

Jill Cahoon
Family Life Committee
Via email – djcahoon@ocii.com

Dear Jill:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the questions from the Family Life Committee. You know my record of support for this committee through my role as caucus liaison.

I know you are also aware of my personal beliefs on many of the issues important to the Family Life Committee. As you know, through private member's initiatives, I sponsored the Marriage Amendment Act 2000, which defined marriage as between one man and one woman and invoked the notwithstanding clause.

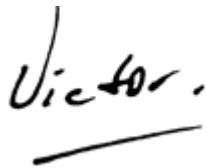
I continue to personally support many of the same views held by the Family Life Committee. One of my key platforms during this election is supporting parental roles. My focus is on policies that allow parents to continue to make the choices they feel are appropriate for their families. I am also on record during this campaign saying that, as leader, I would initiate a program designed to help parents make their own choices about child care arrangements, including stay-at-home parenting, as opposed to subsidizing only government sanctioned daycare options.

Another one of my key platforms is meaningful party membership. It is my firm belief that the voices of the members of the Progressive Conservative Association of Alberta must be more readily heard and contained in government policy. I am proposing a number of initiatives designed to do just that.

As leader of the party, and as Premier, my job would be to ensure the voices of the people of Alberta are reflected in government policy. My direction as Premier on the issues you have raised would be reflective of the will of the people of our great province.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to your questions. I invite you to view more of my platforms and policy ideas on my web site – www.voteformvictor.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor." with a horizontal line underneath.

Victor Doerksen
Leadership candidate

Family Life Committee Responses:

1. Marriage definition:

My record on this matter is well documented. In 2000, I sponsored a private members bill, *The Marriage Amendment Act* which defined marriage as between one man and one woman. It also utilized the constitutional override which, in my view, kept that definition from being challenged in Alberta. The Supreme Court reference has since indicated that the definition of marriage is a federal constitutional matter and I encourage Prime Minister Stephen Harper to follow through with this commitment to have a free vote in the House of Commons on this matter.

2. Protection of freedoms legislation:

The above Supreme Court reference also indicated that freedom of religion provisions are within provincial jurisdiction. I support the continued protection of those freedoms for Alberta citizens and by legislation if it becomes necessary

3. Notwithstanding clause:

It is my view that the notwithstanding clause is an important part of our constitution. Its use must be judicious and careful. It would be hard to say under what specific circumstances it should be invoked.

4. Citizens Initiative Legislation:

I have voted in favour of private members bills on this matter in the past. This is a matter of democratic reform that I am in favour of bringing to the PC Party for their review, discussion and direction.

5. Education:

A key element of my platform is supporting parental roles. This includes supporting their educational choices for their children.

6. Health Funding:

I have indicated my personal agreement with this in past surveys. As leader of the party it is not my intention to bring this forward as a part of my leadership platform.

7. Gambling

I would be in favour of slowing the proliferation of gaming opportunities for our citizens.

8. Euthanasia:

The best response is for us to develop practical and compassionate approaches to dying such as hospice care so that this does not become a question.

9. Provincial Incentives:

Under my policy platform I have indicated several specific initiatives to support all parents in the care choices they choose. They include a direct payment to parents, helping low income parents provide physical recreational activities for their children and tax incentives for elder care.