisson

Here are some practical tips to help you *"use your voice and shape your future" ...*

Know your audience – select your words carefully so that everyone in the room can understand you. Make sure that you include information that has relevance. Don't be known for your canned speeches.

Break the monotony – even though you've rehearsed your speech for days, practice saying it as if you were just talking to a friend in your kitchen over coffee. Keep your audience by using inflection in your voice. Real people show emotions when they speak.

Look them in the eye – it's really hard to fall asleep in the audience when the speaker has active eye contact and gazes a full 2-4 seconds at each person they look at as they go through their presentation.

Be an Early Bird – show up a few minutes early to stand at the podium and if possible test the microphone. One less unknown to deal with.

Show your face – stand up straight and get the hair out of your eyes. If people can't see your eyes, they will have a hard time trusting you. Big hair, big earrings, big necklaces and big bangles are all big no-no's. Your audience will focus on any reason you give them not to listen.

Dress appropriately – find out where you'll be sitting or standing. When in doubt wear pants or a

long skirt. Wear colors that you know won't clash with the backdrop.

Use your voice – practice speaking from the purr of your vocal cords. Place your hand on the top part of your chest and speak high and low, low is when you can feel the purr and is the most effective.

The microphone is your friend – don't shy away from the mic or get too close. Both are equally annoying. Practice using a microphone so that you know when you can be heard clearly and cleanly. Avoid pops, hissing, feedback and people yelling "we can't hear you".

Friends are a big help – have a friend sit in the audience to give you subtle signals when you need them ... raise your voice, stand up straight, even a time flash. A friendly and honest critique after the show never hurts.

If it's not a word, don't say it - "um", "er", "you know" and "like" should be forever stricken from your vocabulary.

Charlene is the Past President of the Canadian Women Voters Congress, the National Program Manager of the CanWest Global Raise-a-Reader program for children's literacy; a member of toastmasters and a regular speaker for her business and volunteer activities.



Ellen Woodsworth

How Absolutely Magnificent

by Ellen Woodsworth, November 17, 2002, Graduate, Women's Campaign School

On November 16, I was elected to Vancouver City Council. It was a wonderful victory for me, voted on to Vancouver Council by a majority of the people. I had so many of them campaigning with me. Seniors in wheelchairs, card tables on street corners, aboriginal sisters leafleting family night at the Friendship Centre, a friend arriving from Powell River with a full dinner, a gardener putting my signs on his truck and many others doing the myriad tasks that win an election like making phone calls, setting up a web site, leafleting and soliciting donations, you name it! I feel elated and exhausted at the same time. Our home is filled with flowers, the phone is ringing off the hook and the emails keep coming. Everyone keeps telling me how happy they are

and how much work I have ahead of me. Both are true. The work has begun immediately with meetings, briefings, media interviews, many people coming to me to ask for jobs (over which I have no control), requests, suggestions for policy and many many more coming with hugs and well wishes. This victory has come after decades of hard work for social justice and economic equality.

I will need women's support to stay grounded as half of the COPE candidates are women but only two of the ten council candidates are women.

Thank you for your great Women's Campaign School and your personal support which made this possible.

Citizens Assembly: A Work in Progress

by Audrey Paterson, Newsletter Editor

Senior Fellow of the Fraser Institute, Gordon Gibson, is well known for his work in the area of electoral reform and governance. That's why the provincial government in September appointed him to conduct the Citizens Assembly on electoral reform, assessing all possible models for electing MLA's, including preferential ballots, proportional representation and including our current electoral system.

Gibson has been given until December 15th to:

- Develop a random selection process for appointing citizens' assembly members, in keeping with the government's earlier commitment that the assembly would be selected like a jury. He is to ensure that it represents a cross-section of interests, that it can operate effectively and that it is affordable.
- Recommend the size of the assembly, and how it is to be chaired and staffed.

- Develop guidelines to make sure the assembly's recommendations are compatible with the Canadian constitution and the Westminster parliamentary system.
- Develop a timetable that will make sure the assembly can do its work and report to the attorney general in time to allow a referendum question to accompany the May 2005 general election, should the assembly recommend a new model.
- Provide guidelines on the wording of referendum questions, should an alternative electoral model be recommended.

The non-partisan committee will conduct hearings throughout B.C. You are invited to visit the website, www.gov.bc.ca, click on Citizens Assembly. Your suggestions and opinions are welcome.

