



**UNITED  
CONSERVATIVE  
PARTY**

# **MEMBER POLICY DECLARATION**

**(Constitutional Document 2)**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>4</b>
VISION	4
DEMOCRACY	4
ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY	4
<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>5</b>
VISION	5
TAX	5
BUDGET	5
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>6</b>
VISION	6
EARLY CHILDHOOD	6
PRIMARY & SECONDARY	6
POST-SECONDARY & TRADES	7
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>8</b>
VISION	8
LAND & WATER	8
GREENHOUSE GASES & AIR	8
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, & CONSERVATION	9
PARKS & RECREATION	9
<b>ENERGY</b>	<b>10</b>
VISION	10
RESOURCE STRATEGY	10
ELECTRICITY & UTILITIES	10
<b>INDUSTRY</b>	<b>11</b>
VISION	11
AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS	11
RURAL & NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT	11
FORESTRY	11
TOURISM	11
INNOVATION, RESEARCH, & TECHNOLOGY	12
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>13</b>
VISION	13
ACCESSIBILITY & DELIVERY	13
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	13
MENTAL HEALTH	13

<b>JUSTICE</b>	<b>14</b>
VISION	14
COURTS	14
POLICING	14
CORRECTIONS & REHABILITATION	14
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	<b>15</b>
VISION	15
INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS, RAIL, & AIR)	15
REGULATION & TECHNOLOGY	15
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<b>16</b>
VISION	16
ARTS & CULTURE	16
FAMILIES	16
SENIORS	16
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & HOUSING	16
<b>INDIGENOUS</b>	<b>17</b>
VISION	17
HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES	17
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES	17
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL</b>	<b>18</b>
VISION	18
MUNICIPAL	18
INTERPROVINCIAL	18
FEDERAL	19
INTERNATIONAL	19
<b>LABOUR and EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>20</b>
VISION	20
HEALTH, SAFETY & WORKERS COMPENSATION	20
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS	20
LABOUR	20
IMMIGRATION	20
<b>RIGHTS</b>	<b>21</b>
VISION	21
PROPERTY	21
FIREARMS	21

# I. GOVERNMENT

## A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) effective, ethical, transparent, democratic representation accountable to the people of Alberta.
- 2) limited, efficient, compassionate, fiscally prudent government that respects and protects the individual rights, freedoms, choices, dignity, and responsibilities inherent to every Albertan.

## B) DEMOCRACY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) hold elections for Alberta Senators-In-Waiting at the same time as Provincial Elections.
- 2) ensure that government funding is never provided to any political party, candidate, or constituency associations, through campaign reimbursements or direct subsidies.
- 3) conduct genuine consultations with stakeholders and the public before enacting legislation.
- 4) protect all MLAs' right to represent their local constituents by respecting their right to a free vote in the legislature with the exception of the budget and votes of non-confidence.
- 5) ban government ministries and departments from conducting political advertising.

## C) ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) establish an arms-length process to determine the compensation, pension, and severance packages of elected representatives and high-ranking governmental officials.
- 2) reform public sector pension plans to address the problem of unfunded liabilities and to protect future generations.
- 3) adopt a more comprehensive open data policy where government information and data, including all financial expenditure, is automatically released in digital formats by default, unless an explicit security, privacy, or legal concern is demonstrated.
- 4) reform the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to eliminate unreasonable financial barriers and delays to the release of information.
- 5) require all organizations receiving significant public funding to publish annual financial statements per accepted accounting principles and provide employee compensation information.
- 6) ensure no government funding is being used to lobby government for political purposes.

## II. FINANCE

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) the 'Alberta Advantage', ensuring Alberta is the lowest tax jurisdiction in the country.
- 2) fiscal prudence with a balanced annual operating and consolidated budget.
- 3) ensuring future generations are free from the burden of provincial debt.
- 4) limited government that manages costs and finds efficiencies.

### B) TAX

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) restore the provincial income tax rate to a flat ten percent (10%).
- 2) restore the provincial business tax rate to ten percent (10%).
- 3) reduce the provincial small business tax rate to zero percent (0%).
- 4) repeal the provincial carbon tax and vigorously oppose the imposition of any federal carbon tax.

### C) BUDGET

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) balance the province's consolidated budget by the end of the first term.
- 2) require all provincial budgets be reported according to clear and transparent accounting principles.
- 3) require each government ministry to implement a budget process that re-assesses every program and project.

