

“The Call Is Coming from Inside the House”: Nenshi Faces Internal Backlash as NDP Craters

JUNE 5, 2025 – The cracks in Naheed Nenshi’s leadership are widening, and now even long-time NDP allies are sounding the alarm.

In a scathing article published this week by the Tyee, known left-wing outlet, long-time NDP supporter and union activist David Climenhaga issued a frank assessment of Nenshi’s performance. He joins a growing number of left-wing critics, including political analysts Evan Scrimshaw and Dave Cournoyer, warning the Alberta NDP is fading under a leader who has failed to energize voters or define anything close to a vision.

Climenhaga didn’t mince words: “Something is wrong, and it needs to be addressed.” The former Calgary mayor, once seen as the NDP’s last hope, is now being criticized for “disengagement”, “seriously underperforming”, failing to “resonate beyond his base”, and overseeing a collapse of NDP support in battleground Calgary — where United Conservatives lead by 13 points.

“If Naheed Nenshi can’t even hold his own party together, how can he expect to win over the rest of Alberta?” said Darby Crouch, UCP Candidate for Edmonton-Strathcona. “He’s not just unpopular in rural Alberta, he’s bleeding support in the very city that made him relevant.”

As even the NDP’s hardcore supporters grow disillusioned, one thing is clear: the call is coming from inside the house. The latest Janet Brown poll confirms the trend, showing the UCP with 52 per cent support among decided and leaning voters, and the NDP trailing far behind at 38 per cent.

“Albertans deserve better than a negative campaign driven by talking points,” added Crouch. “They want strong leadership that delivers results, and they’re getting that from Premier Smith.”