• *Note: Gordon Gibson is author of "Thirty Million Musketeers - One Canada for All Canadians", Key Porter Books, available at the Fraser Institute.*

Believer in the Power of E-mail

by Sandra Finley, Congress member, Regina

The "non-organization" is an antidote to weekend democracy; it enables citizens to reclaim power and control, to assume responsibility. It does not replace the need for, but rather works with, traditional organizations.

The non-organization is individuals and organizations sharing information through email networks. It can assert active citizen participation into the decision-making process.

- Individuals receive information, to do with as they like.
- Different approaches are accommodated.
- Time expended is in pursuit of the objective; no meetings, fundraising.
- Individuals are independent, but highly INTER-dependent. The communal objective is achieved only if the efforts of one person are joined to those of another, until critical mass is achieved, sufficient to affect the decision outcome.
- Faith in each other is required. If people

have information they will help, and you "know" that whatever that help is, it will be enough.

- Participants are comfortable with lack of control. No one knows how many people receive the information, who will react or how.
- Many people become well-informed, provided the subject is meritorious and compelling. Bad decisions require an uninformed public.
- Speed of response is rapid, no hold-ups for "authorization" or group decisions.
- The non-organization is collaborative as opposed to adversarial. Information is shared with everyone, adversaries included. Equality is achieved through equal access to information.

Governments tend to control information and process which bestows control of outcome. Email networks can provide balance to this power and a restoration of health to the democracy.

An Overview of B.C.'s Recall Process

Recall is a process that allows registered voters to petition for the removal of a Member of the Legislative Assembly between elections.

Any registered voter can apply to have a petition issued for the recall of their MLA (the elected Member representing their electoral district in the Legislative Assembly). A registered voter who wants to start a recall petition must obtain an application form from the Chief Electoral Officer. The completed application form must be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer with a non-refundable processing fee of \$50 and include a statement of 200 words or less of why, in the opinion of the applicant, the Member should be recalled. A Member cannot be recalled during the first 18 months after his or her election.

If the application is complete and meets the requirements of the Recall and Initiative Act, a petition is issued to the applicant (called the "proponent") within seven days. The proponent then has 60 days to collect signatures from more than 40% of the voters who were registered to vote in the Member's electoral district in the last election, and who are currently registered as voters in B.C. The proponent may be helped by volunteers when canvassing for signatures.

When all the signed signature sheets are submitted, the Chief Electoral Officer has 42 days to verify that enough valid signatures have been collected. If enough valid signature sheets are submitted, the Chief Electoral Officer has 42 days to verify that enough valid signatures are on the petition, and the financing rules have been met by the proponent, the Member ceases to hold office and a by-election must be called within 90 days. A recalled Member can run as a candidate in the by-election.

-Elections B.C.

A non-partisan office of the Legislature

The Congress Can Enhance Political Participation

Approximately three years ago, two members of Congress concluded that there was (and now "is") very little involvement of young women, ages 17 to 25, that is high school age to young adulthood, in political processes profoundly influence their lives. The foundation's proposed constitution as above would hopefully enable its members to apply for a charitable status and thus provide donors with a Revenue Canada receipt for income tax exemption in the amount of their donations.

1. The name of the Society is the Women's Civic Education Foundation
2. The purposes of the Society are:
 - (a) to operate exclusively as a non-profit charitable foundation to

raise funds for the Canadian Women Voters Congress through community appeals for funds and by receiving gifts, donations, legacies, bequests, memorial funds, endowments and similar gratuitous dispositions of money and of personal and real property from all sources including corporations and other charitable organizations;

- (b) to hold and keep invested the money proceeds of the aforesaid gifts and other dispositions other than such money proceeds as are given as gifts to the Canadian Women Voters Congress from time to time;
- (c) to make gifts for the benefit of the Canadian Women Voters Congress' non-profit activities related to women's

participation in civic activities related to women's participation in civic activities and pursuits at the municipal, provincial and national levels, to defray the costs of activities, equipment and physical facility development which, in the sole opinion and discretion of the Board of directors for the Women's Civic Education Foundation, are beneficial or desirable for the enhancement of women's participation in such civic activities; and

- (d) to engage in activities which will be of benefit to the Canadian Women Voters Congress and which will support women and girls in their pursuit of civic activities, and education to do with Canadian governance at all levels.



Increasing the Numbers and Expanding the Opportunities by Penny Priddy

Penny Priddy

of experiences for women in leadership positions.

