



**Kellie Leitch**

MP for Simcoe-Grey (2011-present)

What kind of country do we want to build for the future? Those issues have all basically centred around a number of similar themes freedom, prosperity and a unified Canadian identity.

This isn't a radical suggestion that I'm making about having face-to-face interviews with every immigrant, refugee and visitor to Canada. In fact, it's in line with what we used to do. I want to restore this procedure. And the second part of my proposal is that I will ask there to be rules that will also be in agreement with our Canadian values. This is the Canadian way.



**Chris Alexander**

MP for Ajax-Pickering (2011-15)

Canadians want to plan for our next 150 years. They want to move forward to be part of the world that is coming together, not tearing itself apart.

First, we need to build a massive bridge of trade and economic partnership to Asia, Europe and beyond... looking outwards for opportunity when many elsewhere are turning inward...Second, we need to build a new economy.

Third, let's re-invent a new government for a new era. Every program should be under review.



**Erin O Toole**

MP for Durham (2012-present)

I make a special appeal to social Conservatives, if you feel like me, you might feel like we have a diminished voice, and you've heard the line that you can believe that if you want, but don't think for a moment that you can step outside into the public arena and expect to articulate what it is you believe in. Well I want to tell you that we have a rightful place in Canada and we have a rightful place within the Conservative Party of Canada. I am pro life, I am pro family. I am a social conservative and I am Canadian. These are Canadian values and the party needs people just like us. I am fighting against political correctness.



**Pierre Lemieux**

MP Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (2006-15)

I believe that you want a leader who understands service service to you as Conservative members and service to Canada and Canadians. I offer you service in terms of 30-20-10. Thirty years of service to my family as husband and father of five children. Twenty years of service to our country in the Canadian armed forces, I joined at the age of 17 and retired as a Lieutenant-Colonel. And 10 years of service as a member of parliament for an Ontario riding.

We need to address our primary concern relating to immigration, which is security and terrorism.



**Michael Chong**

MP Wellington-Halton Hills (2004-present)

I'm in this race because I want to pay it back to those generations of Canadians who have come before and who have bequeathed to us one of the greatest countries in the world.

We need a leader who will fight for Halton Region... who understands the challenges of communities of Burlington and Oakville and Milton and Georgetown and Acton. A leader who understands the pressures on infrastructure, on commuting (and) who understands the need to expand GO Transit and a leader who understands the environmental concerns of the folks living in this region.

# Conservative leadership candidates

By Graeme Frisque

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Ten of the 14 Conservative Party leadership candidates vying to succeed Stephen Harper as party leader in May gathered at the Burlington Convention Centre for an area riding meet and greet on Sunday (March 5).

The non-party-sanctioned event was co-organized by the Burlington Conservative Association in conjunction with its four sister associations in Halton.

Open to both area party members and the public, the three-hour gathering was

attended by roughly 800 voters and featured a meet-and-greet session with the candidates following remarks from each.

We wanted an opportunity for our membership mainly to actually meet and greet the candidates, said the association's candidate of record Mike Wallace, who served as member of Parliament (MP) for Burlington from 2006-15.

The majority of the time is for them to mingle with actual party members. And it is open to the public, so it's party members and those who are thinking about joining the party. I think it's fair that if people are thinking about supporting a candidate,

that they have an opportunity to at least say hello to them, and that's what the purpose of today was.

The 10 candidates in attendance represented a fairly diverse cross-section of the Canadian Conservative spectrum.

There were a couple of familiar local faces among the field of candidates in attendance, with Michael Chong and Lisa Raitt currently serving as MPs for Wellington-Halton Hills and Milton, respectively.

Businessman and reality-TV personality Kevin O Leary was also in attendance after skipping out on a party-sanctioned debate in Edmonton last week, declaring

publicly he didn't approve of the format.

Kellie Leitch, Chris Alexander, Pierre Lemieux, Erin O Toole, Rick Peterson, Andrew Saxton and Steven Blaney rounded out the field. Absent were Deepak Obhrai, Maxime Bernier, Andrew Scheer and Brad Trost.

Each candidate was given six minutes to address the room with common conservative themes like lower taxes, smaller government, deficit and debt reduction, immigration reform and jobs a common refrain throughout the hour of speeches.

Disdain for the government's Cap and Trade initiative, while calling for a com-



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