



RIVERVIEW ROUND-UP (L to R) Incumbent Kevin Taft, PC member Wendy Andrews, and NDP hopeful Erica Bullwinkle.

PSE and the environment key issues for Edmonton-Riverview candidates

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Monday night saw the Students' Union host their second and final all-candidates' forum at the Dinwoodie Lounge for the upcoming provincial election. Candidates from the riding of Edmonton-Riverview fielded questions from the moderator before taking queries from many of the audience members.

The riding, home to the University of Alberta, runs from the North Saskatchewan River south to Whitemud Drive, and from 109 street east to 163 street, and has five candidates: NDP hopeful Erica Bullwinkle, Wendy Andrews of the Progressive Conservatives, Cameron Wakefield of the Alberta Green Party, Wildrose Alliance member Kyle Van Hauwaert, and incumbent Liberal leader Kevin Taft.

While all of the candidates have varied backgrounds and political leanings, the two major issues that were brought up throughout the evening were postsecondary education and the environment.

"Our plan is to freeze tuition fees at 1999 levels, and we're also investing \$100 million on building affordable housing for students," Bullwinkle explained during her opening statements.

However, not all candidates offered such specifics.

"I would work to achieve the

highest-quality, accessible, affordable education system, with a balance of funding between operations and research," Andrews said.

Wakefield, who's currently a Science student at the University, stressed the importance of environmental issues and the presence of the Green Party, even though they have yet to send an MLA to the Legislature.

"My presence here on this stage means that [environmental issues] will be part of the election debate, and that's truly important for us," he explained.

During his opening comments, Liberal leader Kevin Taft focused on the need for a change of government in Alberta.

"The same party has governed Alberta since before I was an undergraduate. That's much too long—37 years," Taft stated. "The current party is out of gas, out of ideas, and needs to be replaced so we can have a new beginning."

Van Hauwaert echoed these sentiments about the PCs, adding that all of the other "parties are throwing a lot of money around and are trying to buy votes.

"Our politicians right now are throwing dollars at all kinds of things," he continued. "So I want some fiscal responsibility and some accountability with the various parties. That's what we're presenting with the Wildrose Alliance party."

During the moderator Q&As,

candidates fielded questions ranging from what they thought the biggest issues facing their constituents are to how large of a role they feel the government has in regulating markets.

One pointed question was how each candidate would create a different Alberta in 2012. While all of candidates answered along their ideological lines, Andrews surprised some audience members by stating that "by 2012, Alberta will be known worldwide as the leader of renewable, alternative energy sources."

An audience member created a bit of stir when they asked whether the candidates believed in the science surrounding human impact being the number-one cause of climate change. All of the candidates acknowledged this, save for the Andrews of the PC party, who argued that while humans have had an impact on Earth, climates have been changing for millions of years.

A comment that appealed to democratic sensibilities came during Wakefield's closing remarks.

"By you folks being here, you're showing that you're interested in the democratic process and are the start of what could be a change in government.

"I'm going to ask you to consider voting Green," he added. "But even if you don't want to vote Green, vote. But the vote is just the start of democracy; it's not the end point. Democracy is taking part everyday in the welfare of your province."

Centre will investigate mass atrocity crimes

KNIGHT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"[The] Responsibility to Protect norm [...] basically states that if a state cannot or will not protect its own people, then the international community has a responsibility to intervene in order to protect those people from mass slaughter, from genocide, from crimes against humanity, from mass rapes, ethnic cleansing," Knight explained.

"[These are] all the things you saw happening in places like Rwanda, in Kenya, in Sierra Leone and Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Darfur right now."

The Centre will operate separate from the UN, Knight explained, so as to separate some of the sensitive activities from the workings of the office of the Secretary-General.

"It's arms length from the UN because of the nature of some of the activities," Knight said. "For example, there could be a watch-list, in which case we are sort of identifying countries which have refused to protect their own people."

The Global Centre has been endorsed by the UN General Assembly, and also counts Kofi Annan, Lloyd Axworthy, Romeo Dallaire, and Desmond Tutu as some of its patrons. Further to this, Knight emphasized the generous financial donations already pledged to the Centre from UN member states, non-governmental organizations, and individuals.

"This is not just a one-off kind of thing. The states that have supported this are indicating through their financial support that they're willing to go all-out in helping the new executive director advocate on behalf of this new norm," Knight said. "So I'm very appreciative of that."

Knight, whose past research interests have focused on children and armed conflict, also serves as a governor of the International Development Research Centre and is on the board of directors of the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

Overall, Knight hopes that his experience in New York will broaden his own areas of research, and will open

up a number of doors for students and faculty at the U of A.

"In a sense, for me, it's an advancement of my own personal research interests to be involved in something like this," Knight noted. "Also, I think it opens up a lot of doors and opportunities to work with the international community, to work with the Secretary-General's office, to work with members of the United Nations, ambassadors in New York, the list goes on."

"I'm hoping that this will be very good for the University as well. I hope it's very good for our graduate and PhD students who are working in this area [...] and for faculty members who have worked with me in the past on these types of issues," he said. "I hope I might be able to open up some doors for them to be somehow engaged beyond Edmonton, beyond Alberta, beyond Canada on these kinds of issues."

Knight will be undertaking a two-year leave of absence and sabbatical from the U of A during his work with the Centre.

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