

Chong aiming for CPC top job

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I think we put together a very good and comprehensive policy platform. We're the only campaign which received public praise from four university economists. We're very happy with the ideas and policies we've put forward. We're very happy with the response we've received from many, many conservatives who got involved with our campaign, especially younger conservatives who really want to see the party do better on issues like the environment and on democracy.

The IFP: How would you describe your personal vision for the Conservative Party moving forward?

MC: My vision is of a much bigger Conservative Party that includes Canadians of all races, all religions and all creeds. A party that includes Atlantic Canadians in a region where we lost every single seat. A party that can win in cities and presents a fiscally conservative option in the next election — a balanced budget with lower taxes. But also a party that does better on environmental issues and a party that is more democratic and more open. So, that's my vision for not just the Conservative Party, but for this country. I believe we can

do better in our federal politics. I believe we can create a more prosperous, a more democratic and a greener Canada, which I think is possible with ambitious policies aimed at doing exactly that.

The IFP: What are some things voters, especially outside Wellington and Halton Hills, might not know about you?

MC: I'm the kid of Chinese immigrant father and Dutch immigrant mother. I grew up in the (Wellington-Halton Hills) riding and I live on a farm with my wife Carrie and our three boys. I'm the only candidate that actually lives on a farm. To me, I have a Chinese immigrant father and Dutch immigrant mother, but I live on an operating farm and my kids go to French immersion. That, to me, the Canadian story.

The IFP: Why vote Chong? What's your final sales pitch to voters ahead of May 27?

MC: Quite simply, I believe I'm the candidate who has the best chance of winning against Justin Trudeau in 2019. That's not just me saying that. If you look at the polls that have been done over the last number of months by CTV News, Abacus (and one more), they all show me at the top of the pack in appeal to Canadians.

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