

## **Lawyer and Conservative Activist Announces Bid to Succeed Brent Rathgeber**

October 23, 2013 (St. Albert) Michael Cooper, a lawyer and long-time conservative activist announced today that he is seeking the nomination to become the Conservative Party of Canada candidate in the next federal election in the riding of St. Albert-Edmonton.

The announcement follows last spring's decision by Edmonton-St. Albert MP, Brent Rathgeber to resign from the Conservative caucus to sit as an Independent MP.

Cooper stated: "After working with Brent for many years, including as his former riding President, I was saddened by his decision to leave the Conservative caucus. While I respect Brent, I believe that St. Albert-Edmonton can be best served with a voice in the Conservative government caucus.

I am running because I strongly support the leadership of Prime Minister Harper and the direction and approach of his Conservative government. As a result of the right mix of policies adopted by this government, Canada is in the strongest economic position of any G-8 country. It's a record of achievement worthy of support, and I want to be part of the team that has delivered."

Cooper added that the continuation of a Conservative majority government after the 2015 election is important for Alberta. "Canada's future economic prosperity is dependent on being able to transport and sell Alberta oil and gas. Prime Minister Harper is absolutely committed to ensuring that Alberta oil can be transported to markets. The same cannot be said of the Liberals and NDP."

Cooper continued: "I believe my experience as a lawyer, deep roots in the St. Albert community, and years of political and community involvement make me well-suited to represent the residents of St. Albert-Edmonton in Ottawa."

Cooper enjoys the support of a number of prominent area residents, and current and former elected officials including: Hon. Doug Horner (MLA, Spruce Grove-St. Albert); Hon. Thomas Lukaszuk (MLA, Edmonton-Castle Downs); Stephen Khan (MLA, St. Albert); former St. Albert MLAs Mary O'Neill and Myrna Fyfe; and former St. Albert Mayor Dr. Richard Plain.

Cooper concluded: "I am humbled by the tremendous support and encouragement that I have received to enter the race."

A nomination meeting is expected in 2014.

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**Attachments:**

Michael Cooper Biography

Endorsements