

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
<p><b>1- Quality public services</b> a) Are you in favour of quality public services, universally accessible and delivered by permanent Public service employees?</p>	<p>Yes I am. The Federal Government needs to streamline services so they are more cost effective. Civil service must be based on core competence over a managerial culture. Outsourcing at a higher cost must end.</p>
<p>b) What will you do to protect and enhance food safety?</p>	<p>I would remove control over food safety by companies and increase funding and support to governmental food safety regulators. Companies would be required to report to an independent Committee when problems occur with contamination of food borne organisms during production. We need more Canadian Food Inspectors and they must be able to inspect plants instead of being burdened with paper work. We need Policy that would provide a method of alerting the public in the early stages of a food outbreak and would also remove products off the shelf. A strong emphasis on increasing the production and consumption of safe locally grown food is also necessary.</p>
<p>c) Are you in favour of the sale of government owned buildings to the private sector?</p>	<p>Yes, if the buildings are no longer necessary the Government should sell them.</p>

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
<p>d) If your party is elected will it pledge to reinstate the Court Challenges Program and the Law Commission of Canada?</p>	<p>Yes we will pledge to reinstate the Court Challenges Program and the Law Commission of Canada.</p> <p>Prior to the 2006 funding cuts by the Conservative government, the Court Challenges program was instrumental in protecting equality rights for Canadians and bringing to light governmental infringements of Charter rights. The Court Challenges Program has supported a number of precedent-setting court cases dealing with a range of human rights issues, including sexual assault, pornography, the rights of Indigenous women, and pension rights. The Green Party feels that every voice should be heard with regards to human rights. It is important for “equality” and women’s rights in particular to be recognized and rectified within Canadian society, especially given current rates of violence against women. The Green Party knows that maintaining the Charter rights of the Canadian citizenry is an important facet of democracy. Therefore, if elected, the Green Party will indubitably fight to reinstate the Court Challenges Program in Canada.</p> <p>The Green Party believes that the Canadian Law Commission has contributed greatly to the countries high degree of democracy by helping elucidate the views and attitudes of Canadians on various laws and regulations. The Canadian Law Commission should be commended for providing rational discourse on numerous issues in the Canadian legal system. If elected, the Green Party has pledged to reinstate the abandoned Law Commission of Canada.</p>

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
<p>e) Will your party reverse the cuts to Status of Women funding within and outside government and restore funding for women's groups who do research and advocacy work?</p>	<p>If elected, the Green Party would immediately fight to re-establish funding for Status of Women. The Green Party is aghast that the 2006 budget cuts by the Conservative government of approximately 40% of the budget resulted in the closure of over half of the regional offices.</p> <p>At the same time the Conservative governments sweeping changes in the criteria used to determine the nature of activities that groups can carry out in order to be eligible for funding has greatly curtailed the work these organizations are able to do. As a result of Conservative government changes, activities that are considered to be advocacy or lobbying no longer qualify for funding.</p> <p>This has dramatically affected the work of organizations that seek to improve and protect women's human rights. The work of Status of Women Canada in advancing and promoting women's equality in the country has been instrumental in promoting equality rights. While considerable progress has been made, current rates of violence against women and other critical issues require ongoing advocacy and funding, which the Green Party would completely endorse.</p>
<p>f) The last time the support program for Persons With Disabilities (PWD) was overhauled was in 1995. The cost of living has continually gone up since then. Do you think it is time for an overhaul of the support programs for PWDs?</p>	<p>Yes. We would convert the Disability Tax Credit to a refundable credit to create a national Basic Income program to provide for income security. Use a redesigned Canada Pension Plan/Disability Benefit that would allow individuals to work while retaining eligibility for basic income.</p>

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
<p><b>2- Working conditions and negotiations in the public service</b> a) Would you support the government reducing its use of precarious workers, by ceasing temporary help agencies hiring, and by reducing the number of part-time and contract workers?</p>	<p>We believe that it is important direct the public service from a managerial culture to one that is based on core competence where scientists and public servants are supported in performing their jobs. This would create an environment of productivity and pride. Outsourcing should not occur to “for profit” companies at a potentially higher cost than doing the job internally. We need to have and use the expertise in the Public Service.</p>
<p>b) Employees of the federal public sector want their negotiations to accelerate and result in fair pay increases. What will you do to ensure they get satisfaction?</p>	<p>Negotiations should occur between both parties in good faith. The definition of non-essential workers would have to be defined. The right to strike or arbitrate for essential workers requires specific and short time limits to accelerate the bargaining process.</p>
<p>c) Are you in favour of abolishing distinct pay zones that apply to blue collars?</p>	<p>Yes. Distinct pay zones have not been updated and have been eliminated in certain sectors of the Public Service. This process has to be updated to eliminate this unnecessary procedure, which was based on the rates of cost of living. This does not occur for many sectors, for instance pay schedules for Members of Parliament, and hence should be eliminated.</p>

