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For Immediate Release:

## **Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador Announces the Leadership Convention & Annual General Meeting**

St. John's, NL – Following a meeting of the Executive Board, President Judy Morrow is pleased to announce that the 2010 Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador Leadership Convention and Annual General Meeting shall take place November 19-21, 2010 at the St. John's Convention Centre. Voting results are anticipated for both the Leader and certain Executive Board positions the evening of November 20.

"This is an exciting time of renewal," said Morrow. "The leadership selection process will be one that encourages public participation, and our convention will bring Liberals together from across the province, not only to choose a Leader, but also to discuss new initiatives and policy directions."

Morrow also announced the Party's selection of Jody Fancey and Mark Watton to serve as Convention Co-Chairs.

"Jody and Mark bring a wealth of experience to these roles. Aided by a dedicated group of volunteers and staff, they will ensure that all aspects of delegate selection and voting are conducted openly and fairly."

Additional information about the 2010 Liberal Party of Newfoundland & Labrador Leadership Convention and Annual General Meeting will be made available in the weeks ahead. Interested members of the public can stay informed by visiting [www.liberal2010.com](http://www.liberal2010.com) to register for convention updates and information bulletins.

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**Mark Watton** is a native of Corner Brook and a life-long Liberal activist. He worked as National Director of the Young Liberals of Canada in the mid-1990s and spent several years staffing ministerial offices in multiple federal government departments including Fisheries and Oceans, Finance, and most recently as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Social Development.

Mark was a long time advisor to the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin and served as a senior staff member in the Prime Minister's Office.

Mark played a lead role in the development of several key federal government initiatives in the Martin administration, including the negotiation of federal-provincial agreements on funding Early Learning and Child Care, and the re-invigoration of Canada's maritime enforcement and surveillance capacity off the East Coast.

He previously worked as a Policy Analyst with the Liberal Caucus Research Bureau and has volunteered extensively on political campaigns throughout Canada. In 2006, he was National Director of Ken Dryden's campaign for the Leadership of the Liberal Party of Canada. He has led and participated in seminars on youth and political involvement overseas, and is a frequent contributor of commentary on policy issues and political events in Newfoundland and Labrador, and throughout Atlantic Canada.

Mark has an LL.B. with specializations in Maritime Law and Business Law from Dalhousie University (2008) and holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Political Science from the University of Ottawa (1996).

He currently practices law as a litigator in the Toronto office of one of Canada's leading law firms, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin.

**Jody Fancey (nee Canning)** was born and raised in Bishop's Falls. Shortly after completing her high school education at Leo Burke Academy in Bishop's Falls, Jody went on to pursue a degree in psychology from Memorial University and later a Business degree from the University of Athabasca.

In 2005 Jody was elected Mayor of Bishop's Falls and since that time she has demonstrated strong leadership. Jody was a member of the Council's Finance, Economic Development, and Labour Relations Committees. She was also the proponent of the Town's Community Development Task Force (a group comprised of residents and other stakeholders) that was mandated to prepare a strategic community development plan.

On a regional level Jody served as Chair of the Exploits Valley Joint Council, a political organization comprised of municipal officials from the region. On top of her municipal and regional responsibilities, in 2007 she was elected as Small Towns Director to the Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Directors. During her 2-year term, Jody Chaired the Economic Development Committee and was a member of the Community Cooperation Resource Committee.

Over the past 10 years Jody has been working in the field of business and economic development within a rural context. She has been employed as Business Retention and Expansion Coordinator with the Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation and the Exploits Valley Economic Development Corporation. Jody also served as Executive Director of the former Bishop's Falls Development Corporation. She is presently Regional Coordinator of the Business Beginnings Program with Newfoundland Labrador Organization of Women Entrepreneurs, working towards helping women develop the skills needed to start their own businesses.

Jody is married to Glen Fancey of Bishop's Falls and they are the proud parents of three children, Nickolas, Riley, and Leah.