

November 2011

## Johann Lamont and Ian Davidson win UNISON backing for Scottish Labour leadership

Labour Link Scotland choice for new Leader and Deputy Leader of Scottish Labour  
Party follows hustings event in Glasgow Report on page 2

I am standing to lead Labour to bring change in order that we might once again earn the right to serve Scotland.

When we went to the people of Scotland in May, we fell short of their expectations and now we must listen, learn and change.

I believe Labour has always been the party of change and now we have to change again to reach out to the people who felt they could no longer give us their support.

One of the most damning indictments of our election in May was the number of levy-paying trade unionists who turned away from us.

I want to understand why they did this and give them a reason to support us next time.

If I am leader, I will also ensure that I have a broad shadow cabinet of all talents that has a place for trade unions, allowing us to put the concerns and ambitions of trade union members at the heart of policy and strategy.

As a young woman, I joined a party which spoke for equality, fairness, justice, created out of an understanding that the world is ill-divided and that it need not be that way.

My love of Labour remains strong and my pride in its past achievements are undimmed.

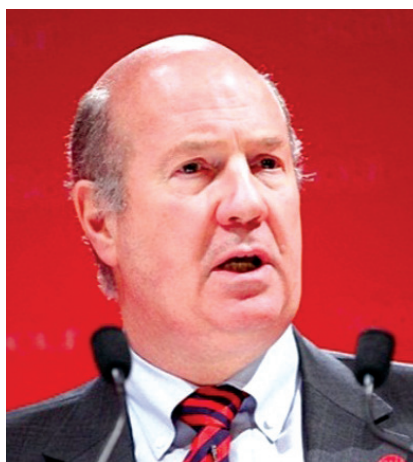
But my burning desire is for Labour to change, rebuild confidence in our values, and rebuild the trust of Scotland.

I seek this privilege to embrace change, to test our old certainties and to hold tight our values.

Only then will we have a party that we can be proud of, that Scotland can be proud of.



**Johann Lamont MSP**



**Ian Davidson MP**

Labour needs a change – not just of face, but of direction.

Public service workers and their families should not be paying the price of a crisis caused by the bankers – whether through pay freezes or cuts, job cuts, service cuts – or cuts to pensions.

That's why I am supporting the pensions action on 30th November – and so should Labour!

Our party has for too long seemed to be taking natural supporters – including UNISON members – for granted.

New Labour often appeared more interested in rich people than working people. We lost touch.

Pursuing policies like the Iraq war – which I voted against – was out of step with our values and those of the people.

I have a record of putting our values into practice – first as a councillor, then a Glasgow MP, for a decade as secretary of the Trade Union Group of Labour MPs, now as Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee – and always working in partnership as part of the whole labour and trade union movement.

So I am delighted to have the supporting nomination and trust of UNISON Scotland – along with Unite, GMB, UCATT, ASLEF, CWU and the Co-operative Party.

Now is the time to reconnect. So that our party delivers for our people.

As Deputy Leader I will ensure Scottish Labour is committed to being radical and inclusive, based on values shared with UNISON Scotland.

# UNISON backs Lamont and Davidson after leadership hustings at Annual Forum

Following a hustings meeting involving all Scottish Labour Leader and Deputy Leader candidates UNISON Scotland has endorsed Johann Lamont and Ian Davidson in the election to be Leader and Deputy Leader of Scottish Labour.

The decision was taken after UNISON's annual Scottish Labour Link Forum on 5 November, which included a hustings addressed by all of the candidates.

UNISON is one of Labour's largest affiliates – with political levy paying members who will cast individual votes in the election.

Speaking after the event, Gordon McKay, a nurse from Ayrshire and Chair of Scottish UNISON Labour Link Scotland said:

“We had the opportunity to hear from and question all of the candidates. Whilst all performed well, we felt that it was Johann and Ian who showed the best grasp of the issues facing ordinary people at this time and who will be best able to advance the Labour agenda of a fairer and more equal Scotland.”

**Ballot papers for the Leader and Deputy Leader election will be sent to every affiliated fund member after 19 November. Results will be declared on 17 December.**

## Cut and thrust of debate

From top: Leader candidates Tom Harris MP, Johann Lamont MSP (speaking) and Ken MacIntosh MSP with Pat Rowland in the chair; Deputy Leader candidates Ian Davidson MP (speaking), Lewis Macdonald MSP and Anas Sarwar MP with chair Gordon McKay keeping time; UNISON Scotland Deputy Convenor Stephen Smellie makes a typically forthright point from the floor; Johann Lamont MSP responds at question time

## Labour Link Scotland hustings in pictures



## Get involved in Labour Link – contact us now

Do you contribute to Labour Link (UNISON's Affiliated Political Fund)? Would you be prepared to help your local Labour Link in your UNISON branch? Do you want to join the Labour Party? Would you be a delegate from your UNISON branch to your local Labour Party and help forge a stronger, better link? If the answer to any of these is 'yes', we need to hear from you. **Contact:** Dave Watson [d.watson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.watson@unison.co.uk) or Malcolm Burns [m.burns@unison.co.uk](mailto:m.burns@unison.co.uk). Website: [www.unison-scotland.org.uk/labourlink](http://www.unison-scotland.org.uk/labourlink)