

Canadian Social Democracy Study Launched



About 50 people attended the launch to hear about the Canadian Social Democracy Study and participate in a town hall style discussion of the Senate

Canada. He went on to explain that the ultimate result of the study will be an academic book examining the activity and ideology of the federal NDP as well as the creation of a network of academics studying social democracy at both the provincial and federal levels. The event featured a 'town hall' style discussion with NDP Ethics Critic Charlie Angus and NDP Democratic Reform Critic Craig Scott on Canadian Senate that was moderated by Dr. David McGrane. According to the *Huffington Post*, who covered the event, Angus was like a "prairie preacher." He warned that maintaining the Senate would allow Stephen Harper to continue to have influence over legislation through his appointees long after he is no longer in the Prime Minister's chair. Craig Scott gave a thoughtful presentation about how the current, unelected Senate could be replaced with representative "citizen's assemblies."

The Canadian Social Democracy Study was officially launched on September 11th, 2013 at the Refinery in Saskatoon. The event began with Dr. McGrane

describing how he was awarded a three-year \$56,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study contemporary social democracy in

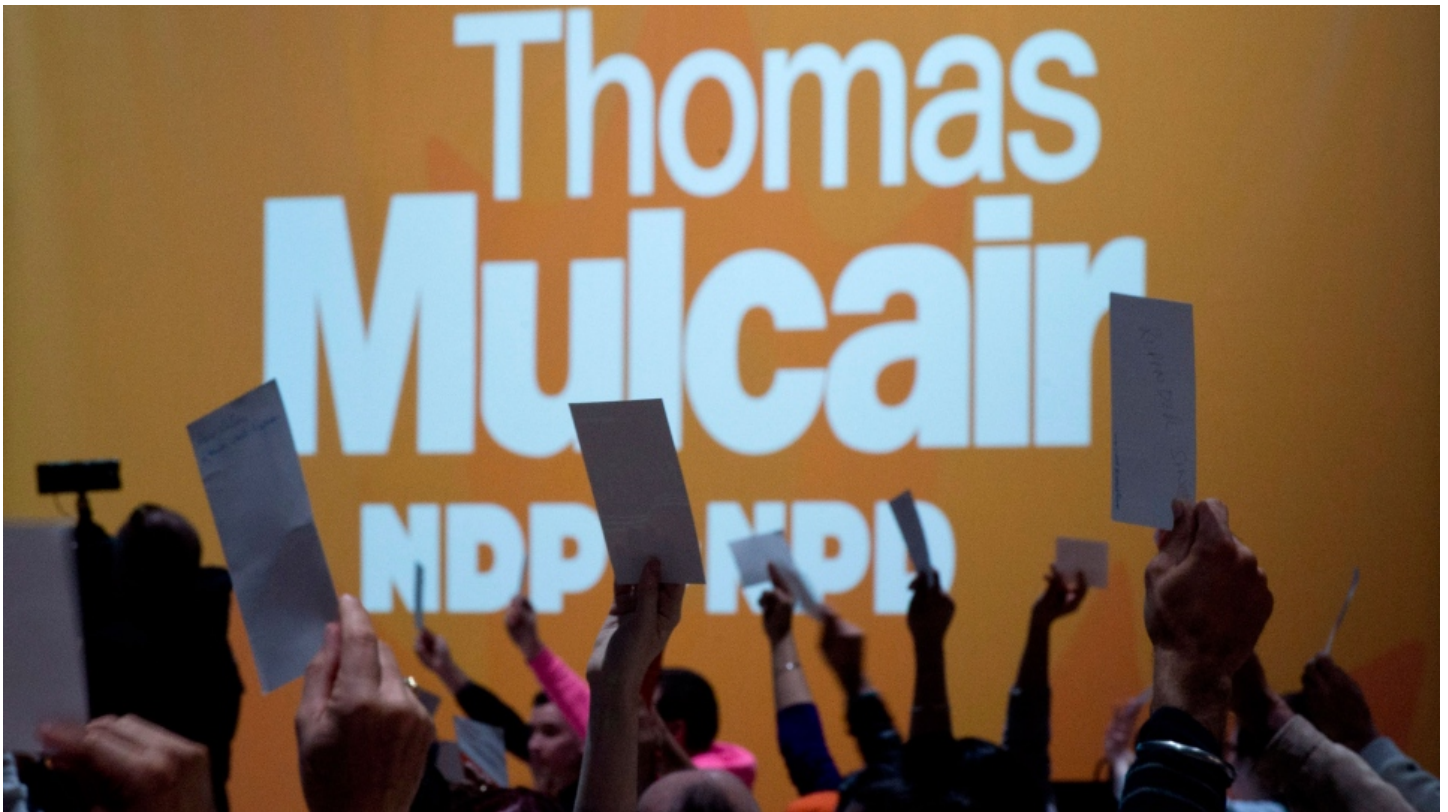


Like us on facebook at:
www.facebook.com/canadian.social.democracy

Sign up for our electronic newsletter at:
www.canadiansocialdemocracy.ca



Blogs debate New NDP Constitutional Preamble



NDP delegates vote to change the preamble of the party's constitution at its National Convention in Montreal in 2013.

