...leadership

Bulk. **Lyle Oberg's** campaign made headlines this week with polls showing him in a dead heat with perceived front runner **Jim Dinning** and the revelation that several building trade unions plan to buy as many as 10,000 PC memberships through his campaign for their members.

It is unclear to what extent the plan will proceed given the strains involvement in the PC leadership have caused in the organization.

Alberta Building Trades Council spokesman **Gerry Donnelly** stressed in an interview that the Council itself has not backed a candidate, even though some of its member unions support **Oberg**.

"We intend to talk to all of the candidates, and find out what position they take on public policy issues that are important to our union members," **Donnelly** said.

Oberg has positioned himself in policy terms on the right of the party—he supports greater involvement of private medicine in health care, for instance—so the union connection is surprising.

Oberg said he has a long history with the building trades.

"It stems back probably six or seven years where I worked closely with them on apprenticeship issues, I worked closely with them on drug testing issues, things like that. So I have kept the connection."

Oberg said his campaign has not yet bought memberships in bulk for the Council.

"They haven't yet. My understanding is they have asked us to buy the memberships, they have asked us to get them, and we told them we would give them 2,000 at a time," **Oberg** said.

The building trades are not the only organizations buying memberships in bulk through the Oberg campaign.

Sources say he has enlisted the support of at least two other groups that have agreed to sell 5,000 memberships each.

If all the groups were to follow through on their intent to sell that many, it would triple the latest PC party membership list. All candidates who paid their $15,000 entry fee received a CD with the names and addresses of all party members for the past five years. The 2006 list on the disk contained only 11,171 names, as of September 1. The disk is to be issued two more times to each official candidate before the first vote on November 25, with the names and addresses

...continued next page

PC MLA Support of Leadership Candidates

(There are 62 Conservative MLAs)

Jim Dinning		**Ed Stelmach**	**Lyle Oberg**	**No Caucus Support**	**Undeclared**
Calgary	***Edmonton***	Ray Danyluk	Hung Pham	**Alana Delong**	LeRoy Johnson
Cindy Ady	Thomas Lukaszuk	Iris Evans		**Victor Doerksen**	Rob Lougheed
Moe Amery	Gene Zwozdesky	Hector Goudreau	***Rumoured***	**David Hancock**	Ty Lund
Neil Brown		George Groeneveld	Guy Boutilier	**Gary McPherson**	Ivan Strang
Wayne Cao	***Other***	Fred Lindsay	Pearl Calahasen		
Harvey Cenaiko	Mike Cardinal	Luke Ouellette		***MLAs:* 3**	***MLAs:* 4**
Heather Forsyth	David Coutts	Lloyd Snelgrove	***MLAs:* 4**		
Yvonne Fritz	Gordon Graydon				
Denis Herard	Doug Griffiths	***MLAs:* 8**			
Art Johnston	Mary Ann Jablonski		**Mark Norris**		
Ron Liepert	Richard Marz		Carol Haley		
Richard Magnus	Barry McFarland		Doug Horner		**Unlikely to Declare**
Gary Mar	Len Mitzel				Denis Ducharme
Greg Melchin	Frank Oberle		***Support MLAs:* 2**		Clint Dunford
Dave Rodney	Ray Prins				Ralph Klein
Shiraz Shariff	Rob Renner		**Ted Morton**		Mel Knight
Ron Stevens	George Rogers		***Leaning***		Ken Kowalski
Len Webber	Janis Tarchuk		Tony Abbott		Shirley McClellan
	George VanderBurg				
	***MLAs:* 33**		***MLAs:* 2**		***MLAs:* 6**

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