## III. EDUCATION

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) extending school choice to every student across the province.
- 2) providing transparency and accountability to parents regarding student scholastic outcomes and performance.
- 3) making schools inclusive communities that protect students against discrimination and bullying.
- 4) enabling students to achieve excellence by providing a diverse, results-oriented range of core, extracurricular, post-secondary, and skilled trades educational opportunities.

### B) EARLY CHILDHOOD

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) ensure students are properly assessed and any special learning needs are identified and accommodated as early as possible in a child's development.

### C) PRIMARY & SECONDARY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) ensure equal per-student funding regardless of school choice – public, separate, charter, home, or private.
- 2) provide additional per-student funding to schools for students with special needs, students in remote areas, or with other disadvantages, to ensure equal access for all students.
- 3) devolve decision-making to individual schools, rather than school boards, offering public and separate schools the governance and curriculum flexibility currently enjoyed by charter schools.
- 4) encourage schools and school boards to work together to find efficiencies and improve the delivery of education to Alberta students.
- 5) give all types of schools the flexibility to offer specialized programs in the trades, vocational training, skills, arts, music, physical education, business, economics, and more.

## D) POST-SECONDARY & TRADES

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) align the funding of university degree programs according to anticipated skills demand.
- 2) rebalance funding between university degree programs and skills training, to ensure skills training are equally valued and desired by young people.
- 3) work with employers, industry, schools, and post-secondary institutions to encourage and develop apprenticeship programs in trades and the technical sector.
- 4) expand research funding by encouraging private-sector partnerships, while respecting academic freedom.
- 5) require publicly funded post-secondary institutions to implement a policy guaranteeing the freedom of speech and freedom of assembly of all students and staff on campus.
- 6) protect and guarantee the freedom of association of students by allowing individuals to choose, for themselves, whether to become a member of their students' association.
- 7) ensure that learning opportunities are accessible, affordable and sustainable for all Albertans by targeting greater financial aid to lower income students and by reducing the costs of books and materials by using online and Open Educational resources.

## IV. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) enact evidence-based legislation that safeguards the quality of our air, land, and water for the health, use and enjoyment of all Albertans for all generations to come.
- 2) embrace conservation and sustainability as key tenets of environmental policy.
- 3) balance the demands of both economic development and environmental protection, recognizing that these cannot be mutually exclusive to achieve Alberta's long-term prosperity.
- 4) conduct cost / benefit analysis on all environmental programs, to ensure money is being spent on programs that will have the greatest environmental impact.
- 5) enforce accountability of polluters to control their emissions and mitigate impacts on air, land, or water quality and public health.
- 6) consult with all stakeholders, recognizing the unique expertise of farmers, ranchers, hunters, anglers, industry workers, scientists and academia, and Indigenous peoples, to achieve environmental stewardship objectives.
- 7) achieve greenhouse gas objectives without embracing carbon taxation.

### B) LAND & WATER

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) protect the taxpayer from the cost of industrial environmental cleanup by mandating a plan and provision for reclamation as a prerequisite of project approval.
- 2) monitor and encourage conservation of water taken from aquifers, lakes or rivers for agricultural or industrial use, prioritizing protection of water sources for domestic purposes.

### C) GREENHOUSE GASES & AIR

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) establish greenhouse gas and emissions targets in line with international protocols and standards.
- 2) achieve Alberta's greenhouse gas and emissions targets through advancing, implementing, and cooperating internationally on technology innovation and research, use of low-emission fuels, and alternative viable renewable energy sources.
- 3) conduct deep energy retrofits for government-owned infrastructure, but only where such implementation will result in long-term cost savings that outweigh the costs of the retrofit.
- 4) re-establish Specified Gas Emitter Regulations that incentivize technological development and innovation for industry to reduce its environmental impact in a manner that promotes growth and prosperity.



## **D) FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, & CONSERVATION**

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) balance opportunities for hunters and anglers with best conservation practices in fish and wildlife population and habitat management.

## **E) PARKS & RECREATION**

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) balance the need for provision of recreational opportunities with the need to protect provincial parks, viewsapes, heritage sites, and ecologically sensitive areas from intrusive activities.

## V. ENERGY

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) develop Alberta's uniquely diverse, abundant, renewable and non-renewable energy resources as a key driver of economic prosperity ultimately benefitting all Albertans.
- 2) embrace Alberta's role as a global energy leader and supplier of choice across our entire energy resource portfolio, including oil, oil sands, natural gas, coal, hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear, and bio-energy.
- 3) maximize national and international energy market access options.
- 4) maintain the independence of our energy regulators from political interference.
- 5) consult with all stakeholders across the spectrum of energy extraction, generation, transmission, distribution, and consumption to enact evidence-based policies promoting economic development, environmental protection, and individual property rights.

