

The Green Light Committee considered the application of Mr. Edward Corrigan to be a Qualified Nomination Contestant for the Liberal Party of Canada in the federal riding of London-Fanshawe. After very careful consideration of Mr. Ed Corrigan's application the Green Light Committee decided on June 22, 2007 to "red light" Mr. Corrigan.

In its review of Mr. Corrigan's application, the Green Light Committee was mindful of the 2007 Rules for the Province of Ontario for the Selection of Candidates for the Liberal Party of Canada. In particular, the Committee paid special attention the provisions below to guide them in their consideration of his application:

- 6.3 It is a continuing condition of status as a Qualified Nomination Contestant that a Nomination Contestant, either before or subsequent to approval, consent to any and all background check(s) that the Ontario Campaign Chair considers to be appropriate to have undertaken, in the best political interests of the Liberal Party of Canada. Such background checks may include, but are not limited, the release of criminal and military service records. The results of such background checks shall be kept confidential by the Ontario Campaign Chair, unless, based upon information contained therein, he, she or they conclude that it is not in the interest of the Liberal Party of Canada that Qualified Nomination Contestant Status be granted and upon such determination, the affected candidate claims it to have been made without good reason. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Ontario Campaign Chair may, upon receiving potentially negative or questionable information as a result of such background check, disclose such information to the National Campaign Chair and to the Leader in order to consult upon a decision, but those individuals shall not make further disclosure of such information, except in accordance with the foregoing.

Schedule A

3. Recommend approval of nomination contestants based upon discretionary evaluation on the following criteria, as well as such other criteria as may be set out in writing by the Ontario Campaign Co-Chairs:

- Background checks
- Financial affairs
- Any ethical questions or concerns
- History of contribution to the commitment and/or participation in public life
- Whether the candidacy assists in achieving or exceeding the target of 33% female candidates
- Whether the candidate has a demonstrated history of Commitment to the Liberal Party of Canada
- Whether the candidate has knowingly breached any material provision of the Constitution and Rules of the Liberal Party of Canada, including rules for the selection of candidates, and the Constitution and Rules of the Liberal Party of

Canada (Ontario), in particular, but not limited to situations where such breach has the potential to influence the outcome of a nomination contest.

The decision was a difficult one. The Committee acknowledges that broad, diverse and even controversial ideas are a necessary component to a flourishing democratic society. The Committee also recognizes that controversial speech is a protected right under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It is in this context that we want to be clear that our focus was not the content of Mr. Corrigan's ideas, rather the manner in which they were advanced. It is necessary to repeat this important point. The Committee wants to make it clear that it was not the substance of Mr. Corrigan's ideas that were the subject of concern and ultimately, the basis for rejecting his application, but the manner in which his ideas were expressed by him.

The Committee is concerned that despite abject concern, the Liberal Party of Canada and its leader would be obliged to respond and perhaps even defend Mr. Corrigan's right to express his views in the manner in which he has done so over the past two decades. In all the circumstances, we believe it appropriate to exercise our discretion to decline to recommend that he be green lighted.

The Committee reviewed many articles submitted by Mr. Corrigan himself in his application and many others available on the internet. Mr. Corrigan has written many academic articles over the past twenty five years concerning Zionism and the State of Israel. Our review of articles submitted by him and those on the website focused on the language he uses to express his ideas. Below is a sample of quotes from his works that the Committee perceived as using very extreme and inflammatory language. This is not an exhaustive list because Mr. Corrigan is prolific; however it is representative of the type of extremist language found in his articles. We have included the full title of the work and/or website link so that any concerns about its context maybe addressed if necessary.

“In an article, Munich, the Travesty published in the Washington Post on January 13, 2006, Charles Krauthammer, a well known Zionist and regular Post Columnist, attacks Steven Spielberg's movie for presenting several glimpses of the Palestinian perspective. **Krauthammer and other critics of Spielberg's movie continuously repeat discredited Zionist mythology, distort history, ignore inconvenient facts and hide Zionist terrorism, the raping of Palestinians, the massacres, the theft of land and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians with the creation of the “Jewish state” in 1948.**

...This theft of land [creation of state of Israel] was based on a dubious claim that European Jewish settlers had a claim on Palestine based on alleged presence 2000 years ago. ...

