

DUFF CONACHER and DEMOCRACY WATCH

Applicants

– and –

THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA,
THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL OF CANADA and
THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

Respondents

AFFIDAVIT OF JOHN BENNETT

I, John Bennett, of the City of Ottawa in the Province of Ontario, MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:


1. I am Director of Communications of the Green Party of Canada and have held this position since August 28, 2008. As such, I have personal knowledge of the matters to which I depose, unless expressly stated to be based on information, in which instances I believe such information to be true.
2. The Green Party of Canada is a registered federal political party and was founded in 1983. The Green Party of Canada runs candidates in federal elections and participates in the national political discourse.
3. In the 39th Parliament, the Conservative government introduced legislation that was passed by Parliament thereby supposedly introducing fixed election dates and setting the date for the next federal election as October 19, 2009. The Green Party of Canada expected that the next election would be on this date unless the government fell after a non-confidence vote.

4. When Prime Minister Stephen Harper disregarded this law and called a federal general election for October 14, 2008, the Green Party's ability to run an election campaign was significantly impaired.
5. The Green Party of Canada's ability to recruit and nominate candidates was impaired due to lack of notice prior to an election call and inability to make prior arrangements
6. Ordering signs, literature and other campaign materials was delayed due to lack of notice prior to an election call. Many candidates' and campaigns did not receive materials in a timely fashion due to the length of time required to place and receive orders for materials.
7. The Green Party of Canada planned to convert its website into an election-ready site immediately following the drop of the writ but due to lack of notice, the website was not converted until several weeks into the campaign.
8. Prior to the election call, the Green Party of Canada was focused on campaigning in four federal by-elections that were slated for September 8, 2008. Candidates in these by-elections were not prepared to continue campaigning until October 14, 2008 and were negatively impacted as a result of the general election call. The fatigue experienced by candidates during the by-election period coupled with additional fatigue during the general election was a significant source of stress for these candidates.
9. The Green Party of Canada's ability to organize a leader's tour during the election was impaired due to lack of prior notice of an election call. Specifically, the Green Party of Canada had planned to secure a private train car in order to conduct the leader's tour by rail. This project, however, requires advance notice and the Green Party of Canada was not able to obtain a private train car on short notice. The Green Party of Canada resorted to purchasing space on a commercial

train and as a result, the leader's tour was unable to visit important Canadian communities including; Calgary, Alberta; Regina, Saskatchewan, thubder Bay, Windsor and London in Ontario: Quebec City, Quebec.

10. The Green Party of Canada's efforts to participate in this election, to inform voters of its policies, to gain votes and to win seats in the House of Commons, have all been impaired by the lack of advance notice that the election was going to occur.

11. I make this affidavit in support of this application and for no other purpose.

Sworn before me at the City of Ottawa)
in the Province of Ontario)
this 10th day of November, 2008.)
)

_____)
A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits)


_____)
JOHN BENNETT