As the CWVC we focus on opportunities for women to gain the skills to be candidates and campaign organizers and we have been quite successful. There are other avenues that we could and perhaps should be exploring. At every level of government, municipal, provincial and federal, there are agencies, boards, commissions and advisory committees to which women can be appointed. Some of these are clearly political while many others, particularly at the municipal level, are open to applications from the general public. Could CWVC play a role in assisting women by establishing a data

The Canadian Women Voters Congress has many opportunities to widen the circles of influence and

expand the range

bank of opportunities to serve on these government bodies?

There are some strategies that I believe the organization can pursue to reach out to young women in high school and post secondary. Some high school teachers present a study block on Women In Politics. This could occur during Women's History Month in October, around International Women's Day in March or during Government Studies courses. The Congress and our campaign school could offer resources and mentors to these young women students.

We can also learn from some of the innovative projects going on in our communities. For instance, at Frank Hurt High School in Surrey, Ms. Aleta Iberg who is a history teacher, wanted students to take an interest in the municipal election. She designed a Scavenger Hunt for teams of the students, which would put them in direct contact with a certain number of the thirty-three local council candidates.

In order to meet the criteria of the hunt the students had to ask certain questions of candidates that only that particular candidate would know the answer to or get their photo taken with two candidates at all candidates meeting etc. The students entered into it with lots of interest and now there are a large number of teens who have had their first political experience. Fun, innovative and full of learning, just what politics should be about.

• Note From Editor:

Some high schools do present classes in Women's Studies at the grade eleven level. For the teachers, it is optional; therefore not widely presented. I am a grad of Victoria High School, where currently Ms. L. Allison, Grade 11 teacher, has opted to teach Women's Studies and when last we spoke, she was eager to have one of our speaker's bureau members pay the young ladies a visit. What say you?

- Audrey Paterson

Politics: The Art of the Possible

By Louise Richardson, Congress Board Member

During Secondary School Career Fairs, in a politically impassioned environment, why is a career in politics rarely put forward as career opportunity?

At election time, eager grades 11 and 12 students identify issues, select candidates, organize campaigns and elect Student Councils. They move to place a group of individuals in a position with the assurance that that group will be a strong active voice on their behalf. Political process begins early. Students who take on the responsibility of Student Council do so with honor, sincerity and good intentions. A position on a Student council is considered a position of importance, often a pinnacle in his or her schooling and such involvement instills a sense of pride and accomplishment. However, during in-school career fairs, no other career path is so grossly underrepresented as is politics and yet at the same time, ironically, few other career paths begin so earnestly in the latter years of our High School system.

We need to maintain the political momentum our students begin, particularly young women. We need to foster full participation. We need to let students know that politics is a career and that their passion is not only wanted, it is necessary!

Spread the word in the schools you are involved in that politics is a career and the Canadian Women Voters Congress can help to foster the momentum. Let's encourage these budding politicians to phone the Congress Hotline at 604-878-8228 and ask for a mentor.

Tales of a Spider Girl by Miriam Tratt



Miriam Tratt

Slowly she climbs out from under a pile of chaos from her "in" basket. Hands fumbling for the right keys and blinking numbly she attempts to go through the 97 new emails awaiting her reply, when suddenly she notices it - a message from one of the board of directors of the Canadian Women Voters Congress (CWVC). "Hi Miriam, just wanted you to know that some of the links on our web site are broken." O oh! - When will I have the time to fix them?

Last spring, with the help of our Past-President, Charlene Brisson, I took over the sometimes daunting task of designing and maintaining the Congress' web-site. I say daunting, not because it is very difficult; it

is the lack of time that can make my job overwhelming. I often dream about what I could do with this important tool, our web site, if our organization had more resources and I had more time to devote to the site.

The World Wide Web has certainly contributed to speeding things up, and today more than ever before, the Web enables us to reach vast amounts of people. In the non-profit world, that is a precious asset. As the Canadian Women Voters Congress grows and finances pick up, I look forward to the day when managing our website won't happen off the side of my desk - when I can call this labour of

continued ...

Tales of a Spider Girl ... *continued*

love part of my day's "real" work. In the meantime, I just need to figure out a way to add a few more hours to the clock.

And so, Spider Girl smiles her secret smile and faces the challenges ahead knowing the future is wild, open, and full of possibilities.

To Visit our web site go to:

www.canadianwomenvoterscongress.org

Write to Spider Girl: miriamtratt@yahoo.ca
Miriam Tratt, AKA Spider Girl

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