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## **Penn applauds Green/Liberal agreement**

Briony Penn, federal Liberal candidate in Saanich-Gulf Islands, has commended the agreement reached between Stéphane Dion and Elizabeth May. With this agreement, neither party will run a candidate in the other leader's riding in the upcoming federal election.

'I applaud Stéphane Dion's decision,' said Penn. 'It demonstrates his willingness to try new approaches to politics. His creativity and his passion are what attracted me to the Liberals.'

'Elizabeth May has made a significant contribution to environmental awareness in Canada,' said Penn. 'She has inspired me and I hope that she is elected. She would make a wonderful MP. I know that the Liberal Party can work with

Elizabeth, in Parliament and outside.

Penn was acclaimed April 1 as the Liberal Party of Canada's candidate in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding. She is running against incumbent Gary Lunn, the Minister of Natural Resources, who received just 37% of the vote in the 2006 election, the lowest percentage of any Cabinet Minister.

Penn was invited to run for federal office by both the Green Party and the NDP but opted for the Liberals in response to Stéphane Dion's invitation to women and environmentalists to come forward to help reform, reshape and rebuild the Liberals.

'When has any other leader of a mainstream political party extended that kind of explicit invitation?' asked Penn at the time. 'Never.' ✍

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