

A dimly lit office scene. In the foreground, a wooden desk holds a black rotary telephone, several open books or papers, and a small stack of papers. A black leather office chair is positioned behind the desk. On the wall in the background, there is a large framed map of a region, possibly a state or province, and two smaller framed pictures. A window with sheer curtains is visible on the left side of the frame. The overall atmosphere is quiet and professional.

# The Political Landscape of Battle River-Crowfoot

---

# CONTENTS

1. Introduction

3. The Riding of Battle River-Crowfoot

5. The Encounter with Harvey Simpson

7. Future Considerations

2. Recent Political Context

4. Life in Carbon

6. The Political Implications

8. Conclusion

A person is standing on a sand dune in a vast desert landscape. The dunes are rolling and covered in sand, with a person standing on one of them, leaving a trail of footprints. The scene is captured in a warm, golden-brown color palette, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The person is small in the distance, emphasizing the vastness of the desert.

*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.**

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes. A small figure of a person stands on a dune in the middle ground, looking out over the horizon. The lighting is warm, suggesting sunset or sunrise, with long shadows and a golden-brown color palette.

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.

A person is walking away from the viewer on a vast, undulating sand dune. A trail of footprints leads from the foreground towards the person, receding into the distance. The dunes are bathed in a warm, golden-brown light, creating a sense of solitude and vastness.

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 person stands on a sand dune in a vast desert under a large sun. The scene is captured in a warm, golden-brown hue, emphasizing the vastness and isolation of the landscape. The sun is a large, bright circle in the sky, casting a long shadow of the person onto the sand. The dunes are rolling and undulating, creating a sense of depth and scale. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

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 person is standing on a sand dune in a vast desert landscape. The dunes are rolling and covered in sand, with some sparse vegetation visible in the distance. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall mood is contemplative and expansive.

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.**



*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