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Documents name four key Brison supporters

Bid costs pegged at over \$1m
By STEPHEN MAHER Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA — Four Nova Scotia business titans have each lent Scott Brison \$50,000 for his leadership campaign.

Blueberry baron John Bragg, the Jodrey family's David Hennigar, Sobeys' Donald Sobeys, a baron John Risley are backing the Tory-turned-Liberal from Kings-Hants, documents Mr. E with Elections Canada show.

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Mr. Brison, who will need to spend more than \$1 million to run his leadership race (the up \$3.4 million), intends to pay the loans back from donations he receives during the campaign.

The other candidates who have registered with the party revealed similar loans from business in their paperwork.

Mr. Brison, a former entrepreneur and investment banker, has proposed a business-friendly reform plan as a key part of his leadership platform.



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He says his business experience has been a help to him in running Public Works Canada and helping him raise money.

"There are certainly benefits to having business experiences in political life," he said.

"They're people I've known as friends."

Mr. Risley, the chairman of Clearwater Seafoods, recently held a fundraiser for Mr. Brison at his Chester home. Other guests included John (Nova) Chisholm, Irving Schwartz, George Uns and Jonathan Norwood, according to a report on the business news service Allnovascotia.com.

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Mr. Brison says Graham Day is also helping raise money, as is Vincent Guzzo, a Quebec city entrepreneur.

Mr. Brison has the support of Nova Scotia MPs Mark Eyking and Mike Savage, a number of Nova Scotia senators and some high-profile organizers from across the country.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Two of the other candidates — Michael Ignatieff and Gerard Kennedy — have significantly raised support in the Liberal caucus.

"You must believe in free will; there is no choice." Mr. Brison has been travelling around the country, schmoozing with Liberals. In the past he said, he has visited Halifax, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer and Lethbridge, Ottawa and Montreal.

— Isaac Bashevis
Singer

Mr. Brison and the other leadership candidates who are also MPs were all given more time to their leadership campaigns Tuesday, when Opposition Leader Bill Graham took away the official critics.

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Mr. Brison will be replaced as environment critic by John Godfrey, the former president of University of Kings College, who was a leadership candidate himself until sidelined by hea

As environment critic, Mr. Brison's attacks on Environment Minister Rona Ambrose were overruled. She and Prime Minister Stephen Harper simply read aloud old quotes from Mr. Brison as a Tory, was critical of the Liberals for their lack of a plan to meet the Kyoto accord target. He voted against ratifying the treaty.

Mr. Brison says the party didn't oppose the accord, merely ratifying it without a plan to im

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