### B) RESOURCE STRATEGY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) establish a stable, competitive regulatory and royalty regime that attracts and retains long-term international investment in Alberta's energy industry.
- 2) facilitate pipelines, energy corridors and infrastructure development that maximizes value and opportunities in the extraction, utilization and export of Alberta's energy products.
- 3) promote and maintain Alberta's global energy leadership in environment, health, safety, and social standards.
- 4) remove the 100-megaton cap on oil sands production and the associated 10-megaton cap on upgrading.
- 5) improve application review and approval timeframes within the Alberta Energy Regulator and other regulatory bodies in a manner that does not interfere with the decisions themselves.

### C) ELECTRICITY & UTILITIES

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) implement a deregulated market-based pricing regime that both secures uninterrupted supply and smooths demand cycles.
- 2) facilitate the development of localized and distributed electrical generation capacity so as to increase efficiency and reduce demand.
- 3) maximize application of Alberta's energy resource portfolio in our utilities.
- 4) enhance the inclusion and sale of household based micro-power generation into the electrical grid.
- 5) facilitate consumer choice pertaining to electricity fuel source and retailer.

## VI. INDUSTRY

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) recognize and build upon the contribution of Alberta's existing industries to the provincial economy.
- 2) support the diversification of Alberta's economic base into emerging and high-tech sectors that will solidify our prosperity in the information age.
- 3) achieve economic growth and diversification by adopting a streamlined legislative and fiscal framework that enables private sector investment and prosperity balanced with environmental responsibility.
- 4) end direct government subsidies to individual private for-profit corporations and prohibit government from owning or operating businesses where a competitive business market exists.

### B) AGRICULTURE & AGRIBUSINESS

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) establish a set of predictable, stable land use and access rules for the agricultural industry.
- 2) maintain a transparent, flexible, and predictable water allocation system in the public interest that recognizes existing licenses and commitments with clearly identified objectives and measurement practices.

### C) RURAL & NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) recognize the role that natural resource sectors specifically contribute to the resilience, livelihood, culture and long-term growth of rural communities.
- 2) advance the potential of northern development, and support the long-term prosperity of rural communities and its industries through investments in infrastructure, transportation, and community support.

### D) FORESTRY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) permit only ecologically and economically sustainable forest management methods.

### E) TOURISM

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) cooperate with industry to promote Alberta's vast and varied tourism driven economic opportunities.

## F) INNOVATION, RESEARCH, & TECHNOLOGY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) promote the profound existing knowledge base of Alberta's educated, entrepreneurial population as an unparalleled strategic resource for emerging and high-tech sector investment.
- 2) adopt a regulatory framework that permits and encourages the testing of new technologies in Alberta to attract research and technology opportunities.

## VII. HEALTH

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) ensuring universal, comprehensive, high performing, sustainable health care is available to all Albertans regardless of ability to pay, in keeping with Canada Health Act.
- 2) increasing regional autonomy and local decision making within AHS.
- 3) addressing the opioid crisis.

### B) ACCESSIBILITY & DELIVERY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) provide 24/7 access to primary care, structured through family medicine clinics and networks operating as multi-disciplinary practices delivering comprehensive and accessible primary care.
- 2) allow for publicly-funded, privately-delivered health services to improve delivery efficiency and lower costs.
- 3) allow for privately-funded, privately-delivered health care services to address excessive wait-times.
- 4) support preventative strategies aimed at improving personal health and wellness.
- 5) provide Continuing Care that allows all vulnerable, disabled and senior persons to remain in their homes and/or close to their families whenever possible.
- 6) support access to quality affordable dental care by ensuring dentists are allowed to provide the public with information about their services and fee schedule.
- 7) improve Emergency Medical Services (EMS), particularly to rural areas.

### C) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) treat the consumption of and addiction to controlled substances as a health issue, rather than a criminal issue, in order to minimize harm.
- 2) commit to a free-market system of production, distribution, and sale of legal controlled substances, while maintaining responsible regulations to ensure the safety of products, to protect minors from being able to access or consume products, and to ensure taxation levels do not perpetuate a black market.

### D) MENTAL HEALTH

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) ensure access to mental health support, including depression and suicide prevention networks.

