



“In The Next Alberta, we will *win* in the global market race.”

Laurence Decore
 Leader,
 Alberta Liberal Party

The Next Alberta.

Getting there from here: The Alberta Liberal Plan.

The Conservative Government is allowing the world to leave Alberta behind. Laurence Decore has a “hands-on” plan to stop that from happening!

The Next Alberta begins with a plan to sharpen government up, a plan which allows business to do what it does best and people to build a future they can count on.

Laurence Decore and The Alberta Liberal Party will think, not spend, our way into The Next Alberta with a solid plan to reduce the Conservative government’s horrendous \$24.5 Billion debt. A plan to invest for the *long term* in knowledge, job skills and the well-being of Albertans. A plan to earn back your trust in the political process.

Can The Next Alberta become reality? Read on. The answer is yes!

Good Jobs For The Next Alberta!

The Conservatives haven’t had a *real* economic plan since the days of Peter Lougheed. Instead of investing for long term economic growth, they gambled away billions on quick fixes and risky investments like NovAtel, Magcan and money to Peter Pocklington.

Our future, which depends on knowledge and skills that allow our workers to compete internationally, is threatened by the Conservative Party’s unwillingness to educate people for tomorrow’s world. In the last 7 years, Alberta school funding dropped from 3rd in Canada to 7th, and after-inflation university spending fell 18% per student.

That’s why Laurence Decore and the Alberta Liberals will:

- Restore the excellence of our education system by: giving education the high priority our children deserve; reducing class sizes in early grades as we can pay; allowing post-secondary institutions to accept more students; encouraging more retraining.
- Implement a *detailed* economic plan that includes Centres for Technology and Development in the Oil/Gas and Forestry industries, improved technology transfer, more effective international marketing and a Small Business Incubator program.
- Continue price-sensitive oil/gas royalties; encourage companies to re-invest here in Alberta.
- Encourage rural entrepreneurs to create jobs through a locally-supported provincial program of Community Development Investment Certificates.
- Stop giving grants, loans and loan guarantees to business. Tax money cannot buy jobs that the marketplace won’t support on its own.

Protect Important Programs!

Alberta Liberals believe in strong health care, education, social safety and environmental protection programs. We are committed to strong families, and to fairness and equality. These primary commitments are the foundation upon which both human dignity and economic strength are based.

That’s why Laurence Decore and the Alberta Liberals will:

- Improve health care with a province-wide air and road ambulance system, reduced waiting lists, and a focus on preventing health problems *before* they become expensive.
- Act on issues of concern to families such as: fuller funding of women’s shelters, tough action on domestic violence and maintenance enforcement, staged public service pay equity, firm day care standards enforcement, encouragement of “Safe Streets”.
- Take the environment seriously. Province-wide programs to encourage recycling. Bold measures to prevent global warming and ozone depletion. Tough enforcement!
- Ensure social service payments reflect reality with regular, independent review.
- Give a higher priority to education!

Cleaning Up The ME\$\$

The Conservatives have driven us into debt by more than \$7 million every single day for over 7 years. Today, we owe \$24.5 billion...a mortgage of \$9,800 for each woman, man and child... a stack of \$100 bills over 15 miles high!

This gigantic debt robs us of the flexibility we need to pay for schools, hospitals, and other programs people need. If we don’t control it, our children will suffer most. Ralph Klein has said our debt is not a terribly great problem. Laurence Decore knows debt is the single greatest hurdle on our way to The Next Alberta. Klein’s officials have studied a sales tax. But Laurence Decore knows that reduced spending is the *best* way to go.

Laurence Decore is a successful businessman. His record of debt control, financial management and government downsizing is without comparison in Alberta politics.

That’s why Laurence Decore and the Alberta Liberals will:

- Start with the principle that governments must operate on balanced budgets.
- Use efficiency audits to cut fat from the system.
- Regularly re-examine *all* programs. If they can’t be justified, they should be cut.
- Pay cash for capital projects instead of mortgaging them.
- Sell the Heritage Fund to pay down debt.
- Use the ‘free vote’ to allow MLAs to reflect your wishes in setting spending priorities.
- Cut back the fat pensions paid to retiring MLAs; set up a reasonable, RRSP-type plan which protects taxpayers from guaranteed payouts and unfunded liabilities.

Positive Politics!

In The Next Alberta, politicians will be too busy asking *your* opinion and solving problems to call each other names.

It’s time for *positive* politics in Alberta. It’s time for MLAs who truly listen to the people who elect them. It’s time for a government that respects those who honestly disagree with it. It’s time for a government that *includes* people, instead of cutting them out.

That’s why Laurence Decore and the Alberta Liberals will:

- Use ‘free votes’ on many issues, allowing MLAs to reflect their constituents’ views.
- Enable voters to recall their MLA if he or she is not representing them well.
- Adopt *true* freedom of information legislation.
- Allow votes on Opposition Bills and Motions. Who says only government has good ideas?
- Clean up the political appointment system so key positions go to the most capable women and men, not just to political friends.