The United Nations also did not endorse the concept of a “Jewish state”. UN General Assembly Resolution 181 passed at the UN on November 29th 1947 by a vote of 33 to 13 with 10 abstentions. This vote was dominated by the Europeans as most Third World countries were not members of the UN but still ruled as colonies. The resolution called for the partition of Palestine into two states .One state had a tiny Jewish population and a very large Palestinian Arab majority. The other state was not demographically a “Jewish state”. ...**The Zionists solved this demographic problem by massacring the Palestinians and ethnically cleansing them from Palestine. Zionists then stole the Palestinian’s property and prevented them from returning in defiance of UN resolutions e.g. 194....**

....**The United States State department has also rejected the “Jewish people” nationality concept.** In a letter to Rabbi Elmer Berger (then head of the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism) from Assistant Secretary Phillips Talbot, the State department confirmed that it does not recognize a legal-political relationship based upon religious identification of American citizens. It does not in any way discriminate among American citizens upon the basis of religion. Accordingly, it should be clear that the Department of State does not regard the “Jewish people” concept as a concept of international law.

Zionist Distortion of History, Media Monitors Network
Monday January 16, 2006

...

“I am equally opposed to Aryan states, White states, Christian states, Islamic states and Jewish states.”

<http://list.nowar-paix.ca/sympa/arc/nowar/2005-08/msg00150.html>

...

“This is the stock answer from all Zionists who do not want to deal with their own racism towards Palestinians and their support for an exclusionary Jewish state which is unquestionably racist.”

<http://list.nowar-paix.ca/sympa/arc/nowar/2005-08/msg00120.html>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ed Corrigan** <edcorrigan@edcorrigan.ca>

Date: May 16, 2007 6:34 PM

Subject: [canpalnet_news] The Map of the Nakbah

To: undisclosed-recipients

Here is an interesting Map/Chart depicting the Nakbah and documenting

the Palestinian villages ethnically cleansed by the Israelis in 1948.

Ed Corrigan

(map removed)

The pro-Israel Neocons who were the primary architects of the invasion of Iraq”
<http://www.edcorrigan.ca/Bush.htm>

...

Israel lacks the natural resources to become a self sufficient and viable state. Israel needs water and material resources to survive independent of the \$5 billion and more it receives from the United States each year. Israel's founders and current leaders are working hard so that Israel can achieve independence and not be controlled by Great Britain, the United States or any other power. **The difficulty is that the national survival strategy of Israel means genocide for the Palestinians** and a series of wars for the Arab states not unlike the settler/Indian wars in North America which resulted in the near genocide of the indigenous population. From, Politics, Power and the Palestinian issue
<http://www.edcorrigan.ca/palestinian.htm>

...

The Israelis have also banned many other Palestinian social and youth organizations. One such target has been the Palestinian popular committees that coordinated relief and social programs within the Palestinian community. It is now illegal to participate in these bodies. **The committees served an important role in mitigating the effect of Israel's social and economic repression of the Palestinians, which is designed to crush resistance to Zionist Control over the Occupied Territories.**

A Year of the Palestinian Uprising – November/December 1988 at p. 4

As stated, this a sample of many comments made by Mr. Corrigan over the years. There was a second and related aspect to his application that raised a concern. Again, the Committee wants to be clear that we accept and encourage wide debate and activism on issues. Below is an email sent by Mr. Corrigan on May 14, 2007 inviting readers to support and endorse a letter protesting Stéphane Dion's participation in celebrations commemorating the creation of the State of Israel. If Mr. Corrigan becomes a candidate for the Liberal Party then his criticism of the leader on this issue will likely draw

attention to Mr. Corrigan's extreme language on these highly charged, controversial and sensitive issues. As stated earlier, the Liberal Party of Canada will be obliged to respond and possibly defend Mr. Corrigan's ability to use such extreme language:

From: **Ed Corrigan** <edcorrigan@edcorrigan.ca>
Date: May 14, 2007 11:15 PM
Subject: [canpalnet_news] Request for endorsers and support for a protest letter on Liberal Leader Stephane Dion's participation in celebrations commemorating Israel's birth
To: undisclosed-recipients

Please review and consider signing the letter. This letter is addressed to Canadians.

Ed Corrigan

Below (and attached) you will find a letter to Stephane Dion written by Canpalnet in collaboration with CAF. It is regarding Dion's participation in the celebration of the founding of the state of Israel.

