

# Gladu has misread the room

*Chris Cooke - May 2026*

When Rebel News shows up at your door with protestors and you need security to move your staff out of the building you know you are on the wrong side of reality.

As much as former Conservative MP Marilyn Gladu likes to expound on the narrative that her sudden defection is good for the riding, nothing could be further from the truth

She claims that during the reincarnation of the Liberal Party under Mark Carney “people in grocery stores” told her to cross the floor.

Grocery stores here or in Ottawa?

Gladu maintains it’s easier to get stuff for Sarnia from the government.

If that’s the case, why didn’t she run as a Liberal during the last decade?

Let me suggest here, the primary job of a politician is to get elected and as a Liberal she wouldn’t have been elected.

In case she missed it Sarnia isn’t Liberal, didn’t elect a Liberal, doesn’t want to be Liberal and if a by-election were held today she’d be an unelected Liberal.

And as a Conservative her fate is cast. She is persona non grata.

There is language we could use to describe her but why bother.

Gladu will now have to sit near Steven Guilbeault, an environment minister in the Justin Trudeau government who with the help of Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley and the Aamjiwnaang First Nation shut down the INEOS Styrolution plant with the loss of 80 well-paying jobs and 90 contractor positions.

At the time she described Guilbeault, a former Greenpeace director and environmental activist who scaled Toronto’s CN Tower with a banner denouncing hydrocarbon, as “a convicted felon with an extremist green agenda.”

Now, two years later they are bedfellows.

How did that happen?

Let me suggest the optics aren’t good and Gladu misread the room.

But it is a moot point since Gladu has a short runway as a federal politician.

The next federal election is likely three years away and by then she will be 67 and looking in the rearview mirror of her political career.

Her pension and government perks will be in the bag, Donald Trump will be gone, dead or otherwise and Carney may realize politics is a blood sport and go back to banking or corporate board sitting.

Which reminds me of a book by the late newspaper columnist and writer Walter Stewart entitled Towers of Gold, Feet of Clay. It was about Canadian banks and concluded tersely that your banker isn’t your buddy.

Gladu would do well to read it.

I could be wrong about this but I’m usually not.