### **Top Reform job** goal for Harris

#### But Hill supporting Manning plan for United Alternative

Prince George Reform MP Dick Harris confirmed his intentions to run for the Reform Party leadership this week.

While no leadership race has been announced, Reform leader Preston Manning has said he will not continue to lead the party if the proposed United



Alternative does not go ahead. Mr. Harris, is a vocal opponent of the United Alternative and purports himself to be pro-Reform. He argued in Reform debates around the country against pursuing the United Alternative

Harris

He says he is confident the United Alternative will not go ahead.

'When the UA fails we need to refocus all our efforts on the Reform Party once

again. With Mr. Manning stepping down and a leadership race coming on the heals you'd better have someone at the helm who can put the team back together and mend the fences," says Mr. Harris.

If the United Alternative proposal passes, on the other hand, Mr. Harris isn't sure what he will do. He says he will be consulting with his constituents over the next few months and that will give him a clear direction.

Mr. Harris is in his second term as a Reform MP. Prior to entering politics he was a self-employed businessman in the tire industry.

But while Mr. Harris was announcing his intention to challenge Mr. Manning's leadership, his colleague Jay Hill announced a change of heart on the United Alternative proposal. Mr. Hill, Reform MP for Prince George Peace River, was previously opposed to the United Alternative but says he is now in support of the concept.

He says he has been reconsidering his stand for the last few months after a fall caucus meeting when he met a lot of influential Tories who support the concept. Mr. Hill says he is not doing a "flip-flop" because of Mr. Manning's announcement

"I could see this initiative had begun to reap dividends my mind to support the United Alternative," he says



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## Formal charges laid against 'johns'

### Three more people face court dates

Formal charges have now been laid against nine of the 12 people arrested in the city's most recent undercover prostitution sting.

On the nights of December 2 and 3, undercover RCMP officers conducted what was called the "Sting the Johns" operation in the Millar-Connaught neighbourhood

Charges of communicating with another person for the purpose of engaging in prostitution are now pending against Kenneth Epp, 55, Robin Dean Avery, 29, Wesley Louis Seykora, 42, Daniel William Shiels, 19, David Glenn Hart, 42, Donald James Umperville, 37, Dianne Arlene Evans, 43, and Rajbir Singh Padda, 30, of Prince George and Wayne John Zuk, 27, of Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Mr. Padda also faces two counts of possessing a controlled substance and two counts of possessing it for the purpose of trafficking

RCMP media liaison Constable Mike Herchuk says charges will soon be laid against three more people, though the Crown is still reviewing the charge recommendations.

This was the first undercover operation conducted by local police since March, when a case looking at the legality of undercover operations went before the Supreme Court of Canada. The decision, released in early December, set out the parametres for undercover operations.

This sting was also on the eve of the RCMP's pending Dear John letter campaign, slated to get underway in late January or early February. With Dear John letters, police make note of who is frequenting the prostitutes and sends a letter to their homes stating as such.

The decision to go with this campaign over the John school was made last summer, when it was decided there were too few johns regularly arrested in Prince George to warrant such a school



# Instead, we toss off our coats and hit the Autobahn.

