

So-Cons and Faux-Cons Part Two

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If you think that liking the colour blue more than the colour red makes you a conservative, you might be a fan of Peter Mackay, Erin O'Toole, and a bunch of other faux-cons. But if you believe that principled stands on a wide range of issues are necessary to be considered a true conservative, you might be looking for other options.

Of course, the CHP was founded in part because of the lack of principled conservatives in places of government, and CHP continues to be home to policies that are common-sense and founded on unchanging morality. The Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) has drifted over the years in terms of policy, but generally moving farther to the left, keeping its "Liberal Lite" moniker intact.

But let's take a look at the four contestants vying for the leadership of the CPC; which way are they moving? Which ones are closest to the CHP in their policies?

Derek Sloan¹ is pro-life, against gender-change surgeries for minors, and he understands that freedom of speech is foundational to Canada's democracy. He supports freedom of conscience, especially for medical professionals; this is a major battleground. He has spoken out against many of the same things that CHP has, and actually did a CHP Talks interview² during the week of the March for Life. He has a 12-point pro-life plan³ that includes changing the CPC's current policy—which does not currently support legislation to regulate abortions. He is quite exceptional in his boldness on issues of moral significance; he is the sponsor of a petition⁴ to stop "gender reassignment surgery" of minors. He has been attacked for his views, but instead of backing down and backing off (as others have done in the past) he has clearly restated what he believes and why he believes it. In and of itself, this should not be remarkable; many politicians have held views similar to his in the past, but in today's culture, his stands are uncommon and noteworthy. He is a lawyer and the Member of Parliament for Hastings—Lennox and Addington in Eastern Ontario.

Dr. Leslyn Lewis is also pro-life and pro-family; she speaks out clearly on behalf of parental rights. Her "four pillars"⁵ for successful government are significantly similar to some of CHP's priorities. While not as outspoken as Derek, she has also stood for policies and ideas that are at odds with much of Canada's mainstream media and culture. She adamantly states that her views against sex-selective abortion and funding of abortions internationally are actually not at odds with the views of a majority of Canadians! She supports free votes on conscience issues. She has significant support in the pro-life community. The main caution about her is in regard to her past involvement⁶ in the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, which is not exactly a socially conservative organization. She has addressed her affiliation directly and has been able to deflect some of those concerns. Dr. Lewis is a lawyer in Scarborough, Ontario.

While both of these candidates have pro-life plans with excellent points, let's not forget that what is needed is for the pre-born to be considered "persons" in Canada's Criminal Code before they are born, and thus have the same protections as people who are born. That is CHP's position,⁷ and we must not ultimately settle for less.

Erin O'Toole is definitely not pro-life; he also supports the Liberals' gender reassignment bill (C-8). While he has tried to appear friendly and welcoming to so-cons, his rejection of traditional morality in regard to abortion, sexuality and gender⁸ make him a faux-con. Yes, he has some good policies against globalism and in favour of fiscal sanity, but so do Derek Sloan and Leslyn Lewis. His policies⁹ appear to steer clear of "controversial" social issues.

Peter Mackay is the “Red Tory” in the race, which means that he generally likes conservative fiscal policy, but not real conservatives. He made that abundantly clear with his “stinking albatross”¹⁰ comment last year (to be fair, he did say later that he regretted that). His one concession to so-cons is his statement in favour of conscience rights for medical practitioners.¹¹ This is hard to reconcile with his opposition to counselling for children who have gender dysphoria.¹² The term “gender dysphoria” has come to include children who go through a brief time of confusion, which is when they should be guided by their loving parents.

Accusations of cheating etc.¹³ between Erin O’Toole and Peter Mackay’s campaigns should give some indications about their respective teams, the people they are surrounding themselves with—and not for the better.

The four candidates provide different visions for their potential leadership, and one might naturally expect that all pro-life MPs and other politicians would be endorsing Derek Sloan and Leslyn Lewis with gratitude for their brave stands. Disappointingly, this is not the case. The long list of politicians supporting Erin O’Toole¹⁴ and Peter Mackay¹⁵ includes names that are surprising—even shocking—to those involved in the pro-life movement.

There are many, many issues that have to be addressed by politicians, but their stand—or lack thereof—on issues related to the protection of life, the traditional family (and gender), and freedom of speech and conscience are the most telling. When politicians take the side of life, family, and freedom—the side that CHP takes—they deserve our acknowledgement and respect. When they do not, they ought to be challenged by principled members of their own party and their constituents.

The principles of good government in all areas—including financial responsibility, law and order, and Canadian sovereignty are part of CHP’s wide range of policies. Your endorsement of and membership in CHP¹⁶ are helpful and needed at this time of moral compromise in Canada.

Footnotes

¹ www.dereksloan.ca/policies

² www.brighteon.com/cb0e17ae-da26-465b-92d7-9d6756f7e5a2

³ www.dereksloan.ca/prolife

⁴ petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2443

⁵ www.leslynlewis.ca/policies

⁶ www.leslynlewis.ca/bio

⁷ www.chp.ca/commentary/when-is-a-baby-a-baby/

⁸ www.voteprofile.ca/find/view/mp/province//id/11259/name/erin-o-toole/

⁹ erinotoole.ca/rebuilding-canada/

¹⁰ atlantic.ctvnews.ca/mackay-blames-conservative-election-loss-on-scheer-s-social-conservatism-1.4663755

¹¹ www.petermackay.ca/conscience_rights

¹² atlantic.ctvnews.ca/mackay-blames-conservative-election-loss-on-scheer-s-social-conservatism-1.4663755

¹³ thetyee.ca/Analysis/2020/06/24/CPC-Cheating-Party-Canada/

¹⁴ erinotoole.ca/endorsements/

¹⁵ www.petermackay.ca/caucus_endorsements

¹⁶ www.chp.ca/get-involved/

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