

"POLITICALLY SPEAKING"

Martha Hall Findlay, former MP for Willowdale

May, 2011

Hello everyone, from your now-former Member of Parliament, Martha Hall Findlay.

I have been very kindly asked by Hi-Rise to continue to write a political column in this space, which I am excited to do. Although no longer in public office, I feel strongly about Willowdale, about Canada, and about our future. I hope to be involved in public policy and to continue, in some manner, to contribute to Canadian society.

This column will provide a forum for commentary and analysis as we all watch what comes next in Canadian politics.

I will also keep you posted as to what's next for me - I don't exactly know, yet. The dust needs to settle.

This first post-election column must be, however, one of thanks.

First and foremost, to all of the people of Willowdale, thank you so much for the honour and privilege of serving as your Member of Parliament for the last 3 years. I have enjoyed it immensely, and I hope that I, and our office team of Michele, Carol and many other part-timers and volunteers, have been of help to you. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their incredible work for the people of Willowdale. They are a great group of people and I know we tried to do all that we could – our now-famous “Wall of Thanks” (all the cards and photos from people we have helped) is something that we are very proud of.

Please welcome Chungsen (CS) Leung as your new MP. He will, I'm sure, do an excellent job. Congratulations, CS, on being elected in this wonderful riding. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Congratulations also to Mehdi Mollahasani of the NDP who did so well in this campaign.

As we three candidates in this campaign said a number of times, we showed to each other a level of respect and civility, and enjoyed the process of debate and campaigning in a way that was very different from the hyper-partisanship we see in politics today. I know that I can speak for all three of us in saying that we are proud of that, and I hope that our example helps others improve the level of political discourse in Canada.

Also, thank you to Markus O'Brien Fehr, President of the Willowdale Federal Liberal Association (WFLA); WFLA itself; Carol Kim; and all of the other incredible volunteers — first, for your friendship and support, and second, for a hard-fought campaign. It was a HUGE pleasure for me to be able to work with all of you. Thank you all so very, very much.

I became a Liberal because I felt it was the party of the centre. I feel strongly that the majority of Canadians don't want a government that is to one extreme or the other - that most of us genuinely want a progressive centrist government, one that shows a combination of economic responsibility, business-sense, respect, tolerance and social compassion. We want "Prosperity with a Purpose."

Maybe we'll see a relatively centrist government over the next four years... Or maybe not.

I look forward to watching and providing you with my thoughts and opinions.

I also encourage you to join me, to participate in the discussion, to ask questions. Please write to me at info@marthahallfindlay.ca, or by mail to 5845 Yonge St., Box 69522, Willowdale, ON M2M 4K3.

Martha Hall Findlay