

## MY NAME IS JACK ETKIN

I'm standing for the position of Vice President

### HERE'S WHY:

I think our party has lost its democracy. I think that what we members want is irrelevant to the people who run our party.

### I THINK WE NEED TO BUILD MORE DEMOCRACY INTO OUR PARTY

AND WE CAN DO THAT. Starting right here and right now at this Convention.

LET'S START TO TALK ABOUT THE VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE OF HOW TO GIVE US MEMBERS MORE CONTROL OVER OUR PARTY.

A lot of us want the same things. Let's stop Site C. Let's end the clearcut logging of our forests. Let's reduce mining. And stop the insanity of fracking. Let's build the housing our province needs. And let's fix up our health care system.

Those are things I want too. **BUT** ... I think what's most important is to get what **WE** want. What The Members Want. If the party members want to continue to subsidize Fracking, then that's what the party should do. **BUT** ... if the party members want to stop fracking .. and if we want to build the housing we need .. and fix up our health care system - then **THAT** is what we should do. And I think the members **DO** want those things; but they aren't happening?

### SOME POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD:

I think we have to make our local EDAs more alive, more effective, and more powerful. The Party should be putting money and time and effort into the EDAs, and one of the EDA's important jobs could be to **Find Out What the EDA Members Want**. My EDA is certainly not doing that now. Is yours? Do we want to put time and effort into revitalizing our EDAs and making them central to our Party? If **YES**, then let's do it.

And if The Party Leadership is not doing what the members want, then - in my opinion - the members MUST have the power to remove the leadership. Also, in my opinion, the Party Leadership should not have the total control it now has over 'communications' within our party. Because if the leadership controls the website and all the emails and etc.. it gives them far too much power over what we Members know and don't know about how our party is being run. Putting too much power into the hands of a small group is not the way to go.

### **A MEMBERS ASSEMBLY ??**

Would this Convention be interested in creating a Members Assembly? It would be easy to do. Something similar to a Citizens Assembly. A Members Assembly - made up of regular members - **could take on the job of looking into the issue of "Democracy in Our BC NDP"**. And it could give us suggestions and directions about where we can go from here. There are a lot of changes we can make that will give us members more power. **And that's exactly where the power in our party should be ... In The Hands Of The Members. And nowhere else.**

I think this Convention has the power to create this kind of Members Assembly. And I think it would be a very useful thing for us to do. And if elected, that is one thing I'll start working for immediately.

I also want to see our EDA's become more active and more democratic. The EDAs should be telling the leadership what the members want. And our party should be doing what the Members want.

TO ME, DEMOCRACY IS THE ISSUE THAT TRANSCENDS EVERYTHING ELSE.

I have a lot of faith in the party membership ... WE are the ones who should be running our party. Nobody else. And if we can make that happen, then I think we will see great and important changes throughout British Columbia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION - Contact me at: **jetkin@hotmail.com**