

Elections '88

McInnes Defends Tory Agenda

by Ryan Van Horne

Stuart McInnes, the Progressive Conservative candidate in the Halifax riding, would take "violent exception" to any suggestion that the trade deal signed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney threatens medicare or any other social program.

"Generally, the opposition parties are not dealing with the facts regarding the free trade agreement," said McInnes in an interview at his campaign office on October 31st. Furthermore, he said that the NDP and Liberal parties are ignoring the position assessments of the deal made by a number of individuals who, according to McInnes, immediately refuted any allegation that the trade agreement would adversely affect medical care in Canada.

"All our social programs are exempted from the agreement, including medical care," replied McInnes when told about opposition claims that a clause allowing for free trade among various services,

including health services, would "americanize" Canadian health care. "They're suggesting that someday down the road in 15 or 20 years an American firm could come in and dominate our medical situation. (However,) all Medical services in Canada are dominated by the provincial governments," said McInnes.

It is possible, however, for American firms to offer tenders when and if the provincial government decides to contract out a certain service. Even if the American company wins the contract, McInnes suggests, they would have to comply with "national standards".

"All standards and absolute control would remain with the (provincial) government," he said. It would seem that the opposition parties foresee financial pressures within the health care industry forcing the selection of cheaper, sub-standard, services from American firms. This is not absolutely going to happen, it is simply a possibility, according to McInnes. He believes the chances of this occurring are unknown at present.

In defending the Tories defence

policy of recent years, McInnes said simply, "Everybody is encouraged by the disarmament discussions, but all one has to do, he continues, "is look at the history of the universe and of the world to see that what a particular government says at a certain time and what in fact they do are not necessarily the same thing." McInnes would be much more encouraged if the USSR were to stop building nine submarines each year to add to its current total of 200.

"We have the longest coastline in the world," he argues, and "the only way that we could properly detect the presence of any foreign power in our Arctic waters is with nuclear submarines."

McInnes does not believe one gets a second chance in matters as serious as global security, and that what was achieved this round of talks was because "the Western World has been negotiating from strength."

McInnes criticizes the NDP defence policy by asking "how can Canada, a nation of 25 million people, do alone what we've been doing in concert for the last 40 years?"

Contrary to popular belief among students, McInnes says, the Tories have not abandoned university students. When told of allegations by other candidates that the Tories

intend to reduce EPF transfer payments by \$56 million, McInnes declared, "that's wrong. We have increased rather dramatically the funding to the provinces in the last two years. EPF transfer payments have increased by 5% over inflation." When pressed on whether or not this generous support would continue in the future, he revealed only that the Tory government intends to "maintain the amount of money in EPF transfer payments that we have now." Perhaps the figure Mr. (Ray) Larkin (NDP candidate for Halifax riding) calculates is based on what the payments would have been had they increased by 5% over inflation. It is difficult to say.

Shifting to environmental concerns, McInnes defended Tory actions in recent years by admitting that some cuts were made and that some services were eliminated, but in some cases, the government thought that the services were "not a very valid expenditure" of funds. These funds were not applied elsewhere but to "other environmental things," said McInnes.

When pressured about the clean-up of Halifax Harbour, McInnes claimed that "it takes a long time for an agreement like that." It is a lengthy process, according to McInnes, because co-operation between the provincial, federal and municipal governments is needed. In closing, McInnes defended the Meech Lake accord and the expressed his belief that this accord

would not fragment Canada. Any province that exercises the "Notwithstanding" clause must, according to McInnes, put in place a "similar" program with the "same objectives". "National standards" would still have to be met, but the provinces would have jurisdiction over the administration of these programs, McInnes concluded.



Larkin Proposes Fairness For All



New Democratic Party Candidate for Halifax, Ray Larkin

by Ryan Van Horne

"Canada needs a government which will act fairly and effectively for all Canadians in all regions," says New Democratic Party candidate for the Halifax riding, Ray Larkin, in a press release distributed last week.

Larkin expanded on this concept in an interview at his campaign office on October 28th.

