

An open letter to voters of Vancouver-Quadra:

Social & environmental leaders unite behind Stephen Owen's outstanding leadership and plans for a green and just future

Stephen Owen believes that we should build bridges between leaders in the business, social and environmental fields. He believes in intelligent leadership and policy to stimulate markets for environmental and smart technologies which will create the foundation of a sustainable economy in BC and Western Canada.

These beliefs, combined with his record as an MP and cabinet minister, make Stephen Owen the right choice for a progressive Canada. Ottawa needs people like Stephen Owen pushing the frontiers of progressive ethical, environmental and social leadership – putting BC and Western Canada on the map.

Motivated by the Alliance/Conservative Party's plans to reverse social progress, and to weaken environmental innovation in Canada, we have recognized a need for action.

We are drawn together by a shared appreciation for Stephen Owen's accomplishments on environmental, ethical, and social justice issues during his 25 years of dedicated and respected public service in BC, Ottawa, and around the world.

Stephen Owen's record speaks for itself:

Before becoming an MP in 2000...

Stephen Owen has demonstrated compassion, good judgment, and ethical integrity throughout his entire career – in fact, he has dedicated his life to it.

Whether in upholding standards of ethical government as Deputy Attorney General of BC, stewarding the Province's natural resources as Commissioner of Resources and Environment (CORE) for BC, or serving as government watchdog in the role of BC Provincial Ombudsman, his record is unparalleled.

Today, Stephen Owen is recognized in BC, Canada, and internationally for his negotiating skills and ability find innovative solutions to complex environmental and social challenges.

Vicky Husband, one of BC's and Canada's pre-eminent environmental leaders and recipient of the Order of BC and Order of Canada, sums it up:

"Stephen Owen was a strong environmental advocate and leader in CORE, and he's an extremely ethical person that we don't often see in politics. He stands up for the right things in Canada. He has my total respect."

In over 3 years as an MP and cabinet minister...

After his arrival on the federal stage in 2000, Stephen Owen wasted no time rolling up his sleeves and getting to work on key issues. In a short time, he:

- Was instrumental in creating the position of an independent ethics commissioner reporting directly to Parliament.
- Launched a major *Greening of the Federal Government* initiative, with immediate action committing: (i) all new and retrofitted Federal Government buildings (some 70 million square feet) to meet the LEED Gold environmental certification; (ii) all new vehicles purchased in his Department, and most across government, to be Low Emission Vehicles; and (iii) an increasing proportion of the Federal Government's \$1billion/month procurement budget to sustainable purchasing standards.
- Hosted a ground-breaking *Environmental Technology Forum* with Prime Minister Paul Martin to bring together leaders from Western Canada's diverse environmental technology sector to develop strategies for product and market development, and ensure Canada remains an international leader in environmental technology and solutions to critical global challenges.

Elizabeth May, Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Canada and one of Canada's most vocal and influential environmentalists recently awarded Stephen Owen a gold medal in the 2004 "Eco-Olympics" for his efforts. She adds:

"Stephen Owen is one of the most outstanding environmental parliamentarians in Canadian history. I've been enormously impressed with what he's already accomplished in the greening of government."

Rob Safrata, CEO of Vancouver-based NOVEX Couriers, with its fleet of 15 hybrid vehicles, commented:

"I am extremely impressed with how quickly and clearly Stephen Owen has communicated and specified actions the government can take to make a major difference in our communities. That's the kind of leadership we need to make things happen."

Milton Wong, Chairman of HSBC, Chancellor of SFU, and a successful business leader now focused on sustainability, the arts, and cross-cultural understanding, recognizes that Stephen Owen's accomplishments are part of a decade of great achievements:

"The recent social and environmental successes experienced in BC and across Canada would not have been possible without the strong economic foundations laid down by seven consecutive years of surpluses and a well-balanced approach to decision-making."

What he plans to do if re-elected in Vancouver Quadra...

Stephen Owen's accomplishments lead us to expect great things. He is committed to ensuring the Federal Government is an environmental and social leader on the international stage.

Stephen Owen is committed to intelligent policy to move Canada towards sustainability over the next generation. He is committed to exploring innovative ways forward and stimulating a competitive environmental industry in Canada. And above all, he is committed to protecting the environmental and social fabric of the Canadian identity, and establishing Canada's place in the world.

David LePage, CEO of the Social Purchasing Portal and Fast Track to Employment in Vancouver, drives home the necessity of ensuring Stephen Owen is re-elected as part of a Liberal government:

"From the Community Economic Development side, Paul Martin's leadership in the social economy has been a tremendous step forward, and if we lose that, we'll lose 20 years of progress."

We hope you will take the time to learn more about Stephen Owen and consider voting for him on June 28th. Social and environmental achievements in Canada cannot afford to be set back after having made so much progress.

Signatories:

David Boyd
Colin Grant
Charles Holmes
David LePage
Doug Ragan
Robert Safrata
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