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High Prairie, Alberta

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The High Prairie Elks choose a new Rodeo Queen.

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Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council won first place in Best Cultural and Traditional Entry at the High Prairie Elks Pro Rodeo Parade Aug. 2 and it is not difficult to see why. Left-right are Lubicon Lake Band Chief Billy-Joe Laboucan, Woodland Cree First Nation Chief Isaac Laboucan-Avirom and Whitefish Lake First Na-

tion Chief Albert Thunder. Sitting and wearing the white cowboy hat is Peerless Lake/Trout First Nation Chief Gladys Okemow. Not seen on the other side of the float is Treaty 8 Grand Chief Arthur Noskey. See more rodeo coverage on pages 5, 11-14, and in next week's *South Peace News*.

Rehn supports Smith's leadership bid

Candidate promises audit of all hospitals in effort to improve health care

Richard Froese
South Peace News

Lesser Slave Lake MLA Pat Rehn is supportint Danielle Smith in the leadership race for the United Conservative Party [UCP].

Smith presented her platform on a tour of townhall meetings of Rehn's riding Aug. 4.

She spoke to about 60 people in High Prairie and Wabasca and about 150 in Slave Lake, Rehn says.

The former Wildrose Party leader pledged to restructure the health-care system when she addressed issues in High Prairie.

"I don't trust Alberta Health Services anymore," says Smith as the crowd erupted into loud applause.

The winner of the lead-

ership race will become the premier after UCP members vote Oct. 6.

Considered a top contender by recent opinion polls, Smith says she would return health decisions to local authorities since many rural communities have suffered because of decisions by the AHS superboard.

"Do not take local services out of local control," Smith says.

"People have said we need to bring back local authority.

"We can make those changes so you can get services when you need them."

Residents in the region told Smith they want more local services in the new High Prairie Health Complex that opened in 2017.

They are also concerned about some doc-



United Conservative Party [UCP] leadership candidate Danielle Smith, left, poses with Lesser Slave Lake MLA Pat Rehn at a townhall meeting Aug. 4 in High Prairie.

tors being denied hospital privileges, lack of support from the AHS, and challenges from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta to help recruit physicians to the region.

As premier, Smith says

she would address those issues.

"You should get all the services you need here," Smith says.

"You're just too remote for people to go to Edmonton for appointments.

"This is terrible medical care.

"Let's get rid of the College of Physicians and Surgeons."

If elected, she pledges to order an audit of all 106 hospitals in the province as a step to improve and add services in each facility.

She outlined her overall commitment, if elected.

"We will free Alberta from Ottawa's control," Smith says.

"We will protect the rights and freedoms of all Albertans.

"We will unleash our economic potential and restore the Alberta Advantage."

Smith is committed to boost the economy in the north and enhance broadband service.

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