



Jessica Alexander is running for the Progressive Conservatives in Sackville-Cobequid.

## PC contender ready to topple NDP reign in Sackville-Cobequid 🚗

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SACKVILLE

By Kim Moar – The Weekly News

Conservative Jessica Alexander hopes to be the first woman to represent the riding of Sackville-Cobequid in the next provincial election, and take over a seat that has been dominated by the NDP for 22 years.

“Part of my motivation to do this is I’ve got four kids and with voter apathy being at an all time high, this is one way that I can make sure my kids get a first-hand look at the process,” she said.

Alexander, 38, who lives in Sackville with her husband Jeff and children Jasmine, 17, Aaron, 16, Keisha, 12 and Shanae, 9, said her kids are old enough to knock on doors and attend party functions, too. As president of the local riding association for the past two years, Alexander said she’s very interested in becoming more involved in her community, and sees the role of MLA as a way of doing that.

“When you’re involved in your community, and if you have leadership capabilities, then it’s just a natural next step,” she said.

While Alexander volunteers a lot of her time to local community events and charity groups, she wants to be in a position to make change.

Surviving acute leukemia in 2001 with chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant has made her a more adventurous and purposeful person, Alexander said.

Alexander said her interest in running in politics herself was really heightened after attending a campaign school for women at Mount Saint Vincent University last fall.

“It would change the tone of government just having more women. If more women were elected, it could only be a good thing. And that’s not a feminist thing, it’s just a balanced thing,” she said.

Alexander said she came to realize that politicians were just regular people with regular families, and that she is as qualified as anybody to run.

“In some ways it’s a regular job, it just has a very, very long and complex job interview,” she said.

When she hits the campaign trail for the next provincial election, Alexander said she expects to hear a lot of concerns about the economy, health care and education. As the only one vying for the job, Alexander is to be nominated as the party’s Sackville-Cobequid candidate at a nomination meeting on Feb. 12.