## VIII. JUSTICE

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) a fair and innovative justice system and effective policing system that protects Albertans, prioritizes the victims of crimes, and facilitates the rehabilitation of criminals.
- 2) a cost effective and efficient court system that addresses cases on a timely basis and ensures that all Albertans have access to legal representation and justice.

### B) COURTS

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) support alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and provide additional funding to reduce wait times in the Court system.
- 2) support the right of compensation from convicted persons to the victims of their crimes.

### C) POLICING

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) conduct a review of the delivery of traffic services by police agencies across the province, including automated traffic enforcement technology, and develop a model that places its emphasis on reducing the number of fatal and serious injury motor vehicle collisions occurring on Alberta roads rather than revenue generation.
- 2) ensure sufficient funding for policing to allow for effective protection of rural Albertans.
- 3) improve monitoring of, and strengthen restrictions on, high-risk offenders.

### D) CORRECTIONS & REHABILITATION

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) require young offenders to participate in crime prevention courses and other measures.
- 2) provide better access and funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs in correctional facilities.

## IX. TRANSPORTATION

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) recognizing the importance of transportation to Alberta's industry and economic development, and expanding transportation infrastructure.
- 2) safe, effective and efficient transportation options to promote the movement of people and goods around Alberta.

### B) INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS, RAIL, & AIR)

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) invest in ensuring the proper maintenance and improvement of Alberta's current transportation infrastructure.
- 2) expand existing transportation corridors, and construct new transportation infrastructure to relieve pressure on current routes, when projects are fiscally feasible and meet a cost/benefit analysis.
- 3) work with private industry to maintain existing infrastructure, and construct new infrastructure projects in a more timely and cost-effective manner.
- 4) develop a comprehensive transportation strategy that recognizes the interdependence of Alberta's economy with its neighbours and, in particular, supports northern development through linking northern Alberta and northern Alberta communities to other provinces, territories, countries and tide waters and encompasses rail, road, air, telecommunications and pipelines infrastructure.

### C) REGULATION & TECHNOLOGY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) develop a regulatory environment to support the testing of transportation technology to support Alberta as a transportation hub.

## X. COMMUNITY

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) recognize that all Albertans have equal rights, privileges and responsibilities.
- 2) support social responsibility within the framework of a free enterprise economic system.
- 3) promote self-reliant citizenry, compassionate service, volunteerism, individual responsibility and care for those unable to care for themselves.
- 4) provide support for all vulnerable Albertans and for those in need.
- 5) build a province rich in arts and culture.

### B) ARTS & CULTURE

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) encourage, support, and fund community projects, school arts programs and cultural activities as an essential enrichment of life and an integral part of Alberta's communities and cultural diversity.

### C) FAMILIES

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) ensure the protection of victims of abuse and provide effective supports to aid in their recovery.
- 2) work with foster parents to help them improve the care and placements of foster children.
- 3) enhance and increase the training, resources and authority of social service providers to properly protect children at risk and improve services to families.
- 4) enhance ability of non-profit agencies to meet the needs of children, youth, and families.

### D) SENIORS

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) repeal any legislation and/or policy which unjustly discriminates against seniors, violates their safety, privacy or democratic rights arbitrarily or fails to recognize their vital contribution to Alberta.

### E) SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & HOUSING

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) implement an effective and incentive based social assistance program that will promote participation in the economy.
- 2) provide social services through community organizations rather than government whenever possible.



# XI. INDIGENOUS

## A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) recognize with respect the many historical, cultural and social contributions of Alberta's Indigenous communities, Reserves, and Metis settlements.
- 2) building collaborative and consultative approaches to resolve challenges facing Indigenous peoples.
- 3) the provision of necessary services, especially in the areas of health, education, and social services that should not be interrupted due to jurisdictional disputes.

## B) HEALTH, EDUCATION, & SOCIAL SERVICES

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) work with Indigenous communities to provide high quality education, including curriculum that integrates awareness of the unique history, culture and language of Indigenous peoples.
- 2) support increased Indigenous participation and leadership in delivery of healthcare and social services in urban and rural areas where there is significant Indigenous populations.

## C) ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) collaborate with Indigenous communities to strengthen economic opportunities and entrepreneurship.
- 2) support the development of Indigenous communities through enhanced access to training, information and tools.
- 3) promote a consultative and collaborative approach to resource development and land management.

