

MEDICINE HAT NEWS

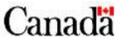
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Published daily except Sunday and Monday by ALTA. NEWSPAPER GROUP LP. at The News Building, 3257 Dunmore Road, S.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada T1B 3R2; Second Class Mail Registration Number 0281 Return undeliverable mail, Canadian addresses to: 3257 Dunmore Road S.E. Medicine Hat Alberta, AB., T1B 3R2

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Local Journalism Initiative reporters funded by the Government of Canada



The mirage of unity and the backstabbers behind it

You gotta hand it to Premier Jason Kenney as he heads into what amounts to a second leadership battle with Brian Jean.



Scott Schmidt
Laying it Out

The first time these two tussled, it wasn't until the dust settled that we heard much about the alleged kamikaze campaign, orchestrated to ensure Kenney's victory and Jean's exit from politics. This time they aren't even in the ring yet and signs of cheating have already surfaced.

In case you missed it, controversy over a mail-in ballot decision for Kenney's upcoming April 9 leadership review has many, including more members of the premier's caucus, joining the club of dissent.

Ahead of the deadline to buy memberships, the only way to vote on Kenney's future was to physically be in Red Deer on April 9. Obviously, people in, say, Fort McMurray, weren't going to buy one unless they knew they could get there. Well, following the deadline to participate in the review, the decision was made to allow a mail-in ballot for those who could.

One might argue it's not necessarily right for hoards of people to buy up political party memberships only to participate in leadership votes, but every candidate of every party at every level of government goes on membership sales drives during campaigns, so the practice isn't exactly frowned upon.

What we can't have though, is someone doing the exact opposite, which is what is happening here. Kenney and his team know people are mad at him, and had Albertans known they could buy a UCP membership and mail in their opinion, membership sales

might have skyrocketed. By underhandedly waiting until after deadline to announce it, he's essentially saying, "I'm pretty sure Albertans don't want me here but I'm willing to sabotage the democratic process so I don't have to find out."

Whether it's a legal move is irrelevant — it's calculated and it's meant to prevent someone in power from facing a fair judgement.

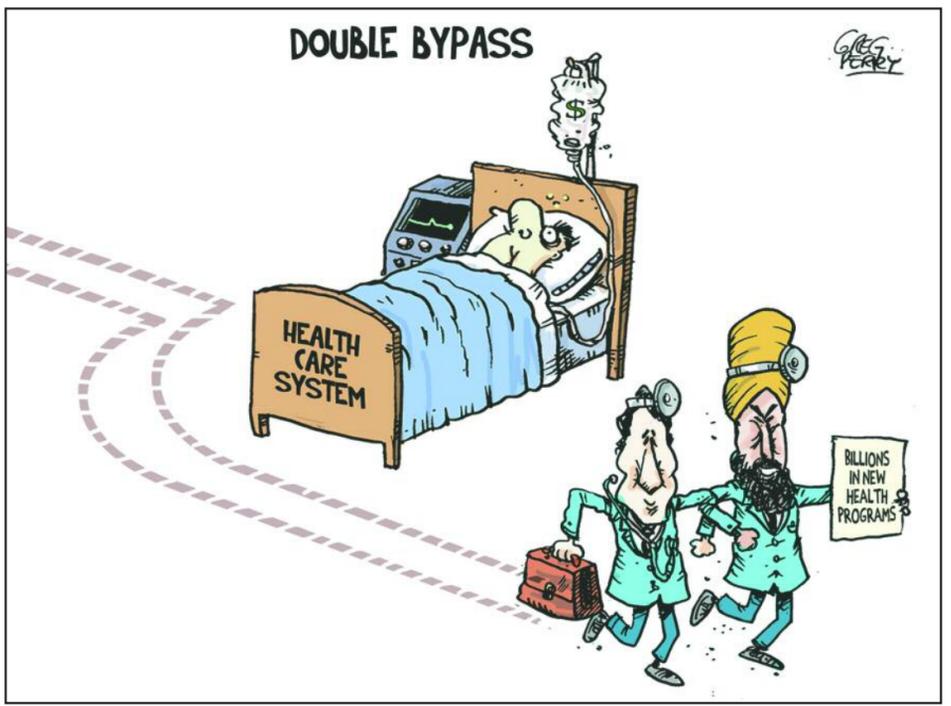
But it's worth noting that Kenney isn't just fighting to keep his job, he's fighting to keep Brian Jean from getting it. Kenney wants Albertans to have what only he can deliver.

Listen, just because conservatism is the greatest, strongest and freest ideology ever think up doesn't mean just anyone can pull it off. Why do you think the first order of business upon uniting the PCs and Wildrose had to be getting rid of one the leaders forever?

After all, nothing says unity like party co-founders fighting to the political death.

