

## **WHY CANADIANS MUST REJECT HARPER:**

### **CANADIAN WOMEN SPEAK OUT**

On June 28, 2004, Canadians face a starker choice than in any election in our lifetimes. Dissatisfaction with the years of Liberal government is driving voters toward the so-called new “Conservative Party” and its new leader, Stephen Harper. With only weeks to go until election day, we fear many members of the public will not have time to adequately assess the sharp and clear differences between the major parties.

In fact, the “Conservative Party” is not a known and trusted alternative. The Right Honourable Joe Clark, former Prime Minister and a life-long member of the Progressive Conservative Party, made it clear that he prefers Paul Martin over Harper. The Harper agenda scares him. Many leading former Progressive Conservatives feel the same. So do an increasing number of non-partisan Canadians.

The party Harper leads has little in common with the former Progressive Conservative Party. But there is a way that Canadians can learn more about Harper’s unknown party: We can look south, to George Bush and the U.S. Republican Party.

Like the Bush Republicans, the Harper Conservatives would take Canada into dangerous territory:

- Harper, like Bush, favours Canadian involvement in the ongoing U.S. war on Iraq.
- Harper would take Canada into deficit in order to pour billions into the military. Bush has already taken the U.S. into trillions of dollars of debt to fund militarism.
- Harper, like Bush, denies the reality of climate change and the threat to the whole planet, and especially Canada, from our continued reliance on fossil fuels.
- Harper, like Bush, rejects the Kyoto Protocol. Harper has said he would rescind and not implement this international treaty which Canada has already ratified. Harper’s actions could place the entire international regime to avoid catastrophic levels of climate change at risk.
- While Bush is far more socially conservative, Harper would not defend the Charter of Rights and would allow for open votes. His caucus is largely made of the socially conservative Reform and Alliance Party supporters who would defeat many hard won rights. Charter Rights protecting women, gay and lesbian Canadians, and actually all Charter Rights protecting all Canadian citizens and residents would be at risk. The impact of Harper policies on these issues would not differ from those of Bush. Harper has said he would consider using the “notwithstanding clause” to limit the application of Charter Rights. No Prime Minister has ever said using the “notwithstanding clause” would be considered.
- Harper, like Bush, would challenge a woman’s right to choose. Harper has said he would allow the issue of access to legal abortions to be re-opened through an open vote in the House of Commons.
- Bush was responsible for more executions than any other U.S. Governor of recent times. Harper has suggested the prohibition of capital punishment would be re-opened in Canada.

We must not sleep walk into electing a Canadian version of George W. Bush. Challenge Stephen Harper on these positions.

Harper tells Canadians we should “Demand Better.” First, Canadians must “Demand the truth” about the new Canadian Republican Party, masquerading as the Conservative Party of Canada.

We do not have much time.

## SIGNATORIES:

(Note: Organizations are included for identification purposes only. The following women have signed this statement in their individual capacity.)