Speaking to a wide range of general policy matters, Larkin revealed his personal views as well as party policy on affairs ranging from "free trade" to the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord.

Undoubtedly the most serious issue of this election campaign is the free trade deal signed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, according to Larkin. "I oppose the trade deal because it is bad economics," says Larkin. "It will not encourage even growth at significant levels across the country. It will, however, cause heavy job losses in many industries

including some big ones in our region such as textiles, breweries, and food processing."

When asked how the trade deal will affect medical care here in Canada, Larkin replied "in the agreement there is a stipulated free trade of services, included in these services are certain services within the health industry."

There are some 50 health services covered by the agreement and that allows American companies to participate on an even basis with Canadians. Should the American companies permeate our health care system by securing contracts from provincial governments, then it is possible that, an "American style health industry will be permitted."

Secondly, "many Canadian businesses have already spoken up clearly saying that we can't compete with Americans because of our tax load in Canada." This seems rather ironic when the NDP itself claims that some 60,000 profitable corporations will not pay taxes under Tory rule as a result of breaks and incentives. Still, there are many corporate and small-to-mid-size businesses that will not be taxed more heavily than their competition in the U.S.

The Meech Lake Constitutional Accord is the other pillar of the Tory Agenda that has met with strong opposition. However, it has been endured by the two opposition parties in parliament. Larkin, though, does not support the deal.

"I think it will be destructive to the Maritimes and destructive to the ability of the national government to bring in national social programs with national standards," Larkin said.

Larkin, it would seem, does not have faith in a clause that requires provincial governments exercise the "Notwithstanding" clause in the deal to ensure that a similar program with similar standards is put in place by the provincial government.

Shifting to the issue of defence, Larkin said that the NDP's "fundamental attitude regarding the foreign policy and defence is that you have to start from the premise that the most important threat to Canadians is the threat of nuclear war between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R."

"We're at a historic time," says Larkin, "when the Soviet Union has realized the tremendous economic difficulty they've got and the fact that they cannot continue to spend such a large proportion of their GNP on defence."

As such, Larkin sees the purchase of nuclear submarines as an act not in accordance with Canada's role in promoting peace. "Nuclear submarines are a military machine that have a function of shadowing Soviet missile carrying submarines and blowing them up in a time of conflict," said Larkin. He assures voters that if elected, the NDP would keep Canada within NATO for their first term and seek to change, from within, NATO's first strike policy.

On the issue of the environment, Larkin offered that "the role of the federal government is to provide leadership by funding groups concerned with the environment." Even though pollution control is under provincial jurisdiction, the leadership on the part of the federal government is essential.

A matter of concern for members, of the university community would be the efforts that Larkin and the NDP would make to improve the lot of students in his riding. Larkin suggests that "in my view, universities are as important to Halifax as steel is to Hamilton or oil to Edmonton. The New Democratic Party is committed to beefing up finances for universities and for research. We want to transform the Canada Student Loans Plan into a primarily grant-based plan which will be fully available to part-time students." Furthermore, the NDP plans to keep interest rates down and to make a post-secondary education more accessible.

Marxist-Leninist Runs as Independent

For 18 years I have made my residence in Halifax - the North End and now Spryfield - and lived and worked as a full and active participant in our society. I have worked consistently for the ideals of the people of peace, freedom and social progress, for fundamental social change.

At a time when the word "politician" has become a dirty word - someone who presents one face during the election and another after - I am the one candidate who has translated his words and convictions into deeds. I am a genuinely independent candidate, without any vested interest. I am the only candidate neither connected to the rich nor to the monopolies which dominate various sectors of the economy lobbying for or against free trade, nor to any foreign interest, whether the Americans (the three major parties) or the Soviet Union (the Moscow "Communists").

A journalist by profession - associate editor of my college paper (*The Carleton*) - I firmly rejected the option offered by the rich of carving out a career for myself. I could have gone for a lot of money. But, as a founding member of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada, I took the personal decision to dedicate my life to the cause of the workers and oppressed for social emancipation. I have lived my beliefs and convictions, lived and worked amongst the people, shared their trials and struggles. My statements are my actions.

