

LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

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ALP Leadership Candidate

1. Do you support the continued sale of our public lands? Would you support legislation that severely restricts the sale of any public lands in the future?

No I do not support any sale of public land without a due process, transparency and accountability. I would support legislation that restricted sale of public land.

2. Do you support the elimination of the long gun registry?

No.

3. Would you support legislation that would eliminate game farming to better protect wildlife resources and their habitats from diseases such as chronic wasting disease? What action would you take to make the necessary changes?

I am already on record as speaking in favour of this. At some point past the government supported these game farms, particularly for elk velvet. However time has shown us that mingling of game and wildlife has not shown itself to be healthy for wildlife or farmed game. While I am unlikely to support a wholesale ban on game farming (given that few species of flora or fauna are outright banned), certainly I support measures to ensure that mingling of species is minimized, monitored and enforced.

4. Do you support further restrictions on the use of fresh water by petro-chemical energy as needed to ensure instream flows for natural resources? What action would you take to make the necessary changes?

I do not support a water market and believe that a government must move to a modern, ecological, best practises method of water distribution - which would include ensuring preservation of in-stream flows. Development of additional Regional Land Use Plans are key as is a new Water Act which would address allocation of water. FITFIR must go.

6. Do you feel more money should go to the Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) budget or funds be re-assigned to SRD to enhance and improve management of our wildlife and fish resources?

Yes.

7. Do you believe hunting is a necessary tool to manage wildlife populations?

No I don't think it is 'necessary'. However I can not think of a compelling reason to completely ban hunting.

8. Should Alberta re-instate the grizzly bear hunting season in areas where populations warrant as there is general agreement that regulated hunting does not have a detrimental effect on overall bear numbers?

No I do not support re-instatement of the grizzly hunt. Science says no and I believe in making decisions based on evidence and science.

9. In the wake of the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement and the charges laid against several individuals do you support a provincial agreement that extends Métis hunting and fishing rights?

Difficult issue. As far as I know there is a constitutional imperative here. More can be done to ensure a reasonable approach is taken. But essentially, I think the provincial agreement will be extended.

10. Are you aware of current OHV management process, and how do you feel it is succeeding?

No. At one time I was Executive Director of the Alberta Snowmobile Association and while I still ride a sled I am not up to date on OHV processes. Except I think there should be mandatory helmet use for ATVs. Too many dead kids.

11. Recent attempts to draft management plans for Wildland Parks (e.g.: Caribou Mountain) have precluded input from the hunting, trapping and motorized recreation sectors aimed at maintaining reasonable levels of these traditional activities. Do you agree the development of any new protected areas (e.g.: Andy Russell Wildland Park) should be suspended until these issues have been resolved?

Well, saying these are 'traditional' activities is a bit of a stretch but I do think that all stakeholders need to be involved in decisions around use of public lands, including parks. It seems to me that minimizing disturbance of land needs to be a priority, as is dealing with unplanned creation of access corridors which interfere with wildlife movement and migration. Some families use motorized vehicles for their recreation - my family was one of them. But I am now aware of times when I and my family destroyed trees, made unnecessary trails through areas etc. If we all want access to an area, we'll have to stake out some fair but firm ground rules for each user group. And indeed some areas might be deemed off limits to certain activities and some to all activities. BC seems to have done a better job of this that Alberta has.