Q1: In Southern Alberta, we often encounter situations where economic development and private enterprise, be it resource-based or agricultural, come into conflict with the natural welfare and biodiversity of a specific region or location.  What do you see as your government’s role and obligations would be in situations like this?

I feel the government’s role should be that of a mediator – to look at all the information, get proper assessment of both sides, make a decision that is in the best interest of all. You can’t halt economic development and private enterprise. You must protect biodiversity as well. There is a way for both to co exist. Some will go into this type of problem with their minds pre set and always wanting their way.

Q2: How do you and your party plan to address transparency and accountability issues related to land and resource management in areas where access and recreation needs come into conflict with our diverse and increasingly fragile ecosystems?

Firstly, my Party would NOT presume to know what the people in the affected areas wants are, for the government MUST firstly ask those who live there. We would consult first, not look for consultation after government action – as has been done with off road vehicles and coal mining. Consultation not validation. We believe there are ways to co-exist. Secondly, any scientist that we would listen to would be working directly within the affected area – not just be a “fly-in” consultant. For accountability, there must be stiff fines for those who violate the laws.

 Q3: Do you and your party support increasing protected areas in Alberta and if so, how do you envision offsetting the costs and loss of economic opportunities in those affected areas?

Is there a need for more protected areas? Is there a need for economic opportunity specifically in the affected areas? Let’s ask first before we presume what is needed. We will look at what is needed first. We will consult with those who have a direct stake in the issue. We support a balanced approach with all sides presenting facts. Too often the government has ONLY listened to the special group that is a government supporter.

Q4: Do you support the continued operation of community-initiated organizations like the Lethbridge Fish & Game to promote conservation, ethical hunting and the private ownership of legally obtained, used and stored firearms for hunting, sport and recreation?

YES.

Q5: Do you believe the Government of Alberta has cultural, historical and fundamental obligations to support traditional means of food security by assisting individuals and organizations like the LFGA to maintain and pass on the skills and tools required for fishing, trapping and hunting?

Yes.

Q6: Further to the previous questions do you believe preserving and protecting those skills, tools and natural resources is the responsibility of the Provincial Government even if it brings it into conflict with the Federal Government?

Yes. Regional associations like the LFGA know the area, the people, and the hunting/fishing resources so they are best situated to know what is best for their area. Hunting for me is a family tradition. It is passed from one generation to the next. Someone from outside the area will not know what my family knows about this area so would not know the needs of this area.

Q7: Do you fish, hunt, trap, sport shoot? If so, can you please share some of your personal experiences in these areas and what value you place on them both for yourself and Albertans?

Yes, I am a deer hunter and wish I took the time to target shoot. There is no feeling like hunting deer. You can get ‘skunked’ and still feel good about being out there and trying. You can feel exhausted by 2 in the afternoon after filling your tag. I have a picture from a few years ago where 4 of my relatives and myself all had our deer by 1pm – them home to hang them. GREAT feeling.

Q8: Would you and your party if successful in forming the next provincial government, support the current court case and related actions against the federal government's ban of previously legal firearms through the Order in Council?

Yes

Q9: Do you personally support the federal government's focus on banning ‘assault style’ weapons and the ‘handgun freeze’ are the best use of financial and law enforcement resources to address gang violence and street crime?

No. The best use of finances and law enforcement is to go after the illegal importation of guns and the criminal element associated with it. The current proposed legislation only hurts LEGAL RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERS. Maybe there should be additional five to ten years added to criminal sentences when a crime is committed with an illegal gun. The current proposed legislation is reaction to tragic events in Toronto and was hastily done for political reasons.

Q10: Why do you believe you are the candidate our members and those with similar concerns should vote for in this election?

I am a centrist – I do not fall for the ‘right-wing’ fanaticism or the ‘left-wing’ socialism. I always try to look a issue before I make a stand. This province needs more common sense rather than the polarizing governments we have had over the last three decades.