As a journalist, I am known for my personal integrity and objectivity: for writing the truth. As a feature writer for the *Globe and Mail* in 1971, about to be nominated for a National Newspaper Award for a series I had written on the problems of unemployed workers, I was unjustly fired for my political beliefs - which management officially admitted - and later blacklisted in my profession across Canada.

Despite this, during all these years I have actively participated in the defence of the people's rights, a feature which has characterized my life:

I have written hundreds of articles on the fisheries and political economy of the Atlantic Provinces, on questions of peace and the militarization of Halifax, voicing the real concerns of the people, reporting on and defending the rights of workers, fishermen, women, youth and students, blacks, the MicMac Native People and immigrants.

I spearheaded the movement against the visits of U.S. and Soviet warships to Canadian ports, both conventional and nuclear-armed or capable. My opposition to NATO, NORAD and the Warsaw Pact is not expedient or rhetoric but principled and unequivocal.

In 1980-81, I helped organize a petition of over 6,000 signatures and a march of over 50 people against the attempts to organize the Klu Klux Klan in the Maritimes, under the theme "racists and fascists have no rights to speak or organize".

I am a founding member of the People's Front, a national organization of the Canadian people to defend their democratic rights, and spokesman of the Halifax branch.

In 1982, with a well-argued and documented brief, I spoke out strongly against the exploration and mining for uranium in Nova Scotia, only to be one of those persecuted by Judge Robert McCleave, head of the Uranium Inquiry (Assembly Debates, March 8, 1983).

As a writer and graphic designer,

I have striven to help unify cultural workers and students at NSCAD to oppose American cultural aggression, the promotion of militarism - and to develop realist work. We work for a healthy and vibrant culture, fired with democratic and progressive ideals. I fully supported the large-scale protest actions in 1985 against the cultural cutbacks of the Mulroney government. I am a member of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia.

You will always find me amongst the youth, boys and girls, to help them the best I can in these difficult times when the society has no future to offer them.

For example, in Spryfield in 1985 I immediately participated in the walkouts by high school students in my neighbourhood, helping the students at B.C. Silver and J.L. Ilsley draft petitions and statements against the educational

cutbacks which had dire consequences for them. I now help coach some 60 youth two nights a week, and am also on the board of the Spryfield Adventure Day Camp.

As a sportsman, I am committed to amateur sport and the best sporting ideals, embodied in the motto "Friendship - First, Competition Second".

As executive-secretary of the Nova Scotia Cricket Association, co-founder of the Maritime Cricket Festival, delegate to Sport Nova Scotia AGMs and active in field hockey and master's basketball, I work to extend participation in sport and for sportsmanship. I am for positive and healthy sport, opposed to commercialization and the vulgar spirit of "winning is everything, the only thing".

The Ben Johnson case, the

continued on page 12

WHO?

Who do you want to govern Canada?

That's a serious question. On November 21, Canadians will answer.

Brian Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative government understand that the world around us is changing, and that our challenge is to manage global change to Canada's benefit. Since 1984, the P.C. government has put Canada on a solid footing.

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Since the P.C. Government was elected, the youth unemployment rate has fallen from 18.3% to 12.2%. This progress must continue.

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The P.C. government has led the western world in taking a firm stand against the Apartheid regime in South Africa.

VISION

The P.C. government has produced Canada's first Environmental Protection Act, which carries harsh penalties for polluters.

These are some of the issues which concern young Canadians. In four years, Brian Mulroney and his government have made great progress. Support the P.C. government, and the progress will continue.

Who should we elect?

The P.C. Government.

WHO ELSE!



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Communist Party Runs Candidate in Halifax

by Mark DeWolf

As federal election day draws near and Canadians decide which of the 3 main parties can best lead the country, they likely do so largely unaware that other alternatives exist, ie. the "fourth" parties, including the environmentalist Green Party, the Libertarian Party, and the oldest of these, the Communist Party of Canada (CPC), which was established in 1921.

