

Yes, the **NDP** (“New Democratic Party”) has already Objected to the “Democracy Party of Canada” Name



An unsolicited legal opinion supports our assertion that Canadians will not be “confused” by the two political party names; however, read on for more precedents and relevant arguments:



In Canada, the Office of Elections Canada decides the registrable status of political parties, not the NDP or any party or organization which may object to our or anyone else's Party name.

In addition, outside the realm of election campaigns, there is the “real world” of intellectual property protection such as trademarks and copyrights. Note that we have already pursued and been allowed four trademarks for our Party's intellectual property. This follows in the footsteps of other political parties – oddly enough, the NDP is not one of them.



In any event, the Democracy Party is not concerned about "confusion" between the NDP's name registered with Elections Canada and our future registered name nor with the multiple Canadian trademarks we have been allowed. But at the most fundamental level, we believe that Canadians will have no difficulty distinguishing our Party from the NDP, both in nomenclature, branding nor especially in policies.

Already, in Canada, voters contend perfectly well with the "Liberal Party" and "Libertarian Party", not to mention the "Communist Party" and "Marxist-Leninist Party". There was also the Progressive "Conservative" Party and the Canadian "Conservative" Alliance Reform Party.

Go to the Elections Canada website at www.elections.ca and do a search for “ NAMES AND LOGOS OF POLITICAL PARTIES ” to see the long (and getting longer) list of Registered Canadian parties

Canadians' initial reaction to these may be to pause and think –but voting is more than a simple reflexive action. Canadians “figure things out”!

We in the Democracy Party support the right of Canadians to have choices. In fact, Canada's new Bill C-3, the legislation that allows the registration of political parties, is likely to bring to our political spectrum an unprecedented era of political alternatives for its citizens to choose from.

There is nothing new in the world about lots of different political parties.

For example, in Germany there are four federal political parties that have the word "democrat" in their party names. In Israel, four also, as do Australia, Brazil and Switzerland. The United Kingdom has three such parties, as do the Netherlands, Japan and the new Iraq, and Italy has an even dozen! Greece, the birthplace of the word, has a couple.

Closer to home? Let's see – in British Columbia, here are some of the registered parties: the B.C. Democratic Futures Party, Democratic Reform B.C., the Emerged Democracy Party, the Moderate Democratic Movement and, oh, the NDP of B.C.



Yet this sample metric is only for the word "democrat", and long lists of multiple parties whose names include the words "socialist", "liberal" or other generic terms can be gleaned from simple on-line searches of the Internet.

Time will tell whether or not Canada's Bill C-3 engenders such an outpouring of new parties here. However, we speculate that any concern that the NDP has is less about confusion than it is about competition – something C-3 is supposed to be encouraging or at least permitting.



The goal to which we ought to aspire should be closer to the freedom and choice in the countries listed above. Allowing competition infers a respect for voters' intelligence. To restrict competition would perpetuate a cynical hegemony by a few Big Money Parties over Canadian politics.

Lastly, in addition to the matter of political party names and Elections Canada, the NDP has even taken exception to our Party's related, legally allowed trademarks.

No existing party must be permitted to exploit Elections Canada as a quasi-judicial body to compensate for their oversight in obtaining protection of their intellectual property through the trademark office. This responsibility has not escaped the attention of other parties, past and present, including the Liberals, Conservatives, Reform, Canadian Alliance, and of course the Democracy Party of Canada.

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official election documents, etc. Elections Canada is the final arbiter for party registration and when that time comes will of course abide by their rulings for those purposes -- i.e. the ballot, campaigns, We can only hope that the other side(s) in any "naming" debate will do so as well – or will they instead try to take up the matter with some World Court to try to usurp the rights of our own national election administrator?

We look forward to working co-operatively with Elections Canada over the coming months with respect to their decision on our registration.



Steve Garry, Founder
The Democracy Party of Canada
The Political Party that Respects the Wisdom, Fairness and
Generosity of Canadians