

# For refreshing political views, ask students

- ▶ 22 students help campaign push for a parliamentary seat
- ▶ Teacher: Kids learn every day, but campaign is real thing



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Matt Henderson is running for the parliamentary seat in Winnipeg South Centre and his advisers are not the usual group of suits — they're his students.

Henderson, a teacher at St. John's Ravenscourt school, asked his Grade 9 students to put together a winning campaign platform.

"I'm opening up the curriculum to them in an au-

thentic way, in a hands-on way and in a way that makes studying the Canadian political system and studying democracy relevant to them," said Henderson.

He's running as an independent.

A number of issues are addressed in Henderson's platform including poverty, the environment and the economy, all of which contain student insight.

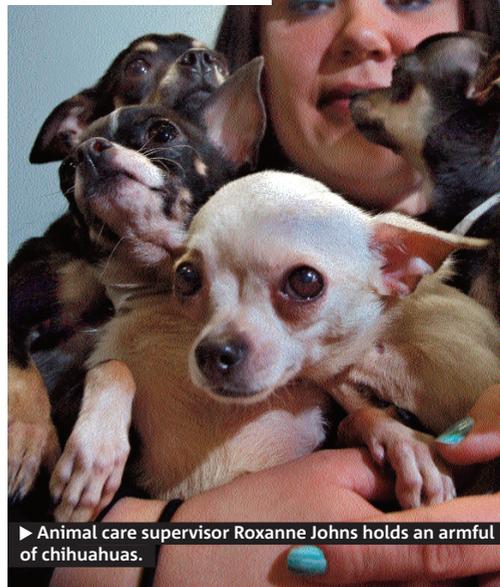
"We're taking it very seriously. We're a candidate, we don't do it just for fun,"

said Henderson. "We're trying to put together a coherent campaign, with coherent ideas."

Henderson added that his team is able to look at issues in a more objective fashion as his students have yet to establish a political opinion.

"They're able to look at an issue from a perspective without having a jaded experience," said Henderson. "These kids blow me away every day. The biggest challenge is that we have 22 perspectives."

Wanna. Chihuahua



▶ Animal care supervisor Roxanne Johns holds an armful of chihuahuas.

JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Yo quiero rescue me?

Thirty-three chihuahuas were rescued from a squalid home in Oakville earlier this month by the Oakville and Milton Humane Society. Since then, the society has been overwhelmed by more than 200 applications to adopt the little dogs.

## Will price be right for T.O. zoo?

Bob Barker, the former Price Is Right host and animal activist, is heading to Toronto on Friday to convince zoo management to send elephants Toka, Thika and Iringa to new homes in the U.S.

Barker says he will likely contribute some of his own money to help move three Toronto elephants to a warmer climate.

The zoo has spent the last three years studying whether to close or upgrade the elephant exhibit and plans a vote on May 12.

Last month, Barker offered Edmonton \$100,000 to make sure the city's lone elephant, Lucy, gets a checkup with experts chosen by Zoocheck Canada.

The city has turned down the offer, saying it has its own experts.

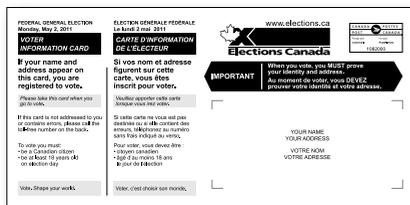
Barker and activists want the elephants moved to a sanctuary **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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- **By mail or at your local Elections Canada office**, if you apply by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26.

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