



**UNITED  
CONSERVATIVE  
PARTY**

**POLICY  
DECLARATION**

**| 2018**

As adopted by the membership:  
At the Founding Annual General Meeting  
May 4 to 6, 2018 in Red Deer, Alberta



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### United Conservative Party's first Policy Declaration

From Unity Agreement to the formalization of the new United Conservative Party's first Policy Declaration in under a year is a significant milestone achieved by our membership. The Founding Annual General Meeting held in Red Deer from May 4 to 6, 2018, included the completion of the first grassroots policy process by our membership with more than 2,600 UCP members participating in the dialogue, debate and ratification of policies for the party.

Within the first Policy Declaration for the UCP are 7 Statement of Principles and 114 ratified policy resolutions related to 14 topics; an amazing outcome from our first grassroots policy process. As the first meeting and convention of the new UCP the agenda was robust, not all resolutions brought forward to the membership could be heard. However, policy development is a continuous process and the next grassroots policy process will be designed over the next year.

### Statement of Principles

*As a party, we stand united on the following principles that guide our vision for a stronger Alberta:*

- ▶ A robust civil society made up of free individuals, strong families, and voluntary associations.
- ▶ Freedom of speech, worship and assembly.
- ▶ Affirm the family as the building block of society and the means by which citizens pass on their values and beliefs and ensure that families are protected from intrusion by government.
- ▶ Economic freedom in a market economy which encourages the creation of wealth through free enterprise, and protection of the right to own, enjoy and exchange property.
- ▶ Limited government, including low levels of taxation to help generate economic growth while allowing Albertans to enjoy the fruits of their own labour.
- ▶ Fiscal responsibility, including balanced budgets, debt reduction, and respect for taxpayers' money.
- ▶ Protecting public safety as a primary responsibility of government.

## Community

### VISION

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

- ▶ recognizing that all Albertans have equal rights, privileges and responsibilities.
- ▶ promoting self-reliant citizenry, compassionate service, volunteerism, individual responsibility and care for those unable to care for themselves.
- ▶ supporting social responsibility within the framework of a free enterprise economic system.
- ▶ upholding and protecting parental rights and authority in healthcare and education.
- ▶ affirming that the family is the basic unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State to ensure that parents have the right and responsibility to oversee the healthcare and education of their own children, including but not limited to the cultural, linguistic, religious, spiritual and moral upbringing and heritage of their children.

### FAMILIES

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

- ▶ ensure the protection and well-being of all children, alongside full respect for parents' rights, freedoms and authority.
- ▶ protect victims of abuse and provide effective supports to aid in their recovery.
- ▶ ensure foster parents have the necessary supports to manage the children in their care, including increased utilization of counselling, trauma treatment and other programs to help improve the care and placement of foster children.
- ▶ affirm the freedom of religion and conscience rights of adoptive and foster parents.

### SENIORS

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

- ▶ ensure that patients living at home in palliative or long-term care are entitled to the same pharmaceutical benefits they would have received in a hospital.

### SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND HOUSING

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

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

## Education

### VISION

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

- ▶ affirming the right of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children.
- ▶ affirming, maintaining and protecting the existence and role of local, democratically elected school boards.
- ▶ supporting safe schools that protect students against discrimination and bullying without compromising the constitutional rights and safety of other students in the process.
- ▶ enabling students to achieve excellence by providing a diverse, results-oriented range of core, extracurricular, post-secondary, skilled trades, and other educational opportunities.
- ▶ maintaining Alberta's legacy of school choice by upholding the established right of parents to choose the education setting best suited for their children including: public, separate, charter, independent, alternative and home education programs.
- ▶ protecting authentic school choice by respecting the freedom of association in independent schools and alternative programs by allowing them to determine their own policies and practices based on each school's unique character, values and beliefs. Parental choice in education, in both form and content.
- ▶ parental choice in education, in both form and content.
- ▶ providing transparency and accountability to parents regarding student scholastic outcomes and performance.

### CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

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

- ▶ benchmark the Alberta education system against leading global jurisdictions, on a continuous basis, on a wide set of educational outcomes, skills, and competencies demanded in the modern workplace.
- ▶ halt the implementation of the new curriculum and review it in order to increase emphasis on basic essentials such as literacy and numeracy, increase the focus on Albertan and Canadian life in terms of geography, the economy, and historical accuracy, increase the focus on the development of a work ethic, increase a focus on debate, critical thinking, and respect for dissenting views, and eliminate all political indoctrination from the curriculum.
- ▶ have open and transparent curriculum development for primary and secondary schools requiring public input. Incorporate financial literacy into the curriculum as this will help students manage their financial affairs and provide an understanding of financial markets.
- ▶ provide transparency and accountability to parents regarding student scholastic outcomes and performance, by developing a consistent standard with traditional letter or percentage grades for Grades 5-12 students and support the practice of teachers who give a grade of zero for incomplete work
- ▶ reinstate parental opt-in consent for any subjects of a religious or sexual nature, including enrollment in extracurricular activities/clubs or distribution of any instructional materials/resources related to these topics.

