

The Political Landscape of Battle River-Crowfoot



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A person stands on a path that cuts through a vast, undulating landscape of golden sand dunes. The path leads from the foreground into the distance, where the dunes meet a clear horizon. The lighting is warm, suggesting either sunrise or sunset, and the overall atmosphere is one of vastness and tranquility.

01

Introduction

Introduction

1

Background on Harvey Simpson

- **Harvey Simpson must be long dead.**
- **He was easily in his fifties when I last saw him in his office one October morning back in 1981.**
- **Owner of a real estate and insurance company in Three Hills, Alberta.**

2

My Connection

- **An upstart young reporter and advertising salesman for the weekly newspaper, The Five Village Weekly.**
- **I bring Harvey up, not because of warm memories, but rather to use him as the poster boy for rural Alberta.**

02

Recent Political Context

Recent Political Context



Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre

- During the past federal election, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre lost his own seat despite electoral gains made in the popular vote and seat count.
- Team Blue was racking up the wins, including many new Ontario seats held by the hated Liberals.



The Carleton Riding

- The Carletonites punched Slogan Pete to the curb, recalling how much of a cheerleader he was for the Convoy crowd.
- Poilievre lost his seat, and the voters of Carleton “sent him packing” to Alberta, specifically to Battle River-Crowfoot.

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, sandy landscape, likely a desert or coastal area. The terrain is covered in light-colored sand with numerous low, rounded hills. A single person is walking away from the camera on a narrow, light-colored path that cuts through the sand dunes. The sky is clear and blue, with a few wispy clouds. The overall scene is vast and desolate.

03

The Riding of Battle River-Crowfoot

The Riding of Battle River-Crowfoot

1

Geography and Community

- The riding includes towns like Three Hills, Trochu, Beiseker, Iricanna, Drumheller, and Standard.
- I noticed recent news coming out of this riding, which will be holding a by-election in August.

2

Personal Connection to Carbon

- I used to live in Carbon, Alberta, a small town of about 200 souls.
- The main industry was the gas station, and there was one store, which was also the gas station.



04

Life in Carbon

Life in Carbon



Community Dynamics

- **People were friendly to a fault with each other, but outsiders were not welcome.**
- **My family owned a publication business, Tall-Taylor Publications.**



Arrival and Meeting Harvey Simpson

- **Arrived in Calgary on a Friday and was whisked to Iricanna, Beiseker, and Carbon.**
- **Met Harvey Simpson at a cottage party on Pine Lake.**



05

The Encounter with Harvey Simpson

The Encounter with Harvey Simpson

1

Initial Connection

- Harvey and I discussed sports, particularly the Montreal Expos.
- Harvey was an advertiser in the paper, and I called on him weekly for his ad buy.

2

The Turning Point

- “Where about in Calgary are you from?” asked Mr. Simpson.
- “Not from Calgary,” I corrected. “From North Bay.”

3

Consequences of My Origin

- Harvey changed when he learned I was from Ontario.
- I was kicked out of Harvey Simpson Realty and Insurance for being from Ontario.

A photograph of a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. A single person stands on a prominent dune in the distance, appearing small against the vastness of the scene. The sky is clear and blue.

06

The Political Implications

The Political Implications



Poilievre's Position

- This is the riding Pierre Poilievre is parachuting into.
- Poilievre is full of the requisite harshness, anger, bitterness, and resentment.



Voter Sentiment

- Folks feel that the riding is not for Kurek to gift to Poilievre.
- They believe such assumptions take their votes for granted.

A photograph of a vast desert landscape. In the center, a person stands on a sand dune, appearing small against the vastness of the scene. The sky is a hazy, light blue-grey, suggesting a hazy or overcast day. The sand dunes are light brown and stretch across the horizon.

