

From: **Spirit Bear Youth Coalition** <letters@spiritbearyouth.org>

Date: 12 November 2012 13:07

Subject: A Plea for Democracy

To: Simon Jackson <dsjackson@spiritbearyouth.org>

Friends, Colleagues and Supporters:

As many of you know, my good friend and mentor, Harvey Locke, is running for the federal Liberals in the upcoming by-election in Calgary City Centre. For me, its not about one party or ideology, but about supporting good candidates who will improve our national discourse and will be committed to leadership, dialogue and innovative thinking.

Harvey's campaign has been positive and ideas-focused. And while you might not support the Liberal Party or even Harvey in this upcoming election, you can't ignore Harvey's lifetime of public service to conservation. He is not only a hero, but is one of the most accomplished environmental leaders in history.

Sadly, Chris Turner - the Green Party candidate in this by-election - has elected to publish a brochure smearing Harvey's reputation. The Greens are spreading lies that attempt to revise history and ignore Harvey's unblemished and unprecedented track record of collaborating with all sides of an issue to achieve some of the most significant conservation gains in our nation's history.

Turner, quite simply, is attempting to bring negative, ugly, untruthful, US-style attacks into the Canadian democratic discourse. It is both disturbing and scary.

I understand that the Green Party doesn't share every point of view with the Liberal Party and that in a close race, disagreements will boil to the surface. But for an environmental-focused party to turn on someone with such a sterling record on the environment and to blatantly spread lies amongst the electorate is a slap in the face to democracy.

This is but the latest in a string of ugly events in Canada's electoral arena and I, for one, am sick of it.

I urge you to do what you can to take a stand for our country's democratic health. Even if you don't support me in my belief that Harvey is the right candidate for Calgary City Centre, I hope you'll support me in saying enough to this horrid, ugly style of politics by ensuring a good man's name is not run through the mud for the sake of a few votes.

This is Canada. We're better than this and I would have hoped the Green Party is better than this too.

With thanks,

Simon

Spirit Bear Youth Coalition

*Please consider a \$50 donation to support the work of the volunteer-run Spirit Bear Youth Coalition:
www.spiritbearyouth.org