

Lean-Evans considers Canadian sovereignty an important issue, she says government officials should weigh the economic factors of the issue. Pulling out of NATO, a stated goal of the NDP, "would mean undertaking massive spending to preserve the military presence provided with that alliance... NATO has served us well since the end of the Second World War."

MacLean-Evans says she would focus more light on some of the dimmer issues in the election, such as taxation and tax reform. "There is a tax mess that has to be straightened out," said MacLean, criticising the recent Tory tax reform as "hurting people," including students.

Scott Thorkelson

Scott Thorkelson says he can help the west get back on its feet.

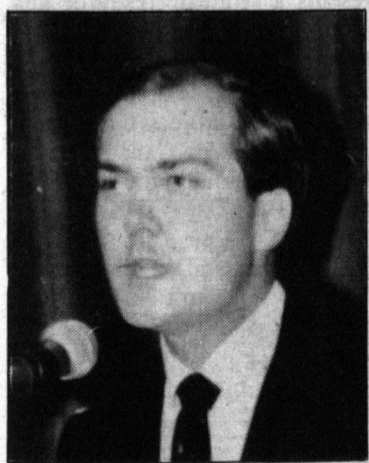
Boosting Alberta's natural resources would be the lead for the Progressive Conservatives' bid for the Strathcona seat in parliament.

Free trade, the trump card of the PC's campaign, would be a prime opportunity to open up western markets and to give Alberta industry a leg up in the national economy, said Thorkelson.

"Free trade will lower consumer prices, and it will bring to us increased production in Alberta because we will have a huge market."

Shrugging off opponents to the deal, he says the advantages outweigh the draw backs. "Free trade is a historic agreement," explained Thorkelson. "For the first time in Confederation, the west will be relieved of paying a heavy premium to support eastern Canadian industry, he said.

"We do not recognise the incredi-



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bly positive impact it will have on Alberta's economy."

While Thorkelson agrees that it will take time for the Alberta economy to adjust to the new market place — compared to the lucrative economy of the east — he believes that the deal is stacked in the west's favor.

Thorkelson's economic plans for Alberta also include developing local industry, such as a multi-million dollar hydrogen energy laboratory.

He said he would also try to balance the financial scales between east and west by attracting the federal government to the Alberta market. "We need regional, economic equality in Alberta. We need to try to increase the amount of goods and services the government purchases from Alberta."

Other items on the Conservative's political agenda include senate reform. According to Thorkelson, uniting the western Caucus on the next round of constitutional negotiations is the key to balancing the power in parliament.

Thorkelson said he would also focus more attention on environmental issues facing Alberta.

Thorkelson's political resume includes positions with the department of Advanced Education and the department of Fisheries and

Oceans. He holds a degree in Economics and Political Science from the University of Alberta and has been a South Edmonton resident for 24 years.

Halyna Freeland

Safeguarding Canadian sovereignty would be a top priority for Strathcona NDP candidate Halyna Freeland.

Following the national pull of party leader Ed Broadbent, Freeland says she fully supports Canadian withdrawal from NATO. "Our policy to withdraw from NATO is that we do not believe that armed military alliances contribute to peace and the greatest danger to peace in the world is the threat of nuclear war."

Freeland takes a hard line on other matters concerning foreign policy, including opposition to human rights violations, support for national self-determination and peace in international relations to work towards international development.

Also in line with the national party, Freeland is strongly opposed to the Free Trade Agreement.

"We believe that this agreement is unnecessary," said Freeland, taking a critical look at the economic ties of the deal.

"We believe that it is not a good idea to have a majority of trade all with only one country," said Freeland, as well as that there is a real danger of Canada becoming "totally dependant on the whims of the American economy" if the free trade deal comes into effect.

While Freeland is against the free trade agreement, she said she does not oppose pursuing "freer" trade deals.

"We are not opposed to free trade agreements with the Americans," explained Freeland, "we are, however, opposed to this



Robin McQueen

Free Trade Agreement."

Instead, Canada should look towards more sectorial trade agreements, she said.

With the election coming to a showdown over the deal, Freeland would like to see more attention paid to other issues, such as the environment, capital punishment, and the Meech Lake Accord.

Women's issues occupy a large section of Freeland's platform. "As long as women are treated with injustice and inequality, we can not have a just and equal society." Equal employment and pay opportunities are high on Freeland's list. On other "moral" issues of the election, Freeland is opposed to policies outlawing abortion.

Halyna Freeland is a practicing lawyer and resident of Strathcona.

Students and staff are reminded to cast their ballots on the candidate of their choice Monday, November 21.

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