



MADE IN
CANADA

Patriotic tees for
summer **A7**

Get out and vote Oct. 19, Mandel says

Ex-Edmonton mayor also encourages Albertans to cast their ballots early

STEVEN SANDOR

In the late 1890s, Stephen Mandel's grandparents escaped the pogroms of imperial Russia. Antisemitism had reached new, manic levels during the reign of Emperor Nicholas II, and Mandel's ancestors came to Canada hoping for a more accepting place.

So, maybe it's no surprise that the former Edmonton mayor and ex-leader of the Alberta Party (which has morphed into the Tory Party) has made a vocal plea for federalism.

"Canada's not a perfect place," Mandel said Monday.

"But it's more perfect than many other places."

Mandel's plea is for federalists to vote early, beating the lines that may occur Oct. 19, when the province's slate of questions includes a referendum on whether or not Alberta should have another referendum on independence.

His plea is part of a campaign organized by Vote to Stay, a pro-Canada group founded by Monte Solberg, who

was a cabinet minister in Stephen Harper's federal Tory government. Vote to Stay's other prominent voices include former premier Jason Kenney and columnist Jen Gerson.

Mandel said the separatists have not really considered the logistics or cost of Alberta becoming independent.

"I don't think they've ever thought it out," he said. "What are we going to do for currency? How are we going to deal with the borders?"

"We do well within Canada. Success needs time, effort, money and people."

He said the separatist movement has been emboldened by the UCP. He said the referendum itself is the result of "people inside the UCP party causing a ruckus and getting their way."

And he's concerned about the separatist movement's messaging on immigrants.

While Mandel was born in Canada, his family came to this country to escape persecution in another land.

And he said that experience is echoed in many migrants who have come to Canada over the years. He said the success stories far outweigh the negative perceptions of immigrants taking away jobs and eroding the Canadian lifestyle.

Last week the Alberta Prosperity Project disavowed Ian Parkinson, after he made racist remarks aimed at the Sikh community at an event in Airdrie.

SEE MANDEL ON **A3**



SHAUGHN BUTTS

SUMMER'S OVER ALREADY?

Year-round students return to the classroom on Monday morning at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School. Most other Alberta students head back to class Sept. 8.

Separatism and nostalgia: A snapshot of the Evansburg Inn

STEVEN SANDOR

They call her "Lady Di."

Diane Maskell remembers when a Friday night at the Evansburg Inn would mean a packed house. Now, there's a smattering of regulars. Two of the eight VLT machines are occupied. No one is playing Big Buck Hunter or the boxing punch-strength machine.

A few people are on the patio, through the garage door in the back.

Maskell was 60, recently divorced, and decided to use the settlement money to buy the Inn in the postcard-pretty hamlet of Evansburg, 105 kilometres west of Edmonton. She didn't know anything about running a hotel or a bar. That was 26 years ago, and she and her family still live in the hotel.

"It was a lot busier then," said Maskell. "You know, it's not like it is now. It's pretty quiet now. Before, we always

had the regulars. They came in early in the morning, and we'd be here till three o'clock in the morning."

Diane and her daughter-in-law, Christine Maskell, invited the Beer Parlour Project into their establishment on Friday night.

The project is a collaboration between photographers and documentarians Chris Doering, from Calgary, and Edmonton's Rob Pohl. Doering used modern cameras, while Pohl used

a Japanese replica of a vintage black-and-white film camera. Their passion is to document the histories of small-town bars from B.C. to Saskatchewan. The Evansburg Inn is the 46th spot they've visited.

Their work is available on their beer-parlourproject.com site, and they plan to release a coffee table book. A show at the Art Gallery of Alberta is set for the future.

SEE EVANSBURG ON **A3**