

Constituency Office
Leon Benoit M.P.
Box 300
Mannville, AB T0B 2W0
Phone: 1(780)763-6130
Toll free: 1(800)463-1194
Fax: 1(780)763-6132
benoil1@parl.gc.ca



LEON E. BENOIT, M.P.
Vegreville-Wainwright Constituency

Parliamentary Office
Leon Benoit M.P.
Suite 613 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Phone: (613)992-4171
Fax: (613)996-9011
benoil@parl.gc.ca

15 April 2009

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to an issue raised in your paper in early April, 2009. A Notice to Federal Conservatives submitted by the Vegreville-Wainwright Electoral District Association contained some incorrect information which has led to dozens of phone calls to me from people asking for clarification. The ad asks for ballots to be returned to National Council as soon as possible when in fact the ballot should only be returned by those members who favour another nomination in this constituency.

Those members who do not want another nomination at this time should tear up their ballots and throw them away. **Do not return the ballot if you believe another nomination is not necessary at this time.**

On the issue of the National Council decision on how to handle the nomination process, for incumbent MP's **only** for this next election only, there are a few important points to consider.

First, many MP's have had a nomination meeting and vote within the last year. How many nominations, which take the total focus of MP's for months, are too many?

Second, in this time of economic crisis I have constituents approach me with concerns which require help every day. Is my time better spent fighting another nomination so soon after the last one or helping constituents through this difficult time and being in Ottawa to give my input into our government's policy? I can't do both because each one requires all my efforts. It is particularly important that I am in Ottawa because we have a minority government and my efforts and my vote are needed there when the House is sitting.

I am sure there will be opportunities for members to vote in a nomination soon enough without having one right now. I therefore ask that you tear up your ballot and throw it away which will count as a "no vote" to a nomination meeting at this time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Benoit'.

Leon Benoit, M.P.
Vegreville-Wainwright