



## Edmonton-Centre the one to watch

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Candidates in the Edmonton-Centre riding are gearing up for a heated race and local political experts say it's the one to keep an eye on in Edmonton this election.

The area, home to 120,000 people, is being contested by Liberal Jim Wachowich, hoping to snatch the title of MP from Tory incumbent Laurie Hawn, who won by a small margin over cabinet veteran Grit "Landslide" Anne McLellan in 2006.

"Edmonton-Centre will be front and centre in competitiveness," said political scientist Chaldeans Mensah. "Hawn has the benefit of incumbency, but he's definitely in for a tough race from the Liberals. For Wachowich to succeed, he's going to need the help of typical NDP supporters to make a strategic calculation to switch to him to prevent Hawn from winning."

Strategic voting, Mensah added, is tough to achieve, but political traction is what's needed to take the Centre seat back from the Tories this election.

"Obviously they're going to try whatever they can, we know we're the target. Michael Ignatieff told me that months ago in the

House that they're coming after Edmonton-Centre," Hawn said.

Though Wachowich doesn't want to reveal his strategy for success, he said it's going to come down to "good old-fashioned politics."

"People recognize that having 28 out of 28 Members of Parliament from one party has resulted in a situation where those folks are not as accountable or disciplined as they should be," he said.

Though the Tories and Liberals are taking main stage in the riding, NDP candidate Donna Martyn and Green Party candidate David Parker don't feel they're out of the race just yet.

"With the economy in the state it is, only the Green Party has a viable solution," Parker said. "Sustainable economy and ecology are the same thing — can't have one without the other."

"If people believe in improving the economy, the environment and health care, they won't choose the Liberals, who have done nothing, or the Conservatives, who have also done nothing," Martyn added.