

Helen Kennedy's thank you remarks
May 23, 2006

Thank you – this is a great honour. Earlier today, I wrote down some notes, because I knew I would feel very emotional right now – whether I was your first choice or your second. I wrote these thoughts down, because I wanted to give you all the same message, whether I won or lost.

I knew this would be emotional, because nomination campaigns are tough – they are all in the family. We are not enemies, and we share the same goals and vision. That is the strength of our party.

My message is that I am very proud – I am proud to be a member of this party. I am very proud to be in the same company as Tam Goossen and Olivia Chow, Dan Heap and Rosario Marchese – all great New Democrats. I am very proud of everyone who participated on my team – what an incredible group of people, led by Mais Lee and Jay Theissen and Sue Dexter – an amazing team, some of whom had never been involved in an election before.

We should also be proud of everyone who participated on Tam's team as well – many friends and colleagues – we have worked together over the years, and we will work together again. Both teams put in a tremendous effort – we all put our heart and souls into it – because we all care about this ward and our neighbourhoods and the people who live here. I am very proud of everyone in this room, every member of this association – all of you who took the future into your own hands tonight – who took your citizenship seriously and participated in this process.

Tonight's nomination proves that our party is alive and well in Trinity Spadina. It is alive and well in Ward 20. We face a tough campaign ahead until November. It will be a high profile race with a formidable opponent. But I know that we can do it, if we draw on our combined strengths, and come together as a family.

Whether I was your first choice tonight, or my second choice – let me assure you – you are my first choice, and my first responsibility – and I will do my best to make you all proud of me. I read a great quote by Jane Jacobs the other day:

"Never, never underestimate the power of high hearts when they're combined with principled, unyielding wills."

Believe me everyone, my heart is high – because I know that in this room, I am surrounded by principled unyielding wills. And if we move forward and unite – as all good families do – then we will prevail. Thank you.