For the first time since 1979, the Communist Party is running a candidate in the constituency of Halifax: labour journalist and peace activist Miguel Figueroa.

Born and raised in Montreal, Figueroa studied economics at Dawson College and McGill University, and upon completing his education, went on to work as a full-time fieldworker for the National Union of Students (now the Canadian Federation of Students) in 1975. He served as the Vancouver city organizer for the CPC from 1978 until 1986, when he came to

owned, the top section of Canadian capitol who want to consolidate their access to the U.S. market, and the section of Canadian capitol involved in Natural Resource extraction. They see great profits from the deal, regardless of its impact on the country as a whole.

"They, of course, have their arm in government... the Tory party. The Tory party is operating, essentially, as the executive committee for the various monopolies in the country.

"We see as one of our vital tasks in this election as to pull the window dressing off these issues so that Canadians can understand, in fact, that free trade is not in the interests of the Canadian people, but in the interests of Canadian and trans-national capitol.

"We say that there are realistic and viable alternatives to free trade, but they require a government with the political will to carry them out, and the support of Canadians. What we need is to strengthen Canadian public ownership of our key industries, resources and banking.

ominous signs that the problem will become worse if the Tories win a second term. Recent government commissions have actually recommended the de-regulation of tuition fees. That means allowing tuition fees to rise to their "market" value. In a free trade / U.S. integrated Canada, fees will rise to the point where even publicly funded U.S. universities charge \$2500 U.S. per year for tuition. When we say universal accessibility, we mean free tuition, a comprehensive grant system, and more opportunities for student employment.

The Environment: "What is problematic is the decades old neglect of the environment by the old line parties. It requires urgent intervention by the federal and provincial governments."

Defense: "We think that the defense policy of the current government is incredibly hawkish, and reflects an old way of thinking: the mentality of the Cold War. The past few years have seen initial, but valuable, negotiations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Our policy is that Canada should be an active, independent voice for peace in the world. For instance: Canada should be declared a Nuclear Free Zone, and completely withdraw from all aspects of the nuclear arms race."

What does the CPC hope to realistically gain by participating in these elections, especially given popular perceptions of Communism?

"We're under no illusions that we'll make big gains in terms of sending members to parliament, we aren't even running enough candidates to form a government. We see our role in this election as primarily to raise the key issues, expose the Tories, free trade, and the Meech Lake Accord (the only party to do so). We see our participation in the long run as a means to build support for radical fundamental alternatives. It is part of a larger process to unite the left around one program, but we're serious about this election, we're out to win every vote we can. The larger the Communist vote, the stronger the message sent to Ottawa that Canadians want a new direction."

What would you tell people who associate Communism with restrictions on human rights?

"Our party has always been on the side of human rights -- rights for women, native peoples, and for protection of individual rights in general.

From a Communist perspective -- If the Tories win, is all lost?

"There is no doubt that if the Tories do succeed, they will carry forward their policies with a vengeance, shifting further to the right. We are at present only seeing the surface of their agenda: the attack on social services, trade union rights, etc. All this will accelerate under a second Tory term. The implementation of the free trade deal will cause irreparable damage to Canada's sovereignty -- but the struggle will continue for people to fight for their rights. We don't even think a Tory win is a foregone conclusion, and we will do all in our power to help elect a progressive majority."

The Communist Party is running Candidates across the country under the slogan: "Survival, Sovereignty and Social Justice."



Liberals Showing Strength

by Ryan Van Horne

The New Democratic Party and the Progressive Conservative Party should be careful or the Liberal Party will force its way through the ideological tug of war and claim victory in the upcoming federal election.

The Liberal Party has an impressive collection of policies and an impressive candidate in the riding of Halifax. Mary Clancy opened this Reporter's eyes to the positions and ideas of the Liberal Party. Lost among the discussion over their leader, one John Turner, are the policies that have been put forward

by the party for the upcoming election.

Speaking with Ms. Clancy at her office on November 1st revealed a great many facts, some surprising and some not.