The Canadian Social Democracy Study has officially launched its website at: www.canadiansocialdemocracy.ca. The blog section of the website has already generated some fascinating intellectual debate.

Christo Aivalis argued that the revised federal NDP's preamble is merely "warmed over liberalism." In rebuttal, Mitchell Anderson contended that the new preamble embraces "a diversity of ways to pursue the common good." Below are two short excerpts from these very interesting blogs.

"If anything, the time is ripe for an NDP reinvigorated with the spirit

of the Regina Manifesto, to address the issues of market irrationality, corporate greed, and systemic inequality. Capitalism has not proven itself cured of its terminal illnesses as was thought by CCFers in the 1950s, and Canada is in dire need of an NDP willing to challenge an economic system characterized by its disregard for human dignity, optimism, hope, and love...let us not forget that if times of economic prosperity supposedly call out for liberal moderation, then times of economic struggle *must certainly* call out for democratic socialist radicalism." Christo Aivalis, October 2015, www.canadiansocialdemocracy.ca

"Under the old preamble, the means - public ownership and a planned economy - became an end in and of themselves. Consequently, the old preamble directed us to pursue outdated policies just because they were in our constitution. We were locked into one way of pursuing the common good when a diversity of ways exists. Our new preamble clearly orients Canada's New Democrats towards the things that truly matter, for sustainable prosperity, for social and economic justice, and for international cooperation." Mitchell Anderson, October 2015, www.canadiansocialdemocracy.ca

Featured Researcher: David McGrane, University of Saskatchewan



David McGrane is the Principal Investigator of the Canadian Social Democracy Study. His research focuses on the activity of the federal NDP since 2000 and the history of social democracy in Quebec and Saskatchewan. His book chapter in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2011* entitled "Political Marketing and the NDP's Historic Breakthrough" is currently the only academic account of the federal NDP's surprising success in the 2011 federal election.

Bibliography of Dr. McGrane's Research on Social Democracy

David McGrane, Stephen White, Loleen Berdahl, Michael Atkinson, "Leadership, Partisan Loyalty, and Issue Salience: The 2011 Provincial Election in Saskatchewan", *Canadian Political Science Review*, Volume 7, Number 1, (September 2013), pp. 1-12.

David McGrane, "Political Marketing and the NDP's Historic Breakthrough" in *The Canadian Federal Election of 2011*, Jon Pammett and Christopher Doran (eds.), Toronto: Dundurn Publishing, 2011, pp. 77-110.

David McGrane, "A Mixed Record: Gender and Saskatchewan Social Democracy", *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Volume 42, Number 1, (Winter 2008), pp. 179-203.

David McGrane, "The 2007 Provincial Election in Saskatchewan", *Canadian Political Science Review*, Volume 2, Number 1, (March/April 2008), pp. 64-71.

David McGrane, "Which Third Way? A Comparison of the Romanow and Calvert NDP Governments from 1991 to 2007" in *Saskatchewan Politics: Crowding the Centre*, Howard Leeson (ed.), Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre Press, 2008, pp. 143-164.

David McGrane, "Western Alienation or Mere Critique of Federal Government Policies?: Saskatchewan Social Democrats' View of Federalism from 1900 to Present", *International Journal of Canadian Studies*, Volume 32, (2005), pp. 205-235.

Canadian Social Democracy Study Hires Two Student Research Assistants



Erica Violet Lee is a fourth-year political studies and philosophy undergraduate student at St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan. Erica is extensively involved in First Nations activism and education. Recently named one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40 as an organizer for international actions with Idle No More, Erica also works within the community doing mentorship programs with first-year Aboriginal university students and Oskayak High School. This summer, Erica was named an Iris Marion Young Diversity Scholar by the American Philosophical Association (APA). In her work for the Canadian Social Democracy Study, Erica is examining the topics covered by the NDP in Question Period in the House of Commons from 2004 to 2015.



Chuck Plante is a PhD student studying in Sociology at McGill University. His research uses advanced quantitative methods and survey data to explore public policy and income dynamics throughout the developed and developing world. He is especially interested in the role that 'risk' and 'risk perceptions' play in determining people's life choices as well as the possible negative effects that risk perceptions have on aggregate economic outcomes and the role of the welfare state in managing them. His most recent publications compare and contrast family poverty outcomes among Canada's largest provinces. He currently resides with his partner Linh Le in Saskatoon where he is active in local social democratic movements and politics. As part of the Canadian Social Democracy Study team, Charles is performing analyses of public opinion polls pertaining to the rise of the federal NDP's popularity from 2000 to 2011.