

# Leadership not about polls

**Deputy Liberal leader says  
Stephane Dion does what he  
thinks is right, and that's what  
the green shift is about**

By **CHUCK POULSEN**

The Daily Courier

"The hell with the polls."

That was the response in Kelowna Thursday evening from deputy Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff to the latest poll showing that Canadians have much more faith in Prime Minister Stephen Harper than Liberal Leader Stephane Dion.

"You can't want leadership and then say 'let's respond to the polls,'" said Ignatieff.

"An actual leader doesn't allow himself to be driven by the polls. Leadership is not about everyone agreeing with you. Leadership means you are ahead of the crowd."

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itching for a fight.**

"That's what Stephane Dion has done with the green shift."

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Michael Ignatieff, deputy Liberal leader

chose Dion.

"He (Dion) decides what he thinks is right," said Ignatieff. "That's what the green shift is about. He's said this is what the country needs. Boom. He's put it out on the table. Then the country is going to judge."

Harper said in Newfoundland Thursday that Parliament is in "chaos" and hinted that he might orchestrate his party's own demise in favour of an election.

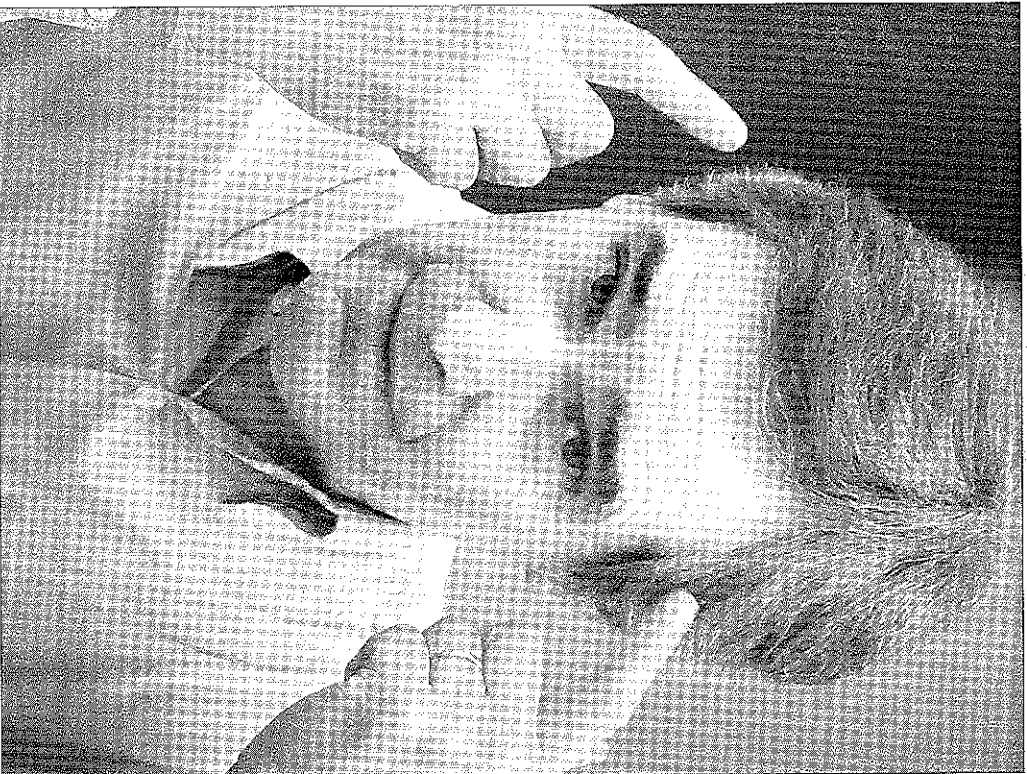
Ignatieff, speaking at Okanagan College about the green shift, said the Liberals aren't looking for a fall election but they are ready for one.

"If he (Harper) wants to stampede us into an election, nobody stampedes the Liberal party," he said. "We have good arguments so we are going to win votes. He seems to be itching for a fight. He said a couple of weeks ago to fish or cut bait, and I like fishing more than cutting bait."

"If he wants an election, he can have one. We feel very confident of a battle with Mr. Harper," Ignatieff, who spoke to about 40 people at OC who were mostly middle-aged and older, said climate change might be responsible for the pine beetle epidemic in B.C.

"In B.C., the pine beetle seems to be connected to climate change in that some of the things that used to kill pine beetles — skarp, prolonged, extended frosts — are no longer happening," said Ignatieff.

Saying he wasn't preaching climate doom, Ignatieff said the green shift would address rising energy costs



KIP PRASZYN/The Daily Courier

**Michael Ignatieff, deputy leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, spoke about the party's green shift plan to about 40 people at Okanagan College.**

and the environment while at the same time reducing taxes.

"So, we reduce taxes and put a levy on carbon to invest in green technology," he said. "Rising energy prices are what we have to deal with."

"This is a policy that is earning us support, not costing us support."

He said the Alberta oilseeds have made Canada an

energy superpower, but that isn't enough.

"Right now, Canada exports more crude oil to the United States than Saudi Arabia," he said.

"We are a petroleum superpower. We are a hydro superpower."

"We must become a renewable superpower and a light and beacon in the management of those resources. We'll dominate the 21st century."