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## PC leadership hopeful visits Park

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Gary Mar, candidate for PC leader provincially, was all smiles at Smilie's Village in Sherwood Park as he spoke and answered questions from the crowd of about 140 people on Friday.

Mar heard concerns about transmission lines, transparency of the hospital and Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding.

He said people have asked about the approach to solving those issues.

"I was really, really happy with the response I got," Mar said. "Rooms like this have been filled up with people who want to hear what the vision is."

On the transmission lines, Mar said the province is growing and there is a need for power.

"I need to ask questions about how much power is needed in this area, is it feasible to bury the line underground? How does it affect the school that is close to the line? How is it affecting people's property values?" he said. "Those are all factors you need to take into account."

Mar's mother still owns the building, and he said there wasn't a dish at the luncheon that he didn't know how to make.

"I'm a ratepayer here, this building is still ours, and the people who have supported my family for many, many years, a lot of them are here," Mar said. "These were people that we served. We put meals in front of them. I've washed dishes here, I've mopped floors, I've worked in the kitchen, I've waited on tables."

Mar was accompanied by Sherwood Park MLA Iris Evans. In her current role as International and Intergovernmental Relations minister, Evans was the boss of Mar. The tables could turn if Mar is successful in winning the leadership race and if the PC party retains power.

Mar is one of many in the leadership race of the PC Party, following Premier Ed Stelmach's announcement to step down. Other names include Alison Redford, Doug Griffiths, Doug Horner and Ted Morton.

"These other candidates, they're friends of mine," Mar said. "I like them and I respect them, but I have a body of experience and a background that is very, very extensive compared to theirs."

Before the delegate job in Washington, D.C., Mar was an MLA for 14 years.

"(Alberta) has been home to my family for over 100 years and I want it to be home to my family for the next 200 years and I feel very strongly about the future of the province as a bright one and I want to be a part of that," Mar said. "I think I have the right balance of experience in a lot of portfolios and a perspective that comes from being out of the province for the last three years that's going to be really important as we structure a vision for the province in the future."

Mar said he thinks it's important to listen to all Albertans, including supporters of other parties, such as the Alberta Party and the Wildrose Alliance.

"You may disagree on solutions, but you can agree on what the outcome should be," Mar said. "We want a better health care system. We want a better education system. We want to make sure that money is spent responsibly. We want to make sure Albertans are involved in decision making."

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