Maude Barlow, National Voluntary Chairperson, Council of Canadians  
Sarah Polley, Actor  
Sarah Harmer, Singer  
Naomi Klein, Author  
The Be Good Tanya's, Band (<http://www.begoodtanyas.com>) and band members Frazey Ford, Trish Klein, and Samantha Parton.  
Judy Rebick, Journalist, Rabble.ca  
Doris Anderson, C.M., feminist leader  
Mary Simon, C.M., former head Inuit Circumpolar Conference, former Canadian Ambassador to Denmark and the Circumpolar Region  
Norma Kassi, Winner of International Goldman Prize, leader of G'wichin effort against oil development in the Arctic Refuge  
Katherine MacDonald, Executive Director, Action Canada on Population and Development  
Joy Kennedy, KAIROS, Ecumenical church and social justice organization  
Cassandra Parlee, Women Demand Better, founder  
Judy Darcy, Community activist Vancouver, past National President CUPE  
Morna Ballantyne, Director, National Services, Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Dr. Ursula M. Franklin, C.C. FRSC  
Linda McQuaig, Author and Columnist  
Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, University of Victoria  
Jillian Skeet, International Affairs Consultant  
Claire Perry, co-founder, End the Arms Race, Vancouver  
Kerry McCuaig, Better Child Care Education, Toronto  
Shirley Eikhard, singer and musician  
Damhnait Doyle, singer  
Simon Wilcox, Singer (featured in TIME, Macleans, The Vancouver Sun, ELLE magazine, etc.)  
Elizabeth May, Executive Director, Sierra Club of Canada  
Donna Smyth, Nova Scotia writer  
Gillian Thomas, Professor, St. Mary's University  
Janis Alton, peace activist /researcher, Ottawa  
Dr. Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg, OISE  
Janet Eaton, Professor, Acadia University  
Geraldine Macdonald, Registered Nurse, Toronto  
Dorit Girash, Leamington, Ontario  
Vicky Husband, CM, OBC, BA, environmentalist, Victoria  
Lindsay Telfer, Youth leader, Ottawa  
Michele Landsberg, journalist/author  
Barbara Nichol: children's author, author of Beethoven Lives Upstairs  
Deborah Bourque, National President, Canadian Union of Postal Workers(CUPW-STTP)  
Laurell Ritchie, National Representative, Canadian Auto Workers (formerly NAC Executive and Co-Chair, Women & the Economy Committee)  
Very Rev the Hon Lois M Wilson CC, former Senator and former United Church Moderator  
Judith Killoran, lawyer  
Betty Jean Sutherland, President CUPE Nova Scotia  
Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Chair, Women's Studies, Simon Fraser University  
Virginia J. Rock, Ph.D., D. Litt., Professor Emerita, York University  
Penny Sanger, author and internationalist  
Dr. Barbara Crow, York University, past-president of the Canadian Women's Studies Assn.  
Maggie Breau, PHD candidate, Women's Studies, York University  
Nancy Knickerbocker, writer & activist  
Avvy Yao-Yao Go Barrister & Solicitor, Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic

Dr. Norene Pupo, Associate Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Director, Centre for Research on Work & Society, York University  
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Carole H. Carpenter, Ph.D., York University  
Judith Baker, Associate Professor of Philosophy, York University  
Katrina Hurley, MD  
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Martha Nandorfy, University Professor and Author  
Lydia Sayle, Peace Activist, Vancouver  
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Anjelika Hackett, B.A., B. Ed., C. Tran.  
Leslie Sanders, Professor, York University  
Lynda Lemberg, OSSTF and Educators for Peace and Justice  
Cindy Huggins-Deveau, CAW Local 707  
Dr. Nadya Burton, Ryerson University  
Clotilda Yakimchuk, CM, health and fair housing advocate, Sydney  
Karen Shenfeld, poet/freelance writer/film researcher, Toronto  
Margaret Campbell, Director of Editing, Publishing House  
Cathy Crowe, Registered Nurse  
Elaine Freedman, Lawyer  
Heather Nagy, Teacher-Librarian, Toronto  
Leslie Regan Shade, Associate Professor, Communication Studies, Concordia University  
Jody Berland Editor, TOPIA: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies  
Deb Flanagan, Education Chairperson, CAW Local 584  
Linda Briskin Social Science Division/School of Women's Studies York University  
Domenica Dileo, Community Development Coordinator, Social Service Sector, Toronto  
Jacqueline Treloar, Visual Artist, Art instructor, Toronto  
Pat Armstrong, Professor, York University  
Madeleine Gilchrist, Voice of Women  
Muriel Adey, Retired Priest, Anglican Diocese of British Columbia  
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Snezana Vitorovich, (Founding and) Past-President of the Association of Serbian Women  
Jane Doe, author "The Story of Jane Doe"  
Irene Roth, retired teacher  
Paulina Wyrzykowski, U of T Law School Graduate

