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Federal Liberals in no rush to choose candidate

By [Jeremy Deutsch - Kamloops This Week](#)
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With the chatter of an upcoming federal election less than a whisper for now, the local federal Liberal riding association isn't rushing to find a candidate.

The Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo Liberal constituency association hasn't had a candidate-selection meeting, nor does it have a date set for the event.

Riding association presidnt Don Graham said the party is giving people interested in the job some time to put their name forward.

"We want to do things carefully," he said, noting there is no timeline set for a candidate meeting.

So far, only Murray Todd, the former president of the riding association, has publicly put his name forward as a candidate.

He announced his intention in August.

Graham said there are other people interested in being a candidate, but suggested they have to be careful about publicly declaring their interest because of their regular jobs.

Meanwhile, the rest of the political parties in the riding are steps ahead of the Grits.

The NDP has already chosen Michael Crawford as its candidate, while the Green party has put forward Kevin Ortner to challenge Conservative MP Cathy McLeod.

Graham said the party isn't concerned it doesn't yet have a candidate in place yet.

"We're not basing our action on the other candidates being in place," he said.

"We're going to run our own show."

Whoever does eventually become the party's candidate will have a tall order to contend for the seat.

The Liberal party, with Ken Sommerfeld as its candidate for the second time in 2008, finished a distant third in the last election, picking up just 10 per cent of the vote.

ELECTION 2008:

Cathy McLeod (Conservative): 25,109

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Donovan Cavers (Green) 4,430

Michael Crawford (NDP): 16,417

Matt Greenwood (Green): 2,518

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