



THE
NEW
DEMOCRATS

Facing the issues

Ed Broadbent will officially step down this weekend, when party delegates and leadership hopefuls meet in Winnipeg for the NDP leadership convention. Audrey McLaughlin, one of the leadership front runners, was at York's Osgoode Hall last Tuesday.

McLaughlin has been an active New Democrat for over 20 years, and in 1987, was elected to Parliament in the riding of Yukon.

McLaughlin serves on a variety of Parliamentary committees and is the NDP's Critic for National Revenue and Northern Development, as well as Tourism.

Excalibur's Ken Turriff was given the opportunity to speak to McLaughlin after her address:

Excal: The NDP Leadership is only a few days away and there appears to be little excitement surrounding this event. The Liberal Party leadership is much further in the future, yet is receiving far greater attention. Why do you think that there has been such a lack of interest in the NDP race?

McLaughlin: I think you're right, that in the national media, there's been limited interest. But I have found that at all the meetings we've been at, there's been standing room only. People have been excited about the party. A lot of those people of course are members as opposed to general public. I judge it more by the enthusiasm of the people who were there because those are the people who are going to build the party and vote at conventions. So I don't feel that sense of lack of excitement.

Excal: You're the only woman candidate in the NDP leadership race. If you are successful, what do you think that indicates about your party and Canadian politics in general?

McLaughlin: Well, if I am successful, I think that will indicate several things. People will say we're really going to go into the 1990s; we're going to be a leader in setting out on a new path politically. I don't think gender will be a main determinant.

But it would be interesting; not only would I be the first woman leader of a major political party in Canada federally, but also in North America. But, when people say, "Should people vote for you just because you're a woman?" I point out to them that

