

Fishy appointment for MP

Three Okanagan MPs will make up part of Tory shadow cabinet

Darren Handschuh · Nov 29, 2019 · 9:32 am



Photo: Contributed
MP Mel Arnold

The Okanagan will be well represented in the Official Opposition shadow cabinet with three area MPs getting posts.

The Conservative Party won the second-highest number of seats in parliament on last October's federal election, and on Friday party leader Andrew Sheer announced the shadow cabinet that will keep an eye on Justin Trudeau's Liberals.

North Okanagan-Shuswap MP Mel Arnold has been appointed shadow minister for Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard for the official opposition.

Arnold was re-elected for his second term in office during the federal election in October and has been an advocate for increased funding to keep invasive aquatic species out of local waterways.

Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola MP Dan Albas has been appointed as shadow minister for Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion.

"Having a job is more than just a paycheque, it provides meaning, a place in the world. Building a skilled workforce is essential for ensuring that Canadians can realize their dreams for themselves and their families. This includes the many persons with a disability who for too long have been unable to participate fully in our economy and our society," Albas said in a press release.

"I will work tirelessly to hold the government to account and make sure that Canadians can get ahead and that those in our struggling energy and forestry sectors can get back to work."

Rounding out the trio is Kelowna-Lake Country first time MP Tracy Gray.

Gray was appointed the shadow minister for Interprovincial Trade.

Arnold said he is looking forward to his role as shadow minister.

"Canadians elected a dedicated Conservative team to represent them in Ottawa and I look forward to working with my colleagues to hold the minority Trudeau government to account," said Arnold.

"Canada's fish stocks, fishermen and the supply chains they support require meaningful and balanced policies to survive and flourish."

Arnold said he would work with fishermen, coastal communities and all Canadians who depend on the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and "fight for the policies and resources required to conserve and protect our precious resources."