

The Leadership Convention has passed with great success. We have a new leader, Phil Lees! The event was marked with a registration of seventy-one people, which is the greatest number we have had in attendance for some time for FCP events. The facilities at the Hamilton Convention Centre were exceptional, the breaks and luncheon were enjoyed by all.

The day started with an opening prayer by Joe Vandenberg and the singing of O Canada. The Meeting was chaired by me. Don Pennell, the first Leader and a founding member, gave an inspired history of the FCP beginning. Following a break for coffee and an opportunity for those present to meet each other, a tribute to Giuseppe Gori, the out-going Leader, was given by John Gots, the Interim Leader. The tribute outlined our appreciation of his dedication to the Party over the past ten years. Unfortunately Giuseppe was unable to attend due to business obligations. A registered numbered Icon (with the original held out west) of "Our Lady of Canada" was presented. This was a copy of the Icon received by Don Pennell when he retired, and was greatly admired by Giuseppe Gori at that time. Then Don Pennell presented a gift to Klaus Steden for his years of dedication to the Party in a variety of roles. Henri Cloudt, a dedicated member who faithfully read the Hansard, was also to be honoured, but he could not be present. He is an International Lawyer who shared his wisdom with the Party in the early years.

Then the Chair was given to Geoffrey Cauchi to conduct the election. He had Don Pennell give the report from the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Don and Shirley Pennell, Margaret and Maurice Purcell, all long time members of the Party. After that, Phil Lees was officially acclaimed as the new Leader. This was greeted with enthusiastic applause.

Phil Lees gave his acceptance address followed by a slide presentation which he had used during his Leadership Campaign outlining the stage where the Party is, and some of the plans he has for the future. There was a brief question period.

Following the buffet lunch, which provided an opportunity for people to mingle and visit, Phil Lees presided over the activities of the afternoon. He did a brief presentation to inform the many new members present about the Party. Then we moved to the adjoining room and were divided into groups as represented by 11 electoral districts (ridings). This gave people time to meet others in their riding and plan some activity to increase membership participation. The afternoon ended on an up beat note. Everyone had a good time, and left looking forward with enthusiasm to future involvement.

**Lynne Scime
President**