

Alberta Party-Jonathon Hinman Calgary-Bow

CRCAG Election Questionnaire to Candidates

To the candidates of Calgary-Elbow, Calgary-Buffalo, Calgary-Mountain View, Calgary-Bow and Calgary-Fort:

Please find below a questionnaire from the Calgary River Communities Action Group (CRCAG). CRCAG is a non-partisan organization that has been advocating for upstream flood mitigation since the 2013 flood. We believe that flood mitigation should continue to be priority in this province so that our great city has a comprehensive plan to not only protect against the financial cost that will result from the next flood, but most importantly, the human cost. Implementing upstream mitigation is a matter of public safety and therefore cannot be ignored. As we approach the second anniversary of the 2013 flood, implementing upstream mitigation strategies and infrastructure must be pursued with a sense of determination so that Calgary will be more able to withstand the next inevitable flood.

We ask that your responses be sent to us no later than 5PM May 1, 2014 at info@crcactiongroup.com. Your answers will be posted on our website and emailed to our membership for them to review.

Thank you,

CRCAG Board

ELBOW RIVER MITIGATION

- 1) Are you supportive of building upstream flood mitigation infrastructure for the Elbow River? If yes, what is your understanding of the infrastructure projects for the Elbow River and their current status? As an elected MLA, what do you intend to do to ensure that these projects are completed as soon as possible?

Yes, I am supportive of building upstream flood mitigation for the Elbow River, beyond just the Springbank dry dam. At the very least, the Glenmore Diversion Tunnel should be on the list of infrastructure projects planned. Yet, to fully prepare for a future flood many more measures than these two should be taken.

My understanding of the current status of one of these projects is that they are still in the planning / environmental approval stages. The ground has yet to be broken for them.

As an MLA, I think that the best way to ensure a timely agreement is to communicate with and mobilize the community around this issue. I intend to make sure that the communities of Calgary Elbow are regularly updated on the process, beyond what they are now, and to further mobilize the communities concerns regarding Flood mitigation.

Alberta Party-Jonathon Hinman Calgary-Bow

- 2) Do you believe that more than one upstream mitigation infrastructure project is needed for the Elbow River? If so, which ones? If not, why not?

Yes, specifically, the Glenmore Diversion Tunnel, in addition to the Springbank Dry Dam, is a very good idea. I believe that it is a good idea because betting on the Springbank dry dam alone is too much of a risk, as we are risking one of Canada's economic engines and 159,000 jobs by not hedging our bets.

BOW RIVER MITIGATION

- 1) Are you supportive of leveraging existing infrastructure along the Bow River system for flood mitigation? If yes, what is your understanding of how the existing infrastructure can be leveraged and the current status of such an endeavor? As an elected MLA, what do you intend to do to ensure that a timely agreement is put into place to utilize existing infrastructure along the Bow River system for flood mitigation?

I am supportive of attempting to managing flood risk. However, at the same time, it doesn't seem that leveraging all existing infrastructure is the most effective way of doing this. For example increasing the volume of the Glenmore Reservoir seems to be able to reduce flood risk by only 2-3%, which to me reflects that increasing the capacity of dams may not be the best method to focus on.

However, I think we should focus on flood barriers, as they can reduce the flow of flooding rivers, much more effectively and therefore reduce our risk in the event of a flood.

As I mentioned above, the more voices I can help mobilize on the issue, the faster the projects will be completed.

- 2) Do you believe that additional upstream mitigation measures need to be pursued for the Bow River? If so, what additional measures should be considered? If not, why not?

Beyond the infrastructure there is much we can do to improve our upstream mitigation measures for example, I think that Watershed management, is something we should pursue, as it can quite effectively reduce the dangers of the type of flood we had in 2005. Essentially, since in the upstream areas of the bow and elbow rivers there simply isn't enough water storage, including wetlands, to buffer large variations in rainfall.

Additionally, improved weather forecasting measures can help. Essentially, in all cases of severe weather events the one thing we seem to be shorter on in those events is time. If we have more warning, and a better understanding of these events, we can react much more quickly. Therefore this should reduce our vulnerability.

In the end the measures we can take in this area are many, and we should evaluate them all to see if they provide good value for money.

Alberta Party-Jonathon Hinman Calgary-Bow

FLOOD POLICY

- 1) What is your current understanding of the status of the Provincial Floodway Development Policy?

Most forms of development, including all new buildings, are to not be permitted at this time.

- 2) Considering the current revisions to the Provincial flood hazard maps and the impact upstream flood mitigation will have on reducing inundation, how do you propose that the Provincial Floodway Development Policy take these two items into account?

Personally, I think that the buy out policy should be re-considered, and we should sell these plots back into the community. However, at this point I think we should focus on flood mitigation, get that done, and then re-evaluate the Floodway Development Policy after we have solid numbers on what the future might hold.

BUY-OUT POLICY

- 1) Do you believe that the buy-out policy achieved its stated goal? What should be done with the vacant lots that have resulted from this policy?

Given that only about 10% of the homeowners eligible for the plan actually took up the government on it's offer, I would think it did not achieve it's stated goal. As a result, the lots should be sold back onto the market in order to re-coup some of the costs associated with this program.