Centre will investigate mass atrocity crimes

[The] Responsibility to Protect norm [...] basically states that if a state’s own government [is] not doing enough to protect its own citizens, then the international community has a responsibility to intervene in order to prevent those people from mass slaughter, genocide, crimes against humanity, mass rape, and mass displacement,” Knight explained.

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Monday night saw the Students’ Union host its second and final all-candidates forum at the Edmonton Louise Centre for the upcoming provincial election. Candidates from the riding of Edmonton-Riverview filed field questions from the moderator before taking questions from many of the audience members.

Thrusting home to the University of Alberta, run from the North Saskatchewan River south to Whitemud Drive, and from 169 street east to 161 street, and has five candidates: NDP hopeful Brad Hair, Whitemud Alliance member Kyle Van Houwaring, incumbent MLA Kevin Tuff, Progressive Conservative candidate Wendy Andrews, and Alberta Liberal candidate Brian Allard.

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

"Our priority is to ensure tuition fees are at 1999 levels, and we’re also investing $100 million in post-secondary education for students,” Allard explained during his opening comments.

"I want to see a fair and affordable housing for students,” Hair explained during her opening comments.

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,” Tuff explained.

Whilefeld, 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 Tuff focused on the need for a change of government in the province.

"This is the party that has governed Alberta since before I was an undergraduate. That’s too much too long—over 20 years,” Tuff said.

"The current party is one of, out of ideas, and needs to be replaced so we can have a new beginning,” he said.

Van Houwaring echoed these sentiments about the PCs, saying that all of the other parties are “throwing a lot of money around and are trying to save you.”

"Our politicians right now are choosing do to things that are the kinds of things,” he continued.

"So I want some fiscal responsibility and some accountability with the various parties. That’s what we’re seeing with the Wildrose Alliance party,” he said.

During the moderator’s quick-fire questions, candidates fielded questions ranging from what they thought the biggest issues facing their constituencies are to if they are willing to see the government has in regulating markets.

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

An audience member asked a list of questions when they asked whether the candidates believed in the science surrounding human impact being number-one case of climate change.

All of the candidates acknowledged this, saying that the Andrews and 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 Wilderfield's closing remarks. "By you telling him here, you’re appealing to those people that you’re interested in the democratic process and you’re the star of what should be in charge in government.”

"So I don’t think you should be voting Green. Vote, but I am the star of democracy,” he added.

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