



There has been much speculation that I would be seeking the leadership of the *Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta (PCAA)*.

Well at this moment I will clarify.

That was the plan, but, **something changed**.

My Co-Chair and Fund-Raising Chair of my entire campaign died.

Jon Lord was someone I could take on the world with. *Jon Lord* a long time personal friend who was at *Julie's* and my wedding in 1998 (oh by the way for those of you who have not met my wife, there she is) *Julie* deserves applause!

Jon Lord was the first person I met in Calgary in 1995 when I moved here. I went to my first *Calgary Flames* game with *Jon*, my first *Stampede*, my first *Stamper's* game, my first play at the *Jubilee*, my first look at all of *City Hall*, my first drink at the *Petroleum Club* and the list goes on.

I ran *Jon's* successful **PCAA** nomination and his first campaign for *MLA* in *Calgary Currie*. With me he won them both. Together we were unstoppable.

Jon Lord even helped develop the **Progressive Group for Independent Business (PGIB)** which has become Calgary's largest business and taxpayer organization with over 5,000 supporters. The **PGIB** has even had an award, since 1996, named after *Jon Lord* which is granted every *Annual General Meeting* of the *PGIB* called the *Jon Lord Small Business Award*. This is an award we now want to make eligible to all Calgarians.

Jon Lord and I golfed together, ate together and more. He was there and without *Jon Lord* him on this campaign I will **NOT** seek leadership, despite the overwhelming support.

BUT, that does not mean I can't make a difference.

As *Jon* would have wanted I am continuing on with his consensus mentality and am officially at this moment kicking off my campaign to be the **PCAA** nominee in the 2016 election in *Calgary Shaw*.

I will continue to push the policy platform that *Jon Lord* and I agreed upon and put *Alberta First*.

These policies are not policies of the left or of the right.
These are just policies that time and time again *Albertans* have indicated they support.

It is time our party starts listening to *Albertans* or we will continue to be relegated to the sidelines or possibly wiped off the electoral map forever.

Health Care – I believe in a **hybrid system** much like *Japan, Australia, France* where **there is a public universal health care system and also a private system**. In these systems the waiting lists are shorter and the outcomes are superior. We need to adopt strategies from the best systems in the world.

I also an advocate of **Activity-Based funding in health care**. Currently, hospitals in *Canada* receive block funding, lump sums they spend throughout the year. Under *Activity-Based* funding, a hospital would be paid for each patient treated and each procedure, according to a price list established by the health authority.

In other words, the money follows the patient to the facility that provides the service. This means we pay hospitals according to services provided not block funding for the year. In other universal systems this has proven to dramatically reduce administration, reduce waiting times, improve service and save money.

For those that say the status quo is acceptable they are not taking into consideration the facts:

- With *Canada's Baby Boomers* out numbering my generation (generation Taxed) **NOT** *Generation X* at a ratio of 3 to 1, the upcoming health care crisis will bankrupt Alberta if something does not change now! Currently 40% or more of the entire provincial budget is spent on health care.
- Only *Cuba* and *North Korea* have our model in place.

- Choice and competition is allowed in the *Canada Health Act*. *Quebec* and *British Columbia* have private options, whereas, when *Alberta* even talks about this we are attacked. It is time we put Alberta First!

With wait lists at an all time high, hospitals bursting at the seams, very hard to find a family doctor, seniors being treated in a poor fashion and an aging demographic we have a crisis and need to debate this issue and find solutions for this crisis.

We need to debate dismantling the health care *Super Board* and return to local ones in scope.

I will always push uphold the principles of the *Canada Health Act* and ensure all *Albertans* are covered including those that must seek service out of province.

Sources

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=89626309

www.nyu.edu/projects/rodwin/lessons.html

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

www.discoverfrance.net/France/DF_healthcare.shtml

http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1127414/canada_rates_worst_on_healthcare_waiting_times_among_7_countries/

The Economy – For starters we need stability. As a business owner and contributor to the economy, I was alarmed when our government under *Ed Stelmach* when he ripped up contracts. We will honour contract law.

- *I would also push to* reduce taxes for small business.
- I would push to allow competition to the *Workers Compensation Board (WCB)*. Businesses will be required to provide this type of insurance, but will be able to choose from the *WCB* and private insurance companies.

Reform Of The Human Rights Commissions – I would push to eliminate Section 3 from the *Alberta's Human Rights Act* just as *Minister Jonathan Denis* proposed.. This section has only served to cost *Albertans* millions of dollars in outrageous complaints and is a blatant attack on freedom of speech and freedom of religion. I believe as do most *Albertans* that this section must be amended as soon as possible. I support the recommendations by the *Sheldon Chumir* foundation in their document called "*Toward Equal Opportunity for All Albertans*" Sept 2008 see

http://www.chumirethicsfoundation.ca/files/pdf/Toward-Equal-Opportunity_SCF.pdf

Direct Democracy - Reform Elections Alberta, Term Limits, Fixed Election Dates, Free Votes, Referenda, Recall.

Property Rights – I believe in entrenching property rights protection into law.

Education - I believe schools should be planned in advance when new communities are developed so people can know when the school will be in their area and count on that commitment. I believe in choice in education. I believe in allowing more Charter schools and is also an advocate of home schooling options for parents. I also believe in the voucher system where your dollar will follow your child to your school of choice. I also believe in the value of standardized testing as a tool for ensuring learning outcomes. I believe that post-secondary education can be affordable for every *Albertan*.

Provincial Rights - Create our own *Alberta Pension Plan (APP)*, Establish our own provincial police force. Control our own Immigration. I feel that we must develop other international markets, we can no longer rely on just the United States to be consumers of our products and resources. We must promote a Triple E Senate (Elected, Equal and Effective) so the West has some Regional protection in Ottawa.

Taxpayer Protection Act - Balanced Budget Legislation, Amendment to the Municipal Act to ensure taxation is primarily based on inflation and that large projects must be voted upon by voters at election time. I would also like to discuss a new agreement with the Province and Municipalities so they have the funding they need without constantly burdening the taxpayer.

However, I do **NOT** want to see a City Charter that would allow already tax crazy councils to have further taxation powers. I would also push for an elimination of hidden sales taxes & levies (eg. *Enmax* Utility Franchise Fees).

Transparency is needed and as the province, we could use the *Municipal Act* to make a difference.

I may not be running for leader, but, I can make a difference and put ***Alberta First!***

Thank you.