



## TRUNG TÂM NGƯỜI VIỆT CANADA

**Vietnamese Canadian Centre - Centre vietnamien du Canada**

*Charitable Organization Registration No. 0772350-59-10*

*249 Rochester Street, Ottawa, ON K1R 7M9 CANADA*

*Tel. (613) 230-8282 - Fax. (613) 230-8281*

E-mail: [trungtam@istop.ca](mailto:trungtam@istop.ca)

Website: <http://www.vietfederation.ca>

### PRESS RELEASE

#### All-Candidates Meeting at the Vietnamese Canadian Centre: June 19, 2004

About 70 people attended the all-candidates meeting hosted by the Vietnamese Canadian Centre at its location, 249 Rochester Street, Ottawa on Saturday June 19 to promote debate on issues of common interest in the Election 2004. Of nine candidates registered with Elections Canada for the Ottawa Centre riding, eight accepted the invitation to participate, including: Ed Broadbent, NDP; David Chernushenko, Green Party; Carla Marie Dancy, Canadian Action Party, Robert Gauthier, Independent; Louis Lang, Marxist-Leninist; Richard Mahoney, Liberal; Mike Murphy, Conservative; and Stuart Ryan, Communist.

The debate was focused on three themes of special interest to the Vietnamese community: Foreign Aid and Human Rights; Accreditation and Employment of Internationally Trained Professionals; and Employment Equity in the Public Service. To address these issues, the Vietnamese Canadian Centre prepared the following questions for reaction by the candidates:

#### 1. Foreign Aid and Human Rights

Canada has been known as a generous country which actively participates in promoting democratic values and respect for human rights throughout the world. How would your party reconcile between providing development aid and the issue of respect for human rights in the receiving countries ?

#### 2. Accreditation and Employment of Internationally Trained Professionals

Canada is a nation built by immigrants. It is well known that immigrants are essential to its economic growth and the well-being of its people. It is also well known that there is a general shortage of skilled workers, especially in the healthcare area. Yet, many immigrants find it difficult to use the professional training that they've obtained in their home countries in their search for employment in Canada. How would your party address this issue ?

#### 3. Employment Equity in the Public Service

The issue of employment equity was raised at the national level ever since Judge Abella produced her report many years ago. What kind of progress has been made in the area of employment equity in the federal public service since then, especially with regard to visible minorities ? What is your party's position in this area ?

All candidates responded to these questions in a concise and comprehensive way.

Following is a report entitled "Mahoney: Vote Liberal or Tory" by Nelly Elayoubi of the Ottawa Sunday Sun (June 20, 2004).

*Ottawa Centre Liberal candidate Richard Mahoney says voters only have one choice to make: Do they make Paul Martin or Stephen Harper the next prime minister. During yesterday's all-candidates' debate, Mahoney said a vote for any other party is simply a waste.*

*But other Ottawa Centre candidates are urging voters to put an "X" next to the person they feel would make the best MP.*

*"It's better to vote for what you want and not get it, than to vote for what you don't want and get it," said Canadian Action Party candidate Carla Dancey, who ran in the last federal election under the Reform banner.*

*NDP candidate Ed Broadbent said Canadians should vote according to their values.*

*"They should think very seriously about what kind of Canada we want. In broad terms for me, it means a society grounded on the interconnected notion of liberty and equality."*

#### *HUMAN RIGHTS*

*Mahoney asked voters to think "very, very carefully" about the Canada they want, taking repeated shots at Tory rival Mike Murphy.*

*At the event, hosted by the Vietnamese Canadian Centre, candidates were grilled on their views on issues such as foreign aid and human rights, accreditation of internationally trained professionals and employment equity in the public service.*

*"The Liberals do a lot of talking, the Conservatives can make it happen. That's a promise," Murphy said, adding the need for more doctors could be met through skilled immigrants.*

*Mahoney said it's up to the federal government to "knock the heads" of the province and the various accrediting bodies to get moving on accrediting foreign professionals.*

*"We have in our platform a commitment to fund and train and credit 1,000 new Canadians in the medical system alone," Mahoney said.*

*Broadbent called the accreditation issue "serious," saying he wants to see a commission set up to deliver a report on solutions within a year.*

*The former NDP leader also said he wants to see high-ranking public servants reflect the ethnic diversity of Canada.*

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Tel. (613) 230-8282