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For immediate release

John Streicker Named as Arctic and Northern Affairs Critic for the Green Party

Elizabeth May, leader of the Green Party of Canada, has invited John Streicker to join the national party's shadow cabinet. May's invitation follows "Streicker's great result in the Yukon" during the October 2008 federal election. The first-time candidate received 12.8% of the popular vote, the 14th highest received by a Green Party candidate out of 303 ridings fielding Greens across the country.

Next week, Streicker travels to the Green Party national convention as the party's new Arctic and Northern Affairs critic. The biannual general meeting and convention takes place in Pictou, Nova Scotia, February 27 - March 1. "Given the escalation of change across the North, we have developed a policy proposal that will help us start to prepare for rapid warming, a melting Arctic Ocean and an increasing international interest in access to resources," says Streicker. "Sovereignty is more than 'use it or lose it'."

"We're proud of the profile that John's been able to achieve so quickly with the Green Party, and excited that he'll be raising Yukon and northern interests at the national Green Party level," says John A. McDonald, president of the Yukon riding association.

Beyond sovereignty, Streicker will focus on responsible development, people, environment and safety. Streicker believes that Canada should seek a multilateral Arctic treaty that would provide an international framework for overseeing maritime activity in the Arctic—activity that is anticipated to increase dramatically over the next decade.

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