

December 12, 2005

Good Morning ~~Mr. Kenney:~~ ^{Jason}

Via E-mail

We met a few months ago in your Calgary office when I asked to speak with you concerning transportation issues and the Advisory Committee of Accessible Transportation. I was most grateful for your time and I went away with a positive framework having met you, at long last.

Now that the election campaign is underway and moving forward, I have a suggestion which may further your efforts to form the next government of Canada. I have only seen one (1) Conservative ad on television and wouldn't you know it, it was not captioned! Hopefully, that is not the case for your TV ads. I was told that an ad, talking about the GST, was closed captioned for which I am grateful; however, I have not seen this particular video clip.

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), based on current research, believes that 1 in 10 Canadians suffers from hearing impairment. This means over 2 Million Eligible Voters.

This means that you as the potential Next Government may be able to get your message **to an additional 2 Million voters**, simply by adding Captioning to your TV ads.

Jason, if you were to opt for Open Captioning, which means that the captioning is on screen regardless of whether the viewers TV is set that way or not, you would also reach large numbers of hearing voters in noisy environments, such as bars, or quieter environments such as the workplaces where televisions might be on with the sound muted. It is my understanding that Elections Canada opted to use Open Captioning on their advertising thus reaching a larger audience.

This is a very **inexpensive** way to reach a large number of additional voters and at the same time demonstrate in concrete terms that the Conservative Party is really and seriously concerned with the rights of the disabled.

Hopefully, you will give this your consideration and pass this along to the "powers that be" within the Conservative Party, to maximize your chances of forming the next government.

I, and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, would be more than happy to provide any information that we can, to help you with this issue.

Mr. Jason Kenney, MP (Calgary SE)
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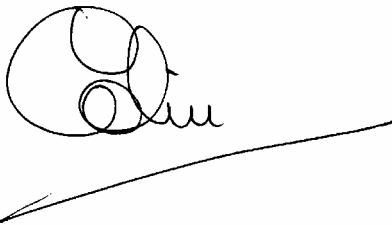
Jason, a few additional tirades if I may:

In the last election I asked your campaign office if captioning would be available at your townhall meetings. The negative reply was shocking. Yet, I did offer to assist and still the campaign manager said no. Needless to say, I seriously had to evaluate my vote based on your campaign manager's reply to me that excluded me from attending your rally. This type of approach certainly doesn't speak well of the party and its attitudes toward inclusion. At bare minimum, I sincerely truly hope that candidates install TTY equipment in their campaign offices and; if elected, in their respective offices and publish the number for all to see.

Also, I feel that your Conservative.ca website is severely lacking in both concrete detail as to your party's policies and platform, and with respect to contact information within the party. That is why I am writing you with this instead of the National Headquarters.

Thanks Jason for being the conduit of this message. I am extremely interested our country's politics and have a bona fide electorate concern as to policy and strategy of this party's message to the people of Canada. I appreciate whatever assistance you can provide me on this matter, and I believe that by addressing my concerns, the Conservative Party will garner additional votes, and that this will contribute to your success in forming the next government

Sincerely yours,



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c.c. Ms. Janice McNamara, Executive Director, CHHA, Ottawa, Ontario