

Mississauga - Federal Constituency

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Hon. Abbott addresses founding meetings

By TINA IVANY

Canadians must realize that "they now have to fight for the very existence of their country", Consumer Affairs Minister Tony Abbott warned last week.

Addressing the founding meetings of the two new Federal Liberal Associations in Mississauga, Abbott said that "for the first time in history, there exists the prospect of a separatist party gaining control in Quebec in the upcoming election".

"The results of Quebec's secession would be tragic," he added, "for the prospects of a small island surviving in the midst of an Anglophone language and culture are minimal."

"Not only would the Francophone language and culture be crushed, but the fragmentation would lead to the destruction of Canada."

The Mississauga MP said he was "divulging no secret that the Liberal party is at its lowest ebb of popularity at present", but added that "it remains the only party which historically has proven that it can weld together the founding cultures".

The decisions of Bryce Mackasey and Jean Marchand, both former Federal MPs to run under the Liberal banner in Quebec's Provincial election "although a loss to the feds, augurs well for a united Canada," he said.

At the Tuesday founding meeting, Dr. Vince Zuccaro, defeated candidate in Ontario's last election, was elected president of the Mississauga North

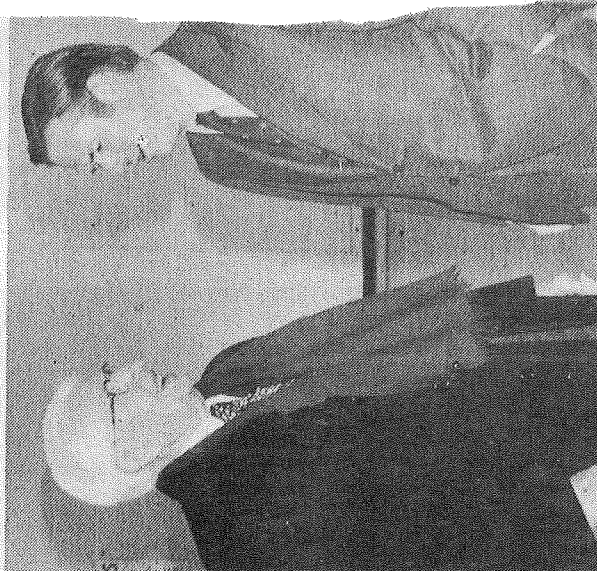
Federal Liberal Association. Thursday, Jack Stark, former president of the old Mississauga Liberal Assoc. was elected president of the new association in Mississauga South.

Although he indicated he will run again for office, Abbott said he has not yet determined in which riding he will seek the nomination. Until the next Federal election, he will continue to represent all of Mississauga.

Tuesday, Abbott also announced a department grant of \$100,000 to the Consumers' Association of Canada (CAC) to support its program of presenting consumer interests before regulatory boards and agencies.

Abbott also introduced his first bill as a Cabinet Minister in the House on Wednesday. The Borrowers and Depositors Protection Act, he said, is designed to protect Canadian borrowers against loan sharking and all forms of excessive interest charges, to provide the public with more and better information on all credit and deposit dealings, to eliminate unnecessary complexities and confusion in the credit field, to define rules to protect borrowers and depositors and to rationalize Federal credit legislation.

The Mississauga MP has also relocated his constituency office to Square One Shopping Centre. A storefront operation, it is located near P. Lawson Travel and Laura Secord's. The new number is 272-1773.



Consumer Affairs minister Tony Abbott (right) talks with Dr. S. Hollings at the founding meeting of the Mississauga South Federal Liberal Association last Thursday. (Staff photo by Michael Stuparyk)