

Speaking notes for Chi Nguyen

Speaker Title: Chi Nguyen, M.P.

Event: UofT Young Liberals Meet and Greet

Date: May 14, 2025

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: St. Andrew's Church, 73 Simcoe St.

Thank you all for being here tonight. Young people like you are the reason that we are celebrating a successful election. And what an election it was.

This year, Canada was at a crossroads. We were all watching what was happening in the US, and Canadians were in a state of constant uncertainty. People were worried for their jobs, their homes, and their families.

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Pierre Poilievre (Pee-AIR Poah-lee-EV-ruh) has been sowing division, telling Canadians that they shouldn't be proud of their country. He wasn't going to bring us back to the Harper years; he was going to bring us back to something much worse.

We watched it play out in the States. First they elected a misogynist, who openly bragged about groping women and spent much of his first term dodging allegations of sexual assault.

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Then we looked on as women across the United States were denied access to life-saving maternal health. We continue to watch as women die. These deaths are preventable, these deaths are cruel, and these deaths are the direct result of conservative policies and the politicians that spread them.

Canadians had a choice. They had the chance to vote for the party that views developments in the US as their blueprint.

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And they almost did. Just because Canadians made the right choice on April 28th doesn't mean that the fight is over.

That's why I put my hat in the ring this election. Something about this moment, something about this election felt different.

I spent some of the best two years of my life working at Equal Voice, a nonprofit dedicated to getting more women and gender diverse people into politics. Each year, we would bring our campaign school to hundreds of young women to help them see themselves as the future leaders of this country.

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I was always so inspired to be there in the room with them. When I was growing up as a young woman of colour, politicians didn't look like me.

I knew it wouldn't be easy. I knew that because of my identity, the right was going to come out swinging with ugly attacks. But with everything going on in the world, I thought about those young women. Would they feel like they belonged if women like me didn't rise to the occasion?

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Looking out at you all now, I see so many young women and gender diverse people who are looking ahead to a future full of tough political battles. If people like me don't step up when we are called, it's you we are letting down.

Now, I wouldn't say that the fight was easy. Many of you here today were with me on the campaign trail; you know we worked damn hard.

But never, throughout the whole campaign, did I feel anything less than total support from the people of Spadina-Harbourfront.

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I remember one conversation especially vividly. We had been out all day canvassing, going up and down apartment buildings and knocking on doors. One young mother answered the door. Her name was Siobhan (Shuh-VAHN) and she held a baby in her arms the whole time we talked. She shared how nervous she felt about the future because of the crushing cost of living.

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Connections like these made it easy for me to keep going. Easy because I knew that what I was doing was right. Easy because I could get up each day without a doubt in my mind that our party, which puts people like that young woman front and centre, will make this country better for all Canadians.

When we gathered together on election night, I was not surprised to see us carry the day. It's what I expected from a community that showed me every day on the campaign trail that it cares about its neighbours.

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On April 28th, Spadina-Harbourfront said no to bigotry, no to sexism, no to a divided Canada, and said yes to the values that have held us together in community for so long. They said yes to a future where women can lead Canada to a better future for everyone.

So thank you once again to everyone here who took time to come out and canvass, or do data entry, or man the phones. And to those of you from Spadina-Harbourfront, thank you. It will be my greatest honour to serve you in the House of Commons.

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There is no doubt: difficult times are ahead of us. But with strong, progressive women leading the way, you can be sure that we will come out of these tough times stronger than ever.

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