

Adams ditches 'mean-spirited' Conservatives for Trudeau's Liberals

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Mississauga-Brampton South MP Eve Adams, who joined the Liberals this week, has confirmed she'll seek the Liberal nomination in the Toronto riding of Eglinton-Lawrence for the upcoming federal election.

If Adams succeeds in winning the nomination, it will pit her against Finance Minister Joe Oliver, who has already been nominated as the Tory party's flag-bearer.

In a press conference Monday with Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, Adams announced she left the Conservative fold and intends to run in the next federal election for the Grits.

Adams said she no longer felt at home in the party.

"I am very concerned for the direction our country is heading in under Stephen Harper, and I strongly believe that it is time for a leader who can steer Canada in a more positive, productive direction. I believe that leader is Justin Trudeau," she said.

"I want to work with someone who inspires, not with fear-mongers and bullies," she added.

Adams's fiancé, Dimitri Soudas, who has worked closely with the Conservative party, also defected. A Trudeau spokesman said Soudas will not have any formal role within the party.

Adams's decision ends speculation she may run in the byelection in Mississauga on April 27 to elect a councillor for Ward 4.

The Liberals have already nomi-

inated a full slate of candidates in Mississauga ridings, but the speedy decision to seek the nomination in Eglinton-Lawrence came as a surprise. The Liberals had held the seat continuously since the riding's creation in 1979 until Oliver defeated former Grit MP and cabinet minister Joe Volpe.

Adams could face a challenge from Toronto lawyer Marco Mendicino who has already indicated he will contest the Liberal nomination in that riding.

Adams is already facing accusations she's been parachuted into the riding. Local Liberal MPP Mike Colle, who's represented the area

provincially for more than two decades, says Adams can't be allowed to simply parachute into a party and a constituency to which she has no ties. Adams currently owns a home in Oakville.

"I mean, that a Harper Tory from Mississauga all of a sudden is going to run here in the middle of Toronto with no connections and no awareness? It's a real insult," Colle said.

Harper says Adams's move to the Liberal party was the result of the Tories barring her last summer from running anywhere else. Adams was accused to have acted



Eve Adams

unethically during a nomination battle in the riding of Oakville North-Burlington. She eventually withdrew her bid, citing health reasons.

Soudas, who was the Conservative executive director during the nomination process, was accused of inserting himself in the race on Adams's behalf. He was subsequently forced to leave his job with the party.

Adams, 41, entered politics in 2003 by winning the Ward 5 councillor's seat in Mississauga. She served seven years before moving to federal politics.

Eve's politics

2003 — Elected councillor in Mississauga Ward 5. Re-elected in 2006 and 2010.

2011 — Quit her municipal seat to run federally, resulting in a \$458,000 byelection.

2011 — Elected MP in federal riding of Mississauga-Brampton South.

2011 — Caused a furor in Ottawa after being spotted shopping in New York City during

Remembrance Day week. Adams was then parliamentary secretary for Veterans Affairs.

2013 — Appointed parliamentary secretary for Health.

2013 — Accused of claiming more than \$2,500 in campaign expenses during the 2011 election for child care and various beauty products and services. Many of the claims were later rejected.

2014 — Accused of being rude and threatening over a \$6 car wash by an Ottawa gas

station owner.

2014 — Accused of misconduct during the nomination race in Oakville North-Burlington.

2014 — Accused of abusing her parliamentary mailing privileges after several Burlington residents reported receiving taxpayer-funded leaflets from Adams.

2014 — Barred by the Conservative party from running again.

2015 — Crossed the floor to the Liberal party.