Not surprising was her stance on the Mulroney trade agreement which she believes "threatens social programs in the sense of the uncertainty over what would be declared an unfair subsidy." The criteria that determines what is and what is not is not stipulated in the agreement but will be determined in the next five to seven years.

Ms. Clancy also fears that medical care in Canada will be motored by profit as in the United States where the standards are lower, "unless you have the big bucks to pay for it. In Canada we make a very great effort to ensure that people who need to be cared for receive care."

With regard to the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord, Ms. Clancy feels that "Bringing Quebec into the Constitution was a tremendously important event in Canada, but tempers this enthusiasm by saying that there are flaws that must be corrected, and can be, without threatening Quebec's newly granted status.

The most essential element of any amendment to the accord would be the removal of Section 33, the "notwithstanding clause", "which allows provincial governments to enact legislation notwithstanding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

"On the one hand we say 'here is our entrenched Charter of Rights and Freedoms' and on the other hand we say 'here, go ahead and refuse to comply with it.'"

Speaking on matters, Ms. Clancy reveals a surprising Liberal policy. The Liberals wish to replenish the armed forces, particularly the navy, and wish to remain an active part of NATO and NORAD, but in a much different way than the Tories have chosen. The purchase of nuclear submarines, claims Ms. Clancy, would cost Canada \$16 million overall, twice as

much as the allotted \$8 million. This figure was accredited to the French manufacturer that has submitted one of the two tenders.

The most startling aspect of the

Liberal defence policy is to make the "circumpolar arctic region a nuclear-weapons free zone which, provided that it can be enforced and verified multilaterally, would disperse with the need for any nuclear submarines."

The thrust of Liberal foreign policy lies in maintaining the tradition of Lester B. Pearson. "Canada has a world-wide and well deserved reputation as a peace-maker and a peace-keeper", says Ms. Clancy who believes "It is crucial that Canada keep its place at the table in international treaty organizations."

Shifting to the concerns of students in her riding, Ms. Clancy empathizes with their recent plight. "It is much more difficult to get a loan today", says Ms. Clancy. "One of the things John Turner is looking at is the criteria for independent students which has become too tough."

What would a Liberal government seek to do with respect to post-secondary education in Nova Scotia? "I want to see the continuation of the highest per capita rate of university graduates", says Ms. Clancy, who respects Nova Scotia's capacity to allow the "fisherman, coal miners, and small farmers" to put their children through school to "become engineers, doctors, lawyers or university professors." A Liberal government will do all that it can to "foster the desire for education here in Nova Scotia."

When discussing the environment, none of the three candidates I interviewed spoke with as much passion or expertise as Ms. Clancy. She has participated actively in the environmental movement for a number of years here in Nova Scotia.

"Every time I look at the Halifax harbour, which is at least once a day, I get angry thinking about what has not been done and what must be done."

Although the federal government budgeted some \$196 million for cleanup of the Halifax harbour, the money only covers a human sewage treatment plant, while human sewage consists of only 25% of the waste in the harbour. About 75% of the waste is said to be toxic, so it is doubtful that this plan will help much even if it is delivered as promised. If one is looking for someone to protect the environment first and foremost, Mary Clancy would argue that she is the candidate who would "relish the opportunity."



Communist Party of Canada Candidate for Halifax, Miguel Figueroa

Halifax to assume responsibilities as Atlantic correspondent for the labour weekly, the *Canadian Tribune*.

Figueroa was interviewed concerning both what he realistically hopes to accomplish by vying for a federal seat, as well as a number of specific policy questions.

Free Trade: "The Communist Party warned years ago of the free trade approach and what we have called the drift toward integration with the United States.

"Free Trade is not a new issue, but what's happened recently is that there has been a shift in big business interests across the country; a shift which was in turn sparked by the general crisis in the capitalist economies that began between 1980-82 (This "crisis" being the increasing concentration of corporate power into a handful of huge conglomerates for whom, as they grow, the markets of their home countries become increasingly inadequate to fuel steady growth). A period of rapid restructuring began in most western economies, alongside an accelerated drive to gain new markets and control them. So we've seen a drive in the Asian economy, toward Japanese domination, the growing economic integration process in Europe, and the drive by U.S. capital to consolidate its control over the American hemisphere... especially Canada because of our Natural resources.

