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Reprint from Volume 20 Number 17

September 4, 2008

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## Changing the climate in Ottawa

The Green Party of Canada has its first MP. In a surprise move, MP for West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country Blair Wilson, joined the Green Party at the very end of August. He announced in Ottawa that he will sit as Canada's first ever Green MP.

With an election imminent and the possible de-railing of four by-elections, Green Party of Canada spokespersons are ecstatic. 'With a Green MP sitting in the House of Commons, it will now be impossible to exclude the Green Party from the televised leaders' debates,' said leader Elizabeth May.

Saanich–Gulf Islands Green Party Candidate Andrew Lewis congratulated Wilson. 'There's a tremendous buzz in the air,' he

reported after working the Green Party booth at the Saanich Fair.

'It's going to be the greenest election ever with Gary Lunn up against three candidates with good green credentials but,' he adds with a smile in his voice, 'if you are going green you may as well vote for the real thing!'

A seasoned campaigner in Saanich–Gulf Islands, Lewis first ran as a Green Party candidate in the 2001 BC provincial election, in which he earned over 25% of the vote. Andrew has since run federally twice in Saanich–Gulf Islands for the Green Party of Canada, and retains the record for the highest vote for a federal Green candidate, winning over 10,000 votes in 2004. ✉

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'This article was published (Sept 4, 2008) in 'Island Tides'. 'Island Tides' is an independent, regional newspaper distributing 17,500 print copies in throughout the Gulf Islands and the Canadian Strait of Georgia from Tsawwassen to Campbell River, BC.'

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