

**Security is Important,
but so are our Civil Liberties**

- Bill C-51 passed third reading in the House of Commons on May 6, 2015 with the support of the Conservatives and the Liberals and the opposition of the NDP, Bloc, and Green Party.
- The legislation gives CSIS the ability to 'disrupt' terror plots, makes it easier for police to limit the movements of a suspect, expand no-fly list powers, cracks down on terrorist propaganda, and removes barriers to sharing security-related information; it also permits spy agencies to conduct blanket surveillance activities without a warrant.
- Despite the broad range of new anti-terrorist powers, there are no new provisions for oversight of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and pre-existing oversight bodies such as the CSIS Inspector General and the Military Police Complaints Commission have been cut or downsized.
- Bill C-51 could target aboriginal, environmental, and anti-poverty activists, as well as Muslims, groups which are already subjected to arbitrary and overreaching powers by security forces.

**What Canadians Need and Want
is a Stronger, Better Funded
Public Health Care System**

- Canadians think our health care system is our most important asset.
- Medicare should include pharma care, homecare, and ambulance services.
- The Canada Health Accord must be restored; along with the \$36 billion in funding cuts.
- The Canada Health Council should be reinstated.
- Health care funding to the provinces should be increased not decreased.



HAMILTON CHAPTER

**GO
VOTE**

**FOR THE CHANGE
YOU WANT**

GoVoteHamilton.ca



HAMILTON CHAPTER

**Every vote matters.
In 2011, more than 9
million Canadians did not
vote. Together let's vote
in the government
Canadians need and
deserve.**

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**Authorized by the
Council of Canadians
Hamilton Chapter**

Acting for social justice in Hamilton

The following are high priority election issues for our community.

For more information go to <http://cochamilton.ca/election2015/>

Environmental Protection

- Recent changes to federal law eliminated protection for 98 % of Canada's rivers and lakes, greatly weakened the Fisheries Act, and shut down nearly all environmental assessments in response to the demands of the oil and pipeline lobby.
- Canada has withdrawn from the global agreement on climate change, and will not meet even its very modest promises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We need to lower our dependence on fossil fuels as quickly as possible.
- In the last three years, extreme storms driven by climate change have already caused massive flooding in Burlington, Toronto, and Calgary. Heavy rains have resulted in flooded Hamilton homes more than 20 times in the last decade.
- The pollution reductions achieved in Ontario by closing coal-fired electricity plants have been more than cancelled out by expansion of the Alberta oil/tar sands.
- The federal regulator of pipelines refuses to consider climate change impacts and continues to approve volume increases in 40-year-old pipelines such as Enbridge's Line 9 that crosses every river and stream flowing into Lake Ontario.
- Oil shipments by train are nearly 30 times higher than at the last federal election resulting in numerous explosive derailments, but the federal government has not even required the rail companies to provide shipment information to cities, towns and first responders.

Revive Canadian Democracy

- Omnibus bills make it impossible for politicians and the public to review and debate the content of these all-inclusive budget bills.
- The robocalls and voter suppression of 2011 must be prevented this year.
- Freedom of speech needs to be restored for scientists and politicians who have been muzzled for the past four years.
- Michael Chong's Reform Act received cross party support in the House of Commons but now it is stalled in the Senate.
- Proroguing government has been used in the past to avoid parliamentary debate – never again!

The Fair Elections Act (So called)

- The Act will suppress the votes of tens of thousands of qualified electors.
- The Act aims to ban the use of a Voter Identification Card.
- Canadians need to challenge this unfair Act.
- Changes infringe on the constitutional right to vote.
- Students, senior citizens in facilities, and First Nations will be negatively affected by the new rules.
- Restrictions on the Chief Electoral Officer will make it harder for the public to know about election fraud.
- The Council of Canadians will challenge the Fair Elections Act in Court July 2-3, 2015.

CBC and Public Broadcasting are Critical to the Preservation of our Canadian Culture and Democracy

Federal Poverty Elimination Plan

- We need coordinated policies between Federal and Provincial Governments.
- Canada ranks 24th out of 34 OECD countries in terms of poverty levels.
- 42% of Canadians state "they would be in financial difficulty if their paycheque was delayed by a week". (Canadian Payroll Association).
- 1 in 6 children lives in poverty in Canada, and 1 in 4 children in Hamilton lives in poverty.
- An income level of \$39,000 or less for a family of four is considered poverty for a city like Hamilton.
- There is a 21-year gap in life expectancy from best to worst neighbourhoods across Hamilton (65 yrs. vs. 85 yrs.).

Threats to Our Drinking Water

- In 2012, the federal government introduced two omnibus budget bills that gutted the *Fisheries Act*. The bills removed protections from 98% of lakes and rivers under the former *Navigable Water Protections Act*. They amended the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, effectively cancelling 3,000 Environmental Assessments.
- Canada has also endorsed the UN resolutions recognizing the human right to water.
- Communities have been raising a number of serious concerns about fracking including the risk of drinking water contamination.
- The nuclear waste disposal site near Lake Huron must be stopped.