## XII. INTERGOVERNMENTAL

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) respect and defend the separation of powers between federal, provincial, and municipal governments in Canada.
- 2) negotiating fairer treatment for Alberta taxpayers by the Canadian government.
- 3) encouraging, promoting, and defending free-trade across Canada and the world.
- 4) advocating for greater market access for Alberta exporters and producers.

### B) MUNICIPAL

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) remove the ability for municipalities to run operational deficits.
- 2) create a clear separation of powers, duties, and obligations between the provincial and municipal levels of government to ensure clear lines of accountability and financial responsibility.
- 3) prevent municipalities from implementing programs and spending money on projects that are clearly provincial or federal jurisdiction, unless the project is a collaboration between governments.

### C) INTERPROVINCIAL

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) eliminate all trade, tariff and non-tariff barriers to reduce costs to Alberta consumers, starting with the exemptions implemented in the Canada Free Trade Agreement.
- 2) pressure other provinces to drop their own barriers to trade, and intervene in, and support, court cases that challenge unconstitutional trade barriers.
- 3) work with the federal and provincial governments, professional trade organizations and regulatory bodies to ensure that residents of Canada who have recognized qualifications and credentials to practice a trade, skill or profession can carry out business anywhere in Canada.

## D) FEDERAL

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) oppose intrusions by the federal government into the property, legal, constitutional and democratic rights of Albertans.
- 2) lobby the federal government to introduce a single standard for EI entrance requirements, benefit duration, and benefit amount.
- 3) force the federal government to the negotiating table by holding a provincial constitutional referendum asking whether the equalization program should be removed entirely from the Canadian constitution.
- 4) pursue a constitutional reference case to seek a judicial opinion on the constitutional validity of the inclusion of resource royalties in the equalization formula.
- 5) work with other provincial governments to pressure the federal government to further reform the equalization formula to take into account differing costs of delivering services in each province and the public policy choices made by provincial governments that discourage economic activity.
- 6) establish a special commission to examine and report on the finances of the federation on an annual basis, to inform Albertans and other Canadians about the extent and effectiveness of Canada's regional subsidy and transfer systems.

## E) INTERNATIONAL

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) advocate for the expedited assessment of foreign credentials without compromising Alberta standards, so Alberta's employers can attract and retain top global talent.
- 2) advocate for recognition of Canadian credentials abroad, allowing Alberta workers to pursue opportunities abroad.

## XIII. LABOUR and EMPLOYMENT

### A) VISION

*The United Conservative Party is committed to:*

- 1) ensuring Alberta has a skilled workforce and safe workplaces to support economic growth.

### B) HEALTH, SAFETY & WORKERS COMPENSATION

*The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:*

- 1) repeal the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act ('Bill 6') and engage in judicious consultation with agricultural stakeholders prior to re-introducing any legislation.
- 2) allow competition to the Workers Compensation Board.

### C) EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

*The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:*

- 1) conduct a detailed review and consult with Albertans to ensure that employment standards set by the government protect employees, are comparable to other jurisdictions, and help to make Alberta workplaces competitive.

### D) LABOUR

*The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:*

- 1) extend to workers the democratic right to a secret ballot vote on labour organization certification and decertification under the Labour Code.

### E) IMMIGRATION

*The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:*

- 1) build on the successful Agreement for Canada-Alberta Cooperation on Immigration to ensure policy and programs address Alberta's unique labour market challenges and need for strong entrepreneurs.

## XIV. RIGHTS

### A) VISION

***The United Conservative Party is committed to:***

- 1) the idea that every Albertan has inherent rights, freedoms, choices, and responsibilities.
- 2) the idea that the role of the Alberta government is to protect individual rights and freedoms, not to undermine personal choices and responsibilities.

### B) PROPERTY

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) enshrine the right to property in the Constitution of Alberta.
- 2) clarify all aspects of land rights in a single statutory “Land and Property Rights Act”.
- 3) amend all appropriate legislation to ensure every Albertan has the right not to be deprived of the title, use, or enjoyment of real property, or any improvement made to such property, or any right or statutory consent connected with such property, except in accordance with the law and for full, just and timely financial compensation with recourse to the courts.

### C) FIREARMS

***The United Conservative Party believes that the Government of Alberta should:***

- 1) appoint a Chief Firearms Officer to direct the Firearms Program in Alberta.
- 2) collect and publish data concerning the frequency, causes and prevention of all categories of violent crime in Alberta, and the social, environmental, and economic effects of all firearms-related activities.