"Ask yourself: Who are the loudest proponents of free trade in

the country? Trans-national corporations that are mostly U.S.

We also need to diversify trade with other capitalist countries, with developing countries, and with the socialist nations... some of the biggest markets in the world."

Meech Lake: "We see the Meech Lake Accord as being the constitutional framework for Canada's integration with the United States. It will, by transferring power to the provincial capitals, allow an individual province to discriminate against corporations from its own or other provinces that apply for provincial government contracts, while the free trade agreement makes it illegal to do the same against American corporations. Trade lines that should run east and west will be redirected north and south.

"The accord is also very undemocratic. It was hammered out in a smoke filled room without any public input or consultation. This, the most important legal base in the country."

Abortion Legislation: "We believe the issue of re-production rights must be worked out solely between a woman and her doctor. We go further, however, and call for publicly funded therapeutic abortion clinics -- making the legal right to abortion a practical reality through access to proper facilities."

Post-Secondary Education: "Our party supports universal accessibility to University education. Accessibility has come under increasing attack from the Tory government, and there are

Marxist-Leninist

government's response, shows the necessity for sportsmen and women, the youth to energize themselves to speak out about the grave problems and gloomy future facing amateur sport in Canada today.

I am a 7th-generation Canadian of Irish origin. I stand against free trade, for self-reliance in the economy, full sovereignty in cultural and social affairs, and for a society in which there is no exploitation of man by man: a society fit for human existence.

I am an internationalist who stands against the two superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union - their overbearing attitude, dictate, violence and wars for world

domination. I have defended the rights of the people for self-determination, whether in Vietnam, Central America and the Caribbean, for the Palestinian and peoples of the Middle East, South Africa, India and Afghanistan. At the same time, I stand against Canadian exploitation of other countries, and have campaigned against the rising number of joint U.S.-Canadian military exercises in the Caribbean.

Through personal visits, I have come to know and admire the profound achievements of the Albanian people in building a new society, free and independent, worthy of our respect and friendship.

Even more than free trade, TRUST has emerged as a question in the election. People ask: HOW CAN WE TRUST the Liberals or NDP to stand up against the Americans or deal with the problems facing society?

I strongly feel that the people

should look for solutions which are based on the objective laws of development of the economy, and fight for them on the basis of their own efforts.

Tony Seed
Independent Candidate for
Halifax
31 Hilden Drive (Spryfield)
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For the Future of Canada- The Tories Must Go!

The future of young people is on the line. A Tory Canada has meant more attacks against living conditions of young people, against their right to education, meaningful employment and equal participation in Canadian society.

A Tory Canada means:

- * a surrender of Canadian jobs, medicare, working conditions, culture, water and energy to giant corporations through the Mulroney trade deal
- * a \$5.5 billion cut to education spending
- * a \$200 billion military beef-up, it means nuclear submarines, more reserves and a bigger killing machine -- high youth unemployment and low education opportunities will be the hook for a life in the Army
- * more cuts to job creation and training programs for colleges -- these have been cut by 50 percent in the last year
- * a continued crisis in housing
- * more poverty, more unemployment -- youth make up half the unemployed and welfare recipients in Canada

The Communist Alternative:

- * **cancellation of the Mulroney trade deal**
- * expanding the home market and trade with all nations based on mutual benefit
- * an environmentally sound industrial strategy
- * **making Canada a nuclear weapons free zone including NO nuclear subs**
- * international cooperation to protect the environment
- * immediate and long-term funding for affordable housing-childcare-jobs
- * guaranteed rights of youth to jobs at decent pay, to quality education, training, recreational and cultural development
- * **sovereignty and social justice means a program geared at meeting the needs of Canadian people and not a small corporate elite**

For Real Change Vote Communist
a message from the Young Communist League of Canada