And it shouldn't be lost on people that the two men who told Albertans they needed to unite as conservatives for their own good have never once been on the same page on how this conservative party should be run.

It's even worse at the federal level, where members of



parliament from the Conservative Party of Canada are never more than three sentences away from accusing others of divisiveness while clearly being as divided a political party as any of us have known.

They eviscerate each other during leadership races — interim leader Candace Bergen even told them to tone it down this week — and then break off into cliques until they're ready to backstab the winner and trigger the entire musical-chair process over again.

At some point folks are going to have to analyze the ideology instead of waiting for the saviour of conservatism to land at our feet while political parties fire the same stale suits at us out of a cannon.

The truth is, the idea of a big-tent conservative party has long been a mirage, while any semblance of unity has only been presented at times of election. Split conservative parties doesn't work on a

federal level, as one on its own has enough trouble winning elections, a lesson learned by Preston Manning and company. But when conservatives found out in 2015 they couldn't even keep Alberta without the illusion of unity, nothing became more important.

However, the second the United Conservatives were born, the infighting began, and it has only picked up pace in the three years since they took the legislature. Considering the goal of the party merger was never about unifying conservatives, but about eliminating the Progressive Conservatives and removing choice for conservative voters, the fact no one left can agree on what conservative should even be is no surprise.

Even now, neither of these two men hoping to be the UCP leader in May have an ounce of progressiveness in them, and they still can't stand each other. They're ideologically the same but can't co-exist if the other is in charge.

But whomever is left standing in the end will be sure to spend the next year convincing voters that unity is alive and well within the party.

Life-long PC voters who wanted nothing to do with the Wildrose (an election in 2012 suggested there are a lot of you) likely bought the idea of a United Conservatives in 2015, but that sell ought to be a little harder in 2023.

The effort to do so will no doubt be there, of course, as Albertans — and Canadians on the federal level — need to know we can all unite behind that one person who has all the answers to a better future. But we're once again going to have to wait until they finish ruining each other's careers before we know who it is.

United we stand, I suppose.

Scott Schmidt is the layout editor for the Medicine Hat News. He can be reached at sschmidt@medicinehatnews.com

PUBLIC NOTICES



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED MARCH 17 TO MARCH 23, 2022 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

116 HAMILTON COURT NE (Lot 35, Block 3, Plan 7510086) PLDP20220148. Garage.



120 9 STREET NE (Lots 18 & 19, Block 10, Plan 4440AH) PLDP20220191. Single Detached House (Addition And Covered Patio).

2248 SOUTHVIEW DRIVE SE UNIT: 89 (Lot 1, Block 8, Plan 7510486) PLDP20220206. Single Detached House (Manufactured Home).

2248 SOUTHVIEW DRIVE SE UNIT: 89 (Lot 1, Block 8, Plan 7510486) PLDP20220208. Garage.

COMMERCIAL

559 TERRILL ROAD NW (Lot 11, Block 10, Plan 1481JK) PLDP20210117. Customers To Attend Site. Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetician.

248 SOMERSIDE WAY SE (Lot 59, Block 4, Plan 0912931) PLDP20220019. Office Use Only. Consultant (Human Resources).

57 SOUTHLANDS BOULEVARD SE (Lot 55, Block 7, Plan 1511297) PLDP20220058. Customers To Attend Site. Massage Therapy And Manicure/Pedicure/Aesthetician.

22 ROSSLAND CLOSE SE (Lot 83, Block 10, Plan 7810695) PLDP20220178. Office With Storage On Site. Janitorial Service.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

www.medicinehat.ca

8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Electric Outages..... | 403.529.8260 |
| Gas Emergency | 403.529.8191 |
| Water & Sewer Emergency | 403.502.8042 |
| After Hours Special Services | 403.526.2828 |

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.
- Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap.
- Sprinkler lines and taps should be drained/blown out.
- A thin stream of water (as thick as a pen) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home. You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you're away.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take all possible precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.

For more information, refer to www.medicinehat.ca or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

Paying for drugs is a huge problem

Dear editor,

I am a drug addict. The difference between me and someone who is caught up in the current drug poisoning crisis is that my drugs are prescribed by a doctor.

I have been addicted to drugs since I was 9 years old. I started taking drugs for my asthma, then when I was 39 for bipolar. I take these drugs so I can breathe and not to be psychotic.

I see no difference between me needing drugs and getting them legally, and those people who get drugs by another means. If people need drugs they should be able to obtain them through safe supply.

People should be diagnosed properly to begin with when their trauma starts, then maybe we would not need the drugs at all.

Paying for drugs is a huge problem, it is a good start that a federal pharmacare program is on the horizon. At least some more people will be able to afford their drugs.

Diane MacNaughton Redcliff

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