

Election '74:

Indication made political parties

Response low to information solicitation

By DAVE SIMMS
Features Editor

Response to a province-wide survey requesting candidate information for University of New Brunswick students has been practically nil.

The Brunswickan—anticipating the calling of a general election—Oct. 1 composed a letter requesting the recipient to send to the newspaper information about the views of candidates running in each riding. Provincial premier Richard Hatfield called an election for Nov. 18 and shortly before the announcement, on Oct. 11, the newspaper sent letters to all Liberal and Progressive Conservative presidents in the 58 ridings.

Additional letters were mailed Oct. 25 to 15 New Democratic Party members representing nine ridings.

Two replies arrived before the deadline for the newspaper's final pre-election issue, Nov. 13. One included the asked-for information on Douglas Birdwise, the NDP offering in Fredericton South and the other was an

unsigned answer postmarked Chipman, N.B.

Other replies were promised by the remaining NDP candidates in the counties of York and Sunbury but these candidates had not been contacted by the newspaper until shortly before the final deadline.

No replies were sent by any of the local Liberal or Progressive candidates.

Following is the text of the letter sent by The Brunswickan:

Dear Sir or Madam:

The University of New Brunswick's student publication, The Brunswickan, is collecting background information in anticipation of a provincial election being called sometime in the near future by Premier Richard Hatfield's Progressive Conservative government.

The weekly newspaper, especially its features department, will strive to inform its readers of the issues, candidates' views and opinions and related angles on riding-by-riding basis. This we feel will serve both to educate our readers and perhaps in some small way enhance the demo-

cratic process, especially since the voting age has been lowered to include most of the students who read The Brunswickan.

Our layout tentatively will involve election previews focusing on one or two counties each week. As the election nears, we will begin more comprehensive features and news stories.

While we realize the election is only anticipated, we would still appreciate any background information you are able to make available. Firstly, we would appreciate the names, addresses and phone numbers of your party's county publicity representatives. Perhaps by the time you receive this the name and vital information about your candidate will be both available and applicable. If an election has been called by the time you receive this, we would also appreciate literature on your candidates' platforms and their views on the issues which affect both the county and the province.

Other questions include:
i. What is your candidate's opinion of the performance of the New Brunswick Progressive

Conservative Party while in office? Have they kept most of their election promises? What bearing do you expect this to have in your county and throughout the province?

ii. What is your candidate's opinion of the performance of the New Brunswick Liberal Party while in the position of opposition?

iii. If there is an incumbent MLA running in your riding, what has he accomplished and how effective has he been?

iv. What do you see as the three (or more) foremost issues in (a.) your county and (b.) the province?

v. Why has your candidate decided to run for election?

These questions seem premature but, at any rate, we would be grateful to have this letter included in your files and a response sent when it seems more timely. Any information subsequent to that sent in response to this letter would also be appreciated. Perhaps in this way we may better serve those voters in this province who are the prime concern of us both.

Birdwise says bridge, transportation and repres

Two replies were received by The Brunswickan in response to their request for information on the candidates running in the Nov. 18 provincial general election.

The unsigned letter postmarked Chipman, N.B. had the answers written on the original letter. The response to the first question, about the performance of the Conservative government, was: "Yes they have kept their promises and will form the next gov't."

The respondent said their candidate's opinion of the Liberal

party while in opposition was "Very Best." In reply to "If there is an incumbent MLA running in your riding, what has he accomplished and how effective has he been," the writer said "everything they promised has been accomplished."

Written below "What do you see as the three or (or more) foremost issues in (a.) your riding and (b.) the province," was "no issue." Finally, the writer said his candidate had run because "he is the best we have."

Douglas Birdwise, NDP candi-

date for Fredericton South, included answers to the questionnaire and a biography in addition to a biography of provincial leader J. Albert Richardson, a list of other York-Sunbury NDP candidates, a copy of the provincial party's 1974 platform and a release on the results of the group's policy meeting held this month.

Following are Birdwise's replies to the letter.

1. "The performance of the New Brunswick Progressive Conservative Party Government leaves

much to be desired. It has a farm policy which looks admirable on paper but has been mismanaged and contributed to the demise to the family farm. It has not provided adequate assistance to the Municipal Governments in the area of transportation. This is especially evident in the rural areas where transportation is a serious problem. In the area of health care, the government has been a follower, not a leader. Other Provinces have led the way in developing drug payment systems, drug substitution plans

Candidates continued:

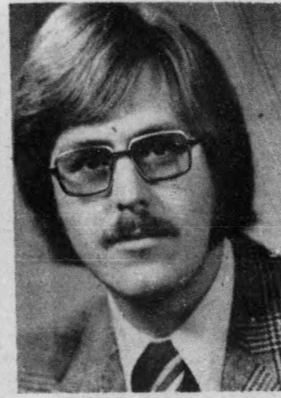
FREDERICTON SOUTH:



PC—EVERETT CHALMERS (INC)



LIB—DANIEL HURLEY



NDP—DOUGLAS BIRDWISE



IND—HAROLD MARSHALL

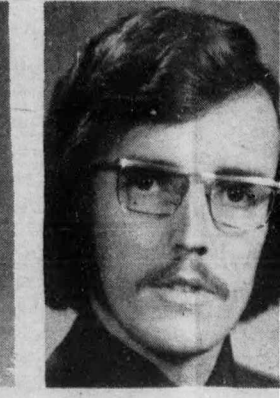
FREDERICTON NORTH:



PC—LAWRENCE GARVIE (INC)



LIB—CARL HOWE



NDP—MICHEL GOUDREAU