

Parksville Mayor Ed Mayne to run for Liberal leadership



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Files

Chris Koehn, Postmedia News · Monday, Jan. 3, 2011

Parksville Mayor Ed Mayne has decided to run for the B.C. Liberal leadership.

Against what Mayne admits are considerable odds, he said his plan to bring credibility back to the party will be enough to convince members to give him the reins.

Mayne's job as mayor allowed him to work alongside the B.C. Liberal MLA for Parksville-Qualicum, Ron Cantelon, on the Oceanside Health Centre, a chance for Cantelon to get to know the leadership hopeful.

Cantelon has already endorsed Surrey-Cloverdale MLA Kevin Falcon, but said Mayne's energy, experience and network shouldn't be ignored by the top-seeded candidates.

"He'll bring a different perspective," Cantelon said. "We welcome outside ideas and new approaches."

It's the outsider image that Mayne believes will bring him victory in February. "The point is, I'm not tied to the government," Mayne said. "No one can look at me and say, 'You didn't do anything about it' when the HST was put into effect."

Mayne said he disagreed with the way the HST was thrust upon people, but agrees with the tax in principle.

But Mayne's relative obscurity may also work against him, as he will have to compete with the star power of front-runners Kevin Falcon and Christy Clark.

Mayne admits to lacking support from any party members, but said he hopes his message of change will force the B.C. Liberals' "1950s, premier-down management style of politics," to give way to his ridings-first philosophy.

"We need to have free votes in the legislature," he said. "I would declare all free votes on everything save for confidence votes."

Mayne said he agrees with a lot of what the provincial Liberals have done, but said he regrets more wasn't done to ensure it was achieved democratically.

"We're looking for the grassroots support. You can look at how [U.S. President Barack] Obama got elected, and how [Mayor Rob]

Ford in Toronto got elected. They were all new and different, talking a different story than the old-style politicians were. The people want that change."

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