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
d) Do you believe that pay equity should apply to all employees of the federal public sector?	Yes. Pay inequity is still the rule. We need pay equity legislation. Pay equity is an equality issue and thus a human rights issue. The mandate for “women’s equality” needs to be reinstated for Status of Women Canada. We need to develop tax incentives for companies to meet gender and pay equity requirements.
e) Do you agree to modify Part II of the Canadian Labour Code in order to offer pregnant or nursing workers the same access to leave with pay as under the Québec Labour Code?	We would extend maternity/paternity leave for new parents outside of EI to two years and one additional year for other parents who pay into EI. As a small business owner I also recognize the importance of providing specific assistance in terms of training programs for replacing employees on maternity leave in small and medium sized businesses that may be affected by long-term leave.
f) Do you believe that Bill C-45 on health and security should apply to employees working on Parliament Hill?	The bill established new legal duties for workplace health and safety, and imposes serious penalties for violations that result in injuries or death, as such it should apply to all employees and employers.
g) Are you in favour of modifying the rules concerning political rights of federal public service workers, in order to allow their full participation in the electoral process?	Public service employees should be allowed to work and participate in democratic elections without being threatened with job loss or having their actions restricted by their employer. Participation in the political system is a human rights issue. Human rights should not be curtailed for Public Servants who wish to participate in an election or show support for any political party.

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
<p><b>3- Greater justice in the taxation system</b>            What do you intend to do so that the taxation system stop widening the gap between rich and poor Canadians?</p>	<p>We need to modify the Income Tax Act and introduce income splitting for low and middle-income earners. The Green Party would reduce income taxes for these families and earners through revenue shifting and income tax reduction through a carbon tax. We would also narrow the gap of taxes through a fairer taxation system and would reduce taxes on low and middle-income earners and increase the taxes on higher incomes to ensure institutional fairness and help stop the poverty cycle. The Green Party also recognizes and supports the need for a strong middle class since it traditionally constitutes the highest proportion of our society and tax base.</p>
<p><b>4- National Child Care Strategy</b>            Will your government invest in a publicly delivered, national child care strategy to address the needs of families outside of Quebec?</p>	<p>We would restore and revamp the 2005 agreement to achieve a universal quality childcare program. We would promote a programme for providing childcare spaces wherever possible and the creation of workplace spaces through a direct tax credit to employers for businesses (\$1500.00 tax credit/child per year).</p>

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
<p><b>5- Environment</b> If your party is elected to form a government, will you pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the re-instatement of adequate funding of federal environmental programs;</li> <li>• support international initiatives calling for firm commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions;</li> <li>• and ensure that Canada lives up to its international agreements, including meeting the legally binding targets agreed upon when Canada signed on to the Kyoto Accord?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes. The cornerstone of the Green Party's climate change policy is tax shifting—reducing taxes on incomes and payroll while introducing a graduated levy on fossil fuels. We need to set up a Climate Change Adaptation Fund and support adaptation projects. We also support increasing financial support to the Developing World for adaptation strategies.</li> <li>• We would reduce emissions by 29% below current rates by 2012, 30% by 2020, 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2040. Canada needs to be a world leader and not ignore the global economic, social, human rights and environmental damage that is occurring due to Climate Change. This would be achieved in part by taxing polluters and eliminating subsidies to large companies such as oil and mining. We would have a retrofit program for all buildings to reduce emissions and energy use.</li> <li>• The Green Party asserts that Canada has to reaffirm its commitment to the Kyoto framework as well as furthering medium and long-term targets. Our immediate targets would be 29% below current rates by 2012, in the long term we are seeking targets of 85% below current rates by 2040. We would also immediately adopt carbon taxes (\$50/tonne) to achieve reductions.</li> </ul>

**Answers from Frances Coates, Green Party, Ottawa-West-Nepean  
to questions from the PSAC**



<b>PSAC questions</b>	<b>Frances Coates' answers</b>
<p><b>6- Anti-scab legislation</b> Did you vote (or would you have voted) for or against the anti-scab bill tabled in 2007? What action would you take to have an anti-scab bill passed at the federal level?</p>	<p>Yes I would have voted for the legislation. The Green Party believes in the rights of workers to organize, it also believes in the free collective bargaining process, Labour rights and human rights. We would enact whistle-blower protection for the public &amp; private sector. Replace the current ethics Commissioner and institute a reporting process to an independent Ethics Commission, which would then report to Parliament and would have strong powers to investigate complaints. We would also ensure that the bill clarifies essential workers.</p>
<p><b>7- Working in French in the Public Service</b> What do you intend to do to promote the use of French in the Public service, particularly in the National Capital Region?</p>	<p>Based on Statistics Canada figures Francophones in the National Capital region represent 17.7% of the population and Francophone immigrants 12.3%. It is an obligation and a right that they receive services in their own language. We need to support present Public Servants with effective language training. Continuation of the linguistics aspect of the Court Challenges Program is also important to promoting and protecting linguistic rights.</p>