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- ▶ incorporate financial literacy into the curriculum as this will help students manage their financial affairs and also provide them with an understanding of financial markets.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE SERVICES

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

- ▶ ensure students with educational needs are properly assessed and coded with the consultation of parents/guardians.

## POST-SECONDARY AND TRADES

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

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ work with employers, industry, schools, and post-secondary institutions to encourage and develop apprenticeship programs in trades and the technical sector.
- ▶ improve the ability of post-secondary students to transfer credits earned between post-secondary institutions in recognition of achievements already earned at an equivalent level.
- ▶ 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.

## PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

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

- ▶ ensure equitable per-student funding in accordance with school choice – public, separate, charter, home, or private.
- ▶ provide additional per-student funding to schools for students with special needs, students in remote areas, or with other disadvantages, to ensure equitable access for all students.
- ▶ encourage schools and school boards to work together to find efficiencies and improve the delivery of education to Alberta students
- ▶ encourage the expansion of charter schools as they allow teachers, parents and other experts in education to offer new and innovative curriculum and programs for students.



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### PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

- ▶ ensure school administrators are responsible to the elected school board trustees.
- ▶ support a teacher's professional responsibility to communicate with parents, respecting the importance of engaging parents, purposefully and meaningfully, in all aspects of teaching and learning in order to create and enhance partnerships among teachers, parents and students.
- ▶ divide the two main arms of the Alberta Teachers Association, union and professional body, into two separate and independent organisations.
- ▶ reintroduce vocational and technical training by including skilled tradespeople in the co-development and co-operative delivery of courses.

## Energy

### VISION

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

- ▶ facilitating market-oriented development of Alberta's diverse, abundant, renewable and non-renewable energy resources as a key driver of economic prosperity ultimately benefiting all of Canada.
- ▶ restoring the independence of our energy regulators from political interference.

### RESOURCE STRATEGY

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

- ▶ strengthen and promote Alberta's global energy leadership in environment, health, safety, and social standards.
- ▶ expanding national and international market access options and maximizing the value of Alberta resources.
- ▶ facilitate private sector pipeline, energy corridor and infrastructure developments that maximize value and opportunities in the extraction, utilization and export of Alberta's energy products.
- ▶ 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.

## Environmental Stewardship

### VISION

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

- ▶ developing environmental policy and legislation based on robust, scientific, evidence-based information, that safeguards the quality of our land, air, and water for the health, use and enjoyment of Albertans, for generations to come.

### FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION

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

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

### LAND AND WATER

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

- ▶ 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.

### PARKS AND RECREATION

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

- ▶ balance the need for provision of recreational opportunities with the need to protect provincial parks, view scapes, heritage sites, and ecologically sensitive areas.

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## Finance

### VISION

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

- ▶ fiscal prudence with a balanced annual operating and consolidated budget.
- ▶ limited government that manages costs and finds efficiencies.

### BUDGETING

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

- ▶ require all provincial budgets be reported according to clear and transparent accounting principles.

### EXPENDITURE

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

- ▶ prioritize front-line staffing positions over management and administration when having to make tough budget choices and minimize bureaucracy at all levels throughout government.

### REVENUE

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

- ▶ repeal the provincial carbon tax and vigorously oppose the imposition of any federal carbon tax.
- ▶ restore the provincial personal tax rate to a flat rate.
- ▶ restore the provincial corporate tax rate to a flat rate.

## Government

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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

- ▶ streamline services, eliminating waste and unnecessary overlap between levels of government and within departments and agencies.
- ▶ strengthen the internal audit functions of government by ensuring that program delivery matches the intent of the program, spending is measured against objectives and cost overruns are brought to the immediate attention of the legislative assembly.
- ▶ ensure that the tender and bid process for all major government contracts and purchases is open and transparent.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ require all organizations receiving significant public funding to publish annual financial statements per accepted accounting principles and provide employee compensation information.
- ▶ reform the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act by minimizing financial charges, delays and eliminating partisan political interference in the release of information.
- ▶ streamline services, eliminating waste and unnecessary overlap between levels of government and within departments and agencies.
- ▶ establish an arms-length process to determine the compensation, pension, and severance packages of elected representatives and high-ranking government officials.
- ▶ ensure no government funding is being used to lobby government for political purposes.
- ▶ ensure that all directors of Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo) hold appropriate qualifications for that position and are independent from the government.

### DEMOCRACY

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

- ▶ conduct genuine consultations with stakeholders and the public before enacting significant legislation.
- ▶ ban government ministries and departments from conducting political advertising.
- ▶ require that all candidates in elections governed by Alberta prove their Canadian citizenship by providing documented proof like a birth certificate, passport, or citizenship certificate.

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## Health

### VISION

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

- ▶ a healthcare system that is universal and a healthcare system that is universal and comprehensive, preventative rather than reactive, ethical and accountable, sustainable and cost-effective, accessible and portable, blends public, non-profit, and private sector provisions, and implements effective strategies that will lead to a world-class system with improved quality of life.

### GOVERNANCE, INTEGRATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

- ▶ support publicly-funded, privately-delivered health services where cost-effective, and give Albertans the choice of privately-funded, privately delivered health services to address excessive wait times and to make the publicly-funded system more accountable.

