

ALBERTA VOTES 2008


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Protester hog-wild on issue

By RENATO GANDIA, SUN MEDIA

2008-02-22

Grant McLean donned a pink pig costume and attempted to get Ed Stelmach's attention as he entered an Edmonton TV station minutes before yesterday's leaders' debate.

He said he wanted to make a point about how the province has treated him poorly.

For more than two decades, he's been fighting to get his federal pension credits transferred to the provincial system.

Grant, a soldier for 14 years, began his fight with the province after he was hired as deputy director at the Calgary Correctional Centre in 1982.

He said he was told in writing he could transfer the pension before he took the job.

But the province reneged, he claims, and said it made a mistake in making him that promise. The ex-soldier sued the province in 1999.

"We're still waiting for a court date and it's been roughly 10 years," said his wife Tina, dressed as a prisoner.



Alberta Sheriff, John Visscher, who's with Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach's security detail laughs as a protestor dressed in a pig costume comes up to him. (Jason Franson/SUN MEDIA)

Last night, two supporters joined the McLeans in protest.

Tina said they had hoped to bring Grant's case to the attention of Stelmach and the other political leaders.

"I'm trying to make people aware of how exactly this government, when something goes wrong, tends to hide their heads in the sand and pretend that nothing has happened," said Grant, who has taken a leave of absence from his job with Alberta Justice.

When Stelmach stepped out of his election campaign bus last night, Grant yelled, "Eddie! Eddie! Eddie!" as he held a sign reading "Alberta's government screwed Grant McLean."

But the Tory leader just walked amid the crowd of media and NDP and Liberal supporters waiting for their leaders to

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arrive for the debate.

"See, he just walked away," said Grant. "That's what the province has been doing. It keeps on walking away."

Grant said he relied on incorrect assurance by a provincial employment officer that his soldier's pension would be transferable.

"I treated my prisoners a lot better than how I got treated by the Alberta government," he said.