

**St Catharines NDP Federal Riding Association**

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# Press Release

## **Van Meer to Carry NDP Banner into Federal Election**

This Sunday, January 20, the St Catharines Federal NDP Riding Association will confirm Dennis Van Meer as their candidate in the upcoming federal election. The nomination meeting will be held at 1:00 on in the theatre of the Mahtay Café.

Van Meer's selection is the culmination of a three-month candidate search and vetting process. After the position was posted publicly, the search committee conferred with potential candidates, and in November Van Meer put his name forward. His application then went through a rigorous vetting process by the federal party and was approved in December. Van Meer was the only person to submit his candidacy application and will stand unopposed at Sunday's meeting.

While Van Meer is new to federal politics, he is a veteran union activist and is vice-president of United Steel Workers 1005 . As part of his union work, Dennis has helped lead the campaign for pension security. Noting the example of the recent Sears bankruptcy that left long-time employees without pensions, he has taken the fight to Ottawa. There he has effectively lobbied MPs of all parties for legislation that protects worker's rights.

Van Meer is a lifelong resident of St. Catharines and recently ran for a St Catharines city council position. He is active in various organizations such as Grantham Lions, St. Catharines Masters Lacrosse, YMCA, St. Catharines Old Boys Lacrosse Association.

"I've worked in Hamilton for 19 years," Van Meer says. "And I drive the QEW every day because my home is St Catharines. I was born and raised here and I'm eager to represent our interests in Ottawa."

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Riding Association president Don Sawyer says he is looking forward to the meeting and the upcoming election. “This will be an exciting year for the Riding Association. After a year of rebuilding, we have a strong and energetic team ready to wage a solid, positive campaign in the 2019 federal election.” As for Van Meer, Sawyer commented, “We are delighted to have Dennis lead a resurgent NDP in our riding into the election.”

Sawyer pointed out that the meeting is open to all and will serve as a kick-off to the campaign.

If you would like to know more about the St Catharines Federal NDP Riding Association, visit their web site at [www.stcatharinesndp.ca](http://www.stcatharinesndp.ca).