### PRIMARY CARE DELIVERY AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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

- ▶ improve access to palliative care services for all Albertans.
- ▶ ensure that the Alberta licence to practise system requires the same standards and qualifying credentials for both domestically-trained and internationally-trained physicians.

### REGIONAL AND RURAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

- ▶ improve Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by expanding their scope of practice to permit EMS to assess and treat non-emergency situations on site without needing to transfer to Emergency.

### SENIOR CARE, DISABILITY AND MINORITIES

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

- ▶ ensure that all minor children are protected from harm by requiring the consent of a parent or legal guardian for all invasive medical procedures performed on a minor child, subject to established emergency medical protocols, legal emancipation, or judicial intervention.

### SUSTAINABILITY AND COST REDUCTION

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

- ▶ adopt proven best practices from both domestic and international jurisdictions, that have higher performing and/or lower cost health systems than Alberta.

## Indigenous

### VISION

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

- ▶ the ultimate goal of recognizing and treating all Albertans as equal under the law.

### ECONOMIC

### OPPORTUNITIES

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

- ▶ collaborate with Indigenous communities to strengthen economic opportunities and entrepreneurship.
- ▶ undertake and mandate accountability and transparency into all provincially funded indigenous programs.

## Industry

### VISION

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

- ▶ achieving economic growth and diversification by adopting a streamlined legislative and fiscal framework that enables private sector investment and prosperity balanced with environmental responsibility.
- ▶ recognizing and building upon the contribution of Alberta's existing industries to the provincial economy.

### AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS

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

- ▶ establish a set of predictable, stable land use and access rules for the agricultural industry.

### INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

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

- ▶ promote the profound existing knowledge base of Alberta's educated, entrepreneurial population as an unparalleled strategic resource for emerging and high-tech sector investment both in Alberta and globally.

### FORESTRY

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

- ▶ permit only ecologically and economically sustainable forest management methods.

### RURAL AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

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

- ▶ recognize the role that natural resource and agriculture sectors contribute to the resilience, livelihood, culture, long-term sustainability, and growth of rural communities.

### TOURISM

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

- ▶ cooperate with industry to promote Alberta's vast and varied tourism-driven economic opportunities and improve Tourism in Alberta.



## Intergovernmental

### VISION

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

- ▶ encouraging, promoting, and defending free trade across Canada and the world.
- ▶ respecting and defending the separation of constitutional powers between the federal, provincial and municipal governments in Canada.
- ▶ advocating for greater market access for Alberta exporters and producers.
- ▶ negotiating fairer treatment for Alberta taxpayers by the Canadian government.

### FEDERAL

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

- ▶ oppose intrusions by the federal government into the property, legal, constitutional and democratic rights of Albertans.

### INTERNATIONAL

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

- ▶ advocate for recognition of Canadian credentials abroad, allowing Alberta workers to pursue opportunities abroad.

### INTERPROVINCIAL

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

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ pressure other provinces to drop their own barriers to trade, and intervene in, and support, court cases that challenge unconstitutional trade barriers.
- ▶ eliminate all trade, tariff and non-tariff barriers to reduce costs to Alberta consumers, starting with the exemptions implemented in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the New West Partnership.

### MUNICIPAL

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

- ▶ 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.

## Justice

### VISION

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

- ▶ a fair and innovative justice system and effective policing system that protects Albertans, prioritizes the victims of crimes, and facilitates the rehabilitation of criminals.

### CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

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

- ▶ require young offenders to participate in crime prevention courses, community restitution, and other measures.

### COURTS

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

- ▶ support the right of compensation from convicted persons to the victims of their crimes.
- ▶ support alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and provide additional funding to reduce wait times in the court system.
- ▶ strengthen the bail process to prevent repeat offenders from being put back on the streets the next day.
- ▶ support Alberta's justice system by providing adequate resources to our court system to ensure that charges are not being stayed as a result of R v. Jordan.

### LEGAL REFORMS

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

- ▶ make the Alberta Human Rights Tribunal hearings subject to the same rules of evidence and burden of proof as followed by the courts.

### POLICING

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

- ▶ improve monitoring of, and strengthen restrictions on, high-risk offenders.

## Labour & Employment

### VISION

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

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

### EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

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

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

### HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORKERS COMPENSATION

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

- ▶ 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.

### IMMIGRATION

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

- ▶ 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.

### LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS

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

- ▶ extend to workers the democratic right to a secret ballot vote on labour organization certification and decertification under the Labour Relations Code.
- ▶ give individual members of labour organizations the right to determine whether or not their mandatory union dues are used to fund political activity and social advocacy.

**Rights**

**INFRINGEMENT  
PROTECTION**

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

- ▶ defend freedom of speech of all Albertans.

**PROPERTY**

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

- ▶ enshrine the right to property in the Constitution of Alberta.

## Transportation

### VISION

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

- ▶ recognizing the importance of transportation to Alberta's industry, economic development, tourism and recreation when expanding transportation infrastructure.

### INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS, RAIL, AIR)

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

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ work with private industry to maintain existing infrastructure and construct new infrastructure projects in a more timely and cost-effective manner.



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