

Wild Rose, Maw big players for Green Party

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Editor

While Cochrane was the perfect backdrop for the Green Party's Super Six super fund for municipal infrastructure, the political reasoning makes just

as much sense as Cochrane's brown-field mess and pressing infrastructure needs.

Cochrane is also home to Sean Maw, who made Green Party history with his showing in last year's federal election, when

he finished second to Conservative Party stalwart Myron Thompson in the Wild Rose race. While Thompson collected over 72 per cent of the popular vote, Maw got almost 11 per cent, which is significant as candidates are reimbursed for 60 per cent of campaign expenses when they receive over 10 per cent of the vote.

This riding is perhaps one of the Green Party's most possible breakthroughs in the next election, and it is no surprise that Green leaders have made more appearances here than almost anywhere else in Canada, other than

Ottawa.

"Sean Maw is an important landmark for our party," said Green Party Leader Elizabeth May last Friday in Cochrane. "Sean is a very strong candidate who is very active in the community."

Can he find his way to Parliament in the next election? "Absolutely," says May.

"The Green Party is sick of second place finishes," she said (she finished second in a November byelection in London, ON). "We're going for number 1."

It isn't just Wild Rose that has been going Green, the rest of Alberta, despite perceptions that might exist about the oil-rich province, especially in Eastern Canada, has also been throwing more support behind the party than anywhere else.

It is a fact that isn't lost on May.

"We have high hopes for Alberta," she said, while thanking Albertans for their past and continuing support.

"We have the highest popular support here than any other province in Canada, and I can't see anything better than when we enter Parliament we have a couple of seats in Alberta," she said.



Cochrane High School student Ryan Hoyer talks to Sean Maw, Green Party Wild Rose Candidate and Elizabeth May, National Green Party leader, when they visited CHS, Friday, March 9.

CTimes photo by Brett Gundlock

May suggested such a result would be important so the rest of Canada could see that Alberta is a forward-thinking province.

And, she boldly promised that the Green Party will have a place in the House of Commons after the next election.

"This is clearly the strongest the Green Party has ever been going into an election and we will win seats in the next election," she vowed.

And, with Maw on the verge of an even bigger breakthrough, we haven't seen the last of May in Cochrane or the greater Wild Rose riding.

"That is why I will be back during the leader's tour in the next campaign," May promised.