07

Future Considerations



Future Considerations

1

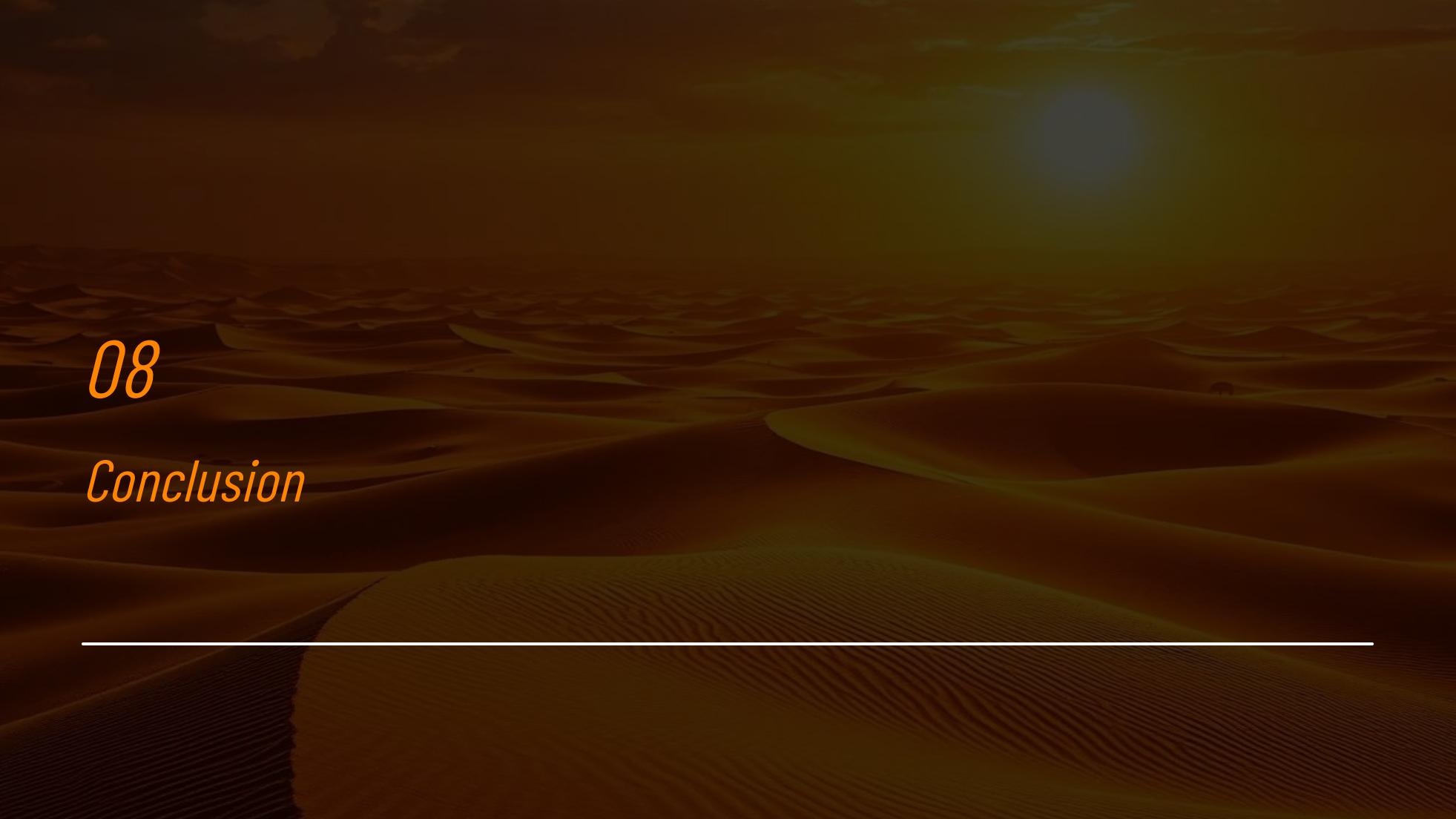
Leadership Review

- **Poilievre faces a leadership review in January after losing an election.**
- **The roller coaster ride for the riding would continue with Poilievre potentially losing leadership.**

2

Community Trust

- **Concerns arise about whether Poilievre will be present for the community.**
- **Questions about whether PP will take them for granted like he did with Carleton folks.**

The background of the slide is a wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. The foreground is filled with the undulating, light-colored ridges of sand dunes. Above them, the sky is filled with a mix of dark, heavy clouds and lighter, more scattered ones, creating a dramatic and somewhat somber atmosphere.

08

Conclusion

Conclusion



The Challenge Ahead

- Poilievre has to navigate differing expectations between Three Hills and Ottawa.
- What sells in Three Hills is not what will sell in Ottawa, and vice versa.



The Political Dance

- Poilievre has a bit of political dancing to do.
- Can he do-si-do his way through it?

Thank You