



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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After a 90-day campaign, Forever Canadian—the citizen-led petition—has crushed its goal.

Edmonton, AB - Former Deputy Premier and MLA Thomas Lukaszuk presents 456,365 signatures to Elections Alberta from Albertans supporting the petition saying yes, Alberta should remain in Canada.

Under Alberta's Citizen Initiative Act, just under 300,000 signatures were required to meet the threshold for a petition. Since August, more than 5,000 volunteers have held pop-up campaigns in driveways and at fairs, banding together groups of Albertans like never before. The final tally was announced to volunteers as 61 boxes of signatures were unloaded from the Unity Bus into a loading bay at Elections Alberta.

Thomas Lukaszuk said, "My travels across Alberta have shown me that we can bridge divides and build common ground – we can achieve remarkable, even unimaginable things – when we set aside traditional politics and focus instead on bold goals and strategies to realize them. That's what we aimed to do from the beginning. We set an ambitious goal and worked tirelessly to achieve it. Our objective was never about a referendum. That's the Premier's decision, not ours. Instead, we succeeded in fostering a movement of proud Albertans who stand up to say: Alberta's future is - and always will be - forever Canadian."

Late in the campaign in October, the Unity Bus tour included rural municipalities in Alberta, such as Okotoks, Camrose, and Viking. Today, Lukaszuk thanked the thousands of volunteers who have spent the last three months gathering signatures at farmers' markets, dog parks, and events across Alberta. Forever Canadian blossomed into a movement where communities from all corners of the province and across the political spectrum worked together to collect signatures.

Paula Krawiec, a team volunteer captain for Spruce Grove, added, "I'm sad this is over. I helped organize more than 50 canvassers in this area; once strangers, they now feel like family. This experience has bonded us around a common goal: keeping Alberta in Canada. And that's worth fighting for. We are proud of the support we have gathered, and it sends a strong message."

The Chief Electoral Officer will verify the signatures. If the petition is certified, it moves to a Legislative Committee for review, which then prepares a report with recommendations for the Legislative Assembly, or it may suggest that a referendum proceed.

Lukaszuk added, “The next step is in the Premier’s hands. My hope is that the Premier and all elected members of the Legislative Assembly will do the right thing. We want them to listen to the voices of more than 450,000 Albertans, call a vote in the Legislative Assembly, and put an end to this divisive and dangerous talk of separation.”

For more information or to schedule an interview:

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