

Paul Dewar

1. Do you support co-operating with the Liberals and Greens before the next election to defeat Stephen Harper's government? If so, how?

Throughout my work in Parliament, I've always sought to work with others to get results for our communities and the issues Canadians care about. For instance, I worked hard in the previous Parliament to secure majority support for an NDP bill to make affordable medicines available to the poorest countries. We won that vote despite Mr. Harper's opposition to the bill. That's the approach I take to politics.

I am not in favour of electoral arrangements which reduce voters' choices. While all non-Conservative parties share the goal of defeating the current government, we also have major differences in policy and philosophy. Furthermore, supporters of different parties are not transferable to each other - many of them might prefer voting Conservative rather than another party.

My plan is to reach out to Canadians who didn't vote in the previous elections and show that politics can be a positive force in their lives again. We can't do that if our focus and energy is spent on back-room deals between parties. I also want to reach out to Canadians who voted Conservative in the previous election and change their minds. It would be a major mistake not to reach out to those voters.

2. Do you support electoral reform? If so, what kind of electoral reform do you support?

Absolutely. The current system undermines democracy, it is unfair to voters, it creates phony majorities and exaggerates regional divisions. In my first term as Prime Minister, I will begin implementing an ambitious democratic reform agenda including introducing proportionality into our system. My preference is a mixed-member system similar to New Zealand.

3. Will you actively campaign on the issue of electoral reform before the 2015 election? Are you willing to co-operate with other parties once in government to make it happen?

Yes and yes. My campaign for NDP leader has focused on the theme of Next 70 - that is the number of seats we need to win in order to form the next government. As part of that work, I want our grassroots to focus on issue-based campaigns. Electoral reform should be a priority for these campaigns.

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