We are looking for organizations to or individuals to endorse this letter and hope to follow up with a meeting with Mr. Dion.

Please respond to me (belalin@rogers.com <<mailto:belalin@rogers.com>>) if you can endorse this letter in the name of your organization. Please provide EXACT manner in which you would like your endorsement to appear.

Please forward to any other organizations that might be interested in endorsing this letter.

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I would like to personally deliver this letter to Dion's office on Friday. PLEASE RESPOND BY 4 p.m. Thursday May 17, 2007.

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THANK YOU!

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May 14, 2007.

Hon. Stephane Dion,

Leader of the Opposition,

House of Commons,

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Dion:

While your participation in the 59th anniversary celebration of the founding of Israel falls in line with your efforts to reach out to the many ethnic groups that make-up our great country, we feel it is necessary to point out that we, as Canadians seeking justice and peace must not ignore the fact that this same anniversary means something entirely different to another group of people.

The creation of Israel was a 'catastrophe' (Nakbah in Arabic) for the indigenous Palestinian population. By participating in an event that celebrates that catastrophe you disregard and thereby treat as insignificant the profound pain and suffering that numerous Canadian citizens of Palestinian origin have experienced, a pain that endures. This insensitivity ill-suits you or anyone else wishing to be seen as a person who can represent all Canadians.

Regrettably, the dispossession of Palestinian homes, land and livelihood did not end with the creation of Israel. Israel's conquest of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, its 40 years of continuous occupation of these territories, and its current intensified siege of the people in those territories cry out for a just resolution in accordance with international law.

Mr. Dion, we ask that you consider the price you are paying in the mistaken belief that courting powerful interests will bring your party money and power. A study sponsored by the Canada Israel Committee shows that:

- *89% of Canadians believe both sides in the conflict share equal blame and 83% insist on Ottawa remaining neutral on the issue,***

*- **the more Canadians become familiar with the conflict, the more they tend to sympathize with the Palestinians. *

*- **32% of those surveyed believed Ottawa favoured Israel while 4% felt their government tilted to the Palestinians. *

* *

This poll was conducted in November 2004, before the Lebanon war which laid bare Israel's aggressive policies to many Canadians.

A BBC globe-spanning survey released on 6 March 2007, in which more than 28,000 respondents in 27 countries were asked to rate 12 countries, found that Israel has the most negative image of all those countries in that it is viewed negatively by 56 percent of all respondents and positively by only 17 percent.

Many who support justice for Palestinians were pleased when you were elected as leader of the Liberal Party. We hoped that you would move the party away from Paul Martin's clear favouritism of Israel and back to a stronger stand in favour of International Law. This has not happened and many supporters of justice for Palestine are very disappointed.

We are aware of the dynamics within the Liberal party that led to your election as leader. We know that many Canadians from all backgrounds were drawn to you and Mr. Kennedy because MPs like Omar Alghabra and Borys Wrzesnewskyj and Colleen Beaumier who supported you and Mr. Kennedy shared our vision of justice and peace for the Middle East.

Mr. Dion, we have a few questions to ask you. Will you:

- state that you are in favour of ending the embargo on the Palestinian Authority Unity government?
- press the government to support UN Resolutions condemning Israel's aggression towards Palestinians?
- support the ruling of the International Court of Justice that the Segregation Wall is illegal and should be dismantled?
- state clearly that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are a violation of international law and should be removed?
- state clearly that Canada abides by Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that affirms that "everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."?

- support the call by Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel for a multicultural state and the abolition of all discriminatory laws?***

We await an answer to these questions.

Respectfully,

Canada Palestine Support Network-Ottawa

Canada Palestine Support Network (Calgary)

While the Committee welcomes diverse views and healthy debate on all issues facing Canadians, the language employed by Mr. Corrigan is extreme by any objective standard and highly inflammatory. The letter quoted above, while couched in polite terms, is unquestionably critical of the Party's Leader and the endorsement and circulation of such a letter by a potential candidate of the party has the ability to cause genuine political embarrassment, and portray the party as less than united behind its leader when it comes into the hands of our political opponents (as it most certainly will) at a critical time in a campaign.

It is for all of these reasons that the Green Light Committee recommended against the approval of the candidacy of Mr. Corrigan.