

The Toronto Star

'Fog' of sexism thicker in Alberta, Tory says

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Byline: (Special) SOUTHAM NEWS

OTTAWA (Special) - Sexism is more prevalent in Alberta - where Prime Minister Kim Campbell got an awkward reception - than in some other parts of Canada, a top female Tory says.

"This movement away from sexism doesn't suddenly lift like a fog off of the country," said Jennifer Lynch, president of the National Progressive Conservative Women's Federation.

"What happens is, it lifts in certain areas faster than some others, and one area it hasn't lifted from is Alberta - and I've heard that often."

Lynch, who represents card-carrying female Tories across Canada, was responding Friday to remarks made about Campbell during her introduction at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Edmonton last week.

Board chairman Wayne Taylor called Campbell Canada's "first-lady," the official title of the wife of the president of the United States.

Then lawyer Larry Carr told an off-color joke and referred to Campbell's mother as a "free-spirited feminist" who "ran away with her boyfriend" when Campbell was 12.

In an interview, Lynch said the incident was "extremely unfortunate and in bad taste" and speculated that geography was partly to blame.

"I just wonder why would somebody think that something like that was acceptable, and it has to be because things are not as quick to catch on in Alberta.

SOUTHAM NEWS

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