

## George Campbell, Christian Heritage Party

### Dartmouth-Cole Harbour



Attached is a copy of our 2008 platform in brief. The platform in detail can be reviewed at [www.chp.ca](http://www.chp.ca). The candidate has given much thought to your question. As a experienced Pastor George's ministry has carried out many initiatives (locally and abroad) that has helped the poor within the resources that his church has a vision for. If George had his way he would turn Shannon Park into affordable housing specifically for the poor and homeless of

HRM. The Old CanEx could be turned into a community & counseling center, for use as a day care, a Food, clothing and furniture Bank for those in need. This government property has been setting empty for years and has so much potential. George had addressed this property with various heads of government, but alas, it fell on deaf ears, one of which being Mike Savage. There are many other properties similar to this, yet to be identified. Over all our platform would free up resources and contribute affordable housing through better tax management.

We acknowledge that there is a real need and we would be less than truthful if we said we could solve all the problem right away. However it must be pointed out that our social

system does provide a system of care for the impoverished that is better than most countries, not perfect, with room for improvement. Looking after the poor, the orphaned, and the widows is encased in the Christian Principles our party platform is based upon. There are so many needs as you no doubt are aware of. All we can say for sure at this point in time is that we would do our best to provide a noticeable impact in the areas of your concern once we better understand the structures and processes in place. In closing, I would like to say that if not elected, I am going to continue my efforts as best I can, to work in the areas of elevating hardship suffered but many in this local area.

## Geoff Regan, Liberal Party

### Halifax West



This is in response to your September 24 e-mail, in which you requested a brief description of the Liberal Party of Canada's platform on poverty and homelessness.

On September 22, Stéphane Dion and the Liberal Team unveiled the Liberal platform, Richer, Fairer, Greener — a plan to bring together a strong and prosperous economy, environmental sustainability, and social

justice for all. Central to the platform is the 30-50 Plan to Fight Poverty. This strategy is designed to ensure that no Canadian is prevented from making their full contribution to our economy and to our communities because of poverty. Highlights of that plan include:

- Low-income families:
  - \* creation of a new, refundable child tax benefit worth \$350 per child;
  - \* replacing the \$1,000 employment credit with a \$1,850 refundable employment credit targeted at those Canadians who earn less than \$50,000 per year;
  - \* increasing the working Income Tax Benefit, encouraging work by having this benefit available on the first dollar

earned, and ensuring that it benefits more families by phasing it out more slowly;

- \* creating the Guaranteed Family Supplement, which will provide Canada's poorest families with children up to \$1,225 more per family per year;
- \* raising the income level at which lower income families qualify for the National Child Benefit Supplement;
- Seniors and the disabled:
  - \* increasing the Guaranteed Income supplement by \$600 a year for Canada's lowest income seniors, and by \$800 a year for low-income senior couples;
  - \* creation of a new plan for catastrophic drug coverage;
  - \* making the Dis-

ability Tax Credit refundable, ensuring that low-income individuals who are disabled are able to directly benefit from this tax credit;

\* changing the CPP disability requirements to ensure that those with episodic illnesses do not jeopardize their ability to collect CP or QPP disability benefits if they work when they are able;

The working poor:
 

- \* ensuring that workers who accept temporary work while receiving Employment Insurance benefits will be allowed to earn the greater of \$75 or 40 per cent of the benefits without it being clawed back;

\* ensuring E.I. benefits are based on the 14 best weeks of earnings in the 52 weeks preceding a

claim;

\* adding five weeks of EI benefits in high-unemployment areas to cover the gap between the end of benefits and the beginning of seasonal work;

The homeless:

\* working with provinces to increase supports for people in need in areas such as public transit, child care and social housing;

\* helping to provide for 30,000 new social housing units and refurbishing another 30,000 existing units to make them more liveable;

\* expanding subsidies for dedicated units for low-income Canadians in federally funded co-operative housing;

\* renewing the Residential Rehabilitation

Program and the Homelessness Partnering Initiative;

\* supporting the building and upgrading of affordable housing for low-income Canadians, to help them reduce their energy costs through high environmental standards.

Among the most sacred of Canadian values is this core belief: the true measure of a country is the way it treats its most vulnerable. This belief lies at the heart of The Liberal Party's 30-50 plan to Fight Poverty.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (835-8400) if you require further clarification on this or any other issue.

All the best,

Geoff Regan  
M.P., Halifax West

## Mike Savage, Liberal Party

### Dartmouth-Cole Harbour



Thanks for sending me your questions regarding the Liberal plan to reduce poverty.

#### 1. The 30-50 Plan

We plan to reduce the number of people living below the poverty line by at least 30 percent. And we will reduce the number of children living in poverty by at least 50 percent, to give nearly 400,000 children a better chance in life - the most ambitious anti-poverty program in generations.

Four tax measures included in the Liberal green shift plan are specifically designed to help low-income

Canadians:

\* the creation of a new, refundable child tax benefit worth \$350 per child;

\* replacing the Conservatives' \$1,000 employment credit - with a \$1,850 refundable employment credit targeted at those Canadians who earn less than \$50,000 per year which will put up to \$250 per person into the pockets of those working Canadians;

\* increasing the Working Income Tax Benefit, encouraging work by having this benefit available on the first dollar earned, and ensuring that it benefits more families by phasing it out more slowly; and

\* making the Disability Tax Credit refundable, ensuring that low-income individuals who are disabled are able to directly benefit from this tax credit.

We will also create the Guaranteed Family Supplement, to help 500,000 of Canada's poorest families with children by providing up to \$1,225 a year more per family. To provide further

help to lower-income families with children, we will ensure that all families with incomes up to \$26,000 keep all of the National Child Benefit Supplement which is currently phased out at incomes of approximately \$21,000.

A Liberal government will also significantly reduce the number of seniors living in poverty by:

\* increasing the Guaranteed Income Supplement by \$600 a year for Canada's lowest income seniors, and by \$800 a year for low-income senior couples; and

\* changing the CPP disability requirements to ensure that those with episodic illnesses like MS do not jeopardize their ability to collect CPP or QPP disability benefits if they work when they are able to.

In addition to these income supports, we will work with provinces to increase supports for people in need in areas like public transit, child care and social housing.

We will tackle the

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*"We must serve the poor; they have been given to us as our masters and patrons"*

- St. Vincent de Paul, Priest.

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