

# Cruickshank joins the race for Tory nomination

By Lorne Stelmach

A fifth candidate joined the contest last week for the federal Conservative nomination in the Portage-Lisgar riding.

In announcing his candidacy, Winkler resident Don Cruickshank said in a news release that serving the residents of Portage-Lisgar is something he feels has been a calling for a long time. He declined a request for an interview.

"When we had our first child, my wife would read him books about Canada and on the page with an illustration of Parliament Hill she would tell him, 'Someday your Dad wants to work there,'" Cruickshank said in the release, recalling expressing his interest four years ago with Candice Bergen, whom he now hopes to replace in Ottawa.

He joins a field of candidates that so far includes former Morden-Winkler MLA Cameron Friesen, former Elmwood-Transcona MP Lawrence Toet, and behind-the-scenes Conservative campaigners Liz Reimer of Morden and Branden Leslie of Portage.

Cruickshank hails from southern Manitoba and has spent the last 18 years in Winkler, so he feels he understands the rural lifestyle and the values held here.

He holds a bachelor's degree in political studies from the University of Manitoba and a master's degree in leadership and management from Briercrest Seminary.

He is in his fifth year as board chair for his church and currently serves as the chair on the parent advisory council for his children's school and is a national prayer leader for Promise Keepers Canada.

As well, he is involved in mentoring youth at the local drop-in center, coaching local sports teams, co-leading a youth mission trip, and volunteering with the Winkler Youth Justice Committee on a special project.

Cruickshank also has experience campaigning for the Conservative Party of Canada, and he was an elected delegate representing Portage-Lisgar for the party's policy and bylaw convention in 2021.

Cruickshank said he wants to make life better for families in Portage-Lisgar, listing key priorities as including protecting core family values, eliminating the carbon tax, making life more affordable, good financial stewardship, and protecting freedom of speech, among others.

"It is time the common man and common woman gets back control of their life," Cruickshank said in his statement. "That is exactly what Pierre Poilievre's campaign is all about, and I fully stand with Pierre to ensure that is the very outcome residents of Portage-Lisgar will receive."

"Elected officials have the high-moral obligation to do what they say they will do and when they break their word it sows into mistrust of the government and



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Winkler's Don Cruickshank, shown here with his wife and kids, has thrown his hat in the ring for the Conservative nomination in Portage-Lisgar.

undermines democracy," he concluded. "I believe that democracy works best when it is transparent and all are invited to the table of participation. I think people want to know their representative in Ottawa is dedicated to giving them back control of their lives."



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