

### **Fight about Unionist unity misses the point - Alderdice**

Alliance Leader, Dr John Alderdice, has told warring unionists that they are missing the point of the whole process by fighting amongst each other.

Dr Alderdice, canvassing in Newtownabbey today said:

"They are completely missing the point. This election is not about deepening divisions. It is about getting to All-Party Talks, where we can bring our people together.

Fighting about Unionist unity may be a traditional sport, but like the struggle to build a Nationalist consensus, it fails to understand that the only way we can build a stable future is by uniting the people of Northern Ireland. There is no future for our country in setting one side against the other. When Mr Trimble, Dr Paisley and Mr McCartney talk of uniting unionists against nationalists, they are simply deepening the divisions which have led to the violence. In just the same way, the attempt to build a nationalist consensus is a failure to reach across the divide to make peace with unionists.

I hope that our people will use the election to send a message to all the warring factions, that what they want is a settlement that recognizes our diversity, not a deepening of our divisions."