

It seems as though our leader hasn't taken a breath since becoming Leader of the Official Opposition. Yesterday, Erin O'Toole announced his Shadow Cabinet that he hopes will represent to Canadians how the Conservative Party of Canada will govern when it is chosen to lead this country.

I am very pleased that he asked me to be the Conservative Shadow Minister for Natural Resources & Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor).

As you all know, this critical sector of our local, provincial, and national economy has suffered massively under this Government's tenure. Clear direction is required, and I believe that Canadians need a more complete understanding of what the natural resource industry contributes to our nation – economically, environmentally, and internationally.

I know that many of you have supported me because of my understanding of our natural resources industry; indeed, the dysfunctional rationale around governmental decision-making on this file was one of the key reasons I chose to become a candidate for political office. It's now my job to see how we get more resonance on the importance of our industry across Canada.

I am looking forward to working even more closely with many of you on an issue that is an essential part of Canada's path forward.



“Hello, I'm Erin O'Toole”

Those humble words brought an extra smile to my face as I watched the victory speech of our Conservative Party's new leader late on the Sunday night when his election was determined by our party's democratic process.

I supported Erin through this leadership process – and I had never met him before I was elected last October. I have the distinction of being the first sitting Member of Parliament to back him in this race. Obviously, my early interactions with him went very well. Yes, he impressed me as someone who was ready to lead our party to Government – which is fundamentally important as our country lurches toward an uncertain future – politically and financially – under the current Government.

All Canadians have now seen how a leader acts as we prepare to be the Government-in-waiting – which is an Opposition party’s most important role. We need to show Canadians that we are ready to govern, and what that Government will look like when they repose that trust in us. The confidence that Erin instills in all Members of Parliament that we are on that path is overwhelming.

We will be clear – very clear – on social issues that have long been decided, and we will focus on what Canadians need us to do, and that is to govern this country more effectively. That means better financial management (yes, I lead with that), and a more equitable fiscal and political arrangement between the provinces in the Canadian federation – an area that has been greatly strained over this Government’s tenure. Erin’s campaign launched in Calgary Centre – and he won the support of many Albertans because of his clear stance on dealing with structural issues that have marginalized our province’s important role in Canada.



Six Reasons I Supported Erin O'Toole

Here are some of the insights into my decision to back Erin's bid for the leadership of the Conservative Party:

- **Erin is smart** – and he is methodical in his approach to using sound rationale in the execution of good policy. I first saw that when he led our caucus in the first vote the Liberals had lost in the House of Commons in almost five years: the motion to establish the Committee to Examine Canada-China Relations. Recognize that effort required the support of two other opposition parties, and collaboration is an important skill. In an era when superficial sound bites and selfies are the practiced political tools of choice, Erin will stand out as a leader of substance.
- **He is serious** – he recognizes the task ahead of him (and our party) and he knows we have a country that needs fixing immediately.
- To lead this country, one needs depth on many subjects, and I believe **Erin possesses that depth in so many subjects**. Canada's position in the world is important to him – and we will gain back the respect of our allies around the world as we reposition this country as a serious force in world affairs.
- **He is a man of principle** – I've seen that in him, and I've seen it reflected in the people with whom he chooses to surround himself. Canada needs that.
- In my opinion, leaders of this party, and this country, need to bring **experience to the job**. Erin O'Toole is a former Captain in the Royal Canadian Air Force and served as a navigator on the Sea King helicopters. He then went to law school before specializing in business law in Toronto. He has served as the Member of Parliament for Durham since 2012 and has served as a respected Minister of Veterans Affairs under the previous government.

Erin O'Toole has all the attributes to lead this country well – dedication to service, intelligence, experience, and the ability to execute against a plan.

As you may be able to tell – I am very pleased with this outcome. Now – on to the work of getting Canadians a new Government!

Unified, Inclusive, Modern Party

Erin is building a unified, inclusive, modern party that has room for every single Canadian. We want people who haven't voted Conservative in the past to take a look at the Conservatives.. We want all Conservatives to feel respected in the

Conservative Party. We want more Canadians to see themselves in the Conservative Party.

As he said in his speech the night he won leadership:

"Because I believe that:

Whether you are black, white, brown or from any race or creed.

Whether you are LGBT or straight.

Whether you are an Indigenous Canadian or have joined the Canadian family 5 weeks ago or 5 generations ago.

Whether you are doing well, or barely getting by.

Whether you worship on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, or not at all.

You are an important part of Canada and you have a home in the Conservative Party of Canada!

Maybe you have voted for a different party your whole life, or have never voted at all.

Maybe you feel that as a union member you should not vote for our party.

Maybe you feel let down by politicians.

Maybe your family came here for "better" but you are still waiting for "fair" treatment.

Maybe you run a small business and work all day only to be called a tax cheat by your government.

It is time for many Liberal and NDP voters to socially distance themselves from these out of touch parties.

Its time for more Canadians to look at the Conservative Party again."

- Erin O'Toole. August 24, 2020

Please get in touch if there's anything my office can do for you.

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