

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF ALBERTA – ELECTION PLATFORM 2012

ALBERTA BY DESIGN

Reaching our full potential: Building on a legacy of real-life leadership & securing the promise of Alberta's future



A MESSAGE FROM

Premier Alison Redford



In the six months since I was elected Premier, we have introduced concrete plans for disciplined spending, support to seniors and vulnerable Albertans, enhanced education, and putting health care on a stronger path.

During this election, we are engaging in an important conversation about how we build on those foundations, capture and inspire the energy and imagination of Albertans, and continue to enjoy the finest place in the world to live, work and raise a family. I ask for your support so that together we can do that work, and realize that vision.

If you entrust us with a new mandate, we will:

- 1 Secure Alberta's Economic Future:** we will make strategic investments in education, human capital and infrastructure to strengthen Alberta, growing our knowledge-inspired economy, and improving Alberta's competitiveness in the global marketplace.
- 2 Advance World-leading Resource Stewardship:** we will develop our natural resources responsibly to protect our environment and grow our markets.
- 3 Invest in Families and Communities:** we will support wellness, families and communities as an investment in Albertans and Alberta's future.

It is time for a foundational change in how government works, to reflect a province and world that have changed. Change is about listening to Albertans; being transparent and accountable; and building strong collaborative relationships with all our partners. These principles are at the core of our commitment to Albertans.

Together we can achieve greater educational and economic opportunity, better health and wellness, and realize our full potential for generations to come.

A handwritten signature of Alison Redford in black ink.

Alison Redford

Table of Contents

Fiscal Discipline and Strategic Investment	2	Agriculture and Rural Development	22
Implement Results-Based Budgeting.....	3	Position Alberta as a Preferred Supplier to	
Secure Alberta's Economic Future.....	3	Global Markets.....	22
Advance World-Leading Resource Stewardship.....	4	Expand Access to Local and Niche Markets	23
Invest in Families and Communities	5	Support Rural Development.....	23
Wellness and Performance-Oriented		Improve Healthcare Access in Rural and Remote	
Healthcare	6	Communities	24
Improve Primary Healthcare	7	Seniors and Vulnerable Albertans.....	25
Focus on Health Promotion	7	Improve the Quality of Life for Seniors	26
Eliminate Waste.....	8	Address the Continuing Care Needs of	
Provide Better Care for Seniors.....	8	Alberta's Seniors	27
Promote Healthy Choices for Our Children.....	9	Engage Expertise in the Community.....	27
Improve Access For Rural, Aboriginal and		Provide Albertans the Option to "Age in the	
Remote Communities.....	9	Right Place"	27
Discovery, Innovation, and Post-Secondary		Human Services, Employment and	
Education	10	Immigration	28
Provide New Grants, Improve Student Aid and		Increase Child Care Subsidies	28
Student Loans	11	Recruit Foreign Temporary Workers.....	29
Improve Access to Post-Secondary Education	11	Protect Alberta's First Responders	29
Increase Private-Sector Support.....	12	Advocate for Children and Youth	29
Promote Excellence in Innovation and Research ..	12	Expand Alberta's Aboriginal Workforce Strategy ..	29
Alberta's K-12 Education System	13	Amend Alberta's Labour Legislation	30
Amend the Education Act.....	14	Implement a 10-Year Poverty Reduction Plan	30
Our 10-Point Action Plan.....	15	Culture and Community Development	31
After School Recreation Strategy	17	Support for Alberta's Non-Profit/	
Update Alberta's Curriculum	17	Voluntary Sector.....	31
Add New and Modernized Schools	17	Promote Fairness, Access, and Inclusion	31
Implement a Teacher's Tax Credit.....	17	The Spirit of Alberta Policy	32
Environment and Water.....	18	Collaborate on Long-Term Sustainability	32
Support Conservation and Best-In-Class		Celebrate Alberta's Heritage	32
Monitoring.....	18	International and Interprovincial Trade	33
Improve Regulatory Integrity.....	19	Open New Markets for Alberta's Businesses.....	34
Create a Land Reclamation Framework.....	19	Municipal Affairs.....	35
Energy – Innovation, Markets		Premier's Council on a New Provincial-	
and Sustainability	20	Municipal Partnership	36
Premier Redford's Canadian Energy Strategy	20	Increase Support Through the Municipal	
Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program.....	21	Sustainability Initiative.....	36
Launch Aostra-2	21		
Provide New Transportation Options.....	21		
Improve Temporary Foreign Worker Program.....	21		



Reaching Our Full Potential: Fiscal Discipline and Strategic Investment

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Everything we do needs to be built on a solid footing of fiscal responsibility and discipline. The world has changed dramatically in the face of ongoing economic difficulties. Many of our trading partners are struggling with large debt and low growth. In contrast, Alberta is well-positioned and heading to balanced budgets and strong economic growth. However, we cannot afford to be complacent.

- A new PC government will deliver a balanced budget by 2013 with **no new taxes** and **no service cuts**. We will achieve a surplus by 2014 and will rebuild Alberta's savings.
- A PC Government will **lay a strong foundation for future prosperity** by taking decisive action now based on a bold vision of a dynamic, adaptable and globally competitive Alberta. We will tackle current infrastructure deficits to leverage our strengths and allow market forces to diversify our options. That is the surest way to rebuild the *Sustainability Fund* and *Heritage Fund* and save in ways that measurably support and expand our children's prospects.
- The PC Party supports **sound fiscal management**, including three-year spending cycles to enable sound planning; and results-based budgeting to ensure that every dollar can be evaluated on an ongoing basis for its relevance, role and achievement of results.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

A new PC government will find innovative ways to enhance Albertans' standard of living and provide the best quality of life in North America.

We will focus on the source of our success – sound finances, and a sustainable fiscal foundation that supports sustainable public services. This is the right thing to do to ensure our continued economic strength. We will stay focused on giving Albertans the support they need to excel, investing in learning and essential services, and ensuring that citizens are protected when they are most vulnerable.

As presented in Budget 2012, the following actions will be undertaken to deliver on the promises we set out for a new mandate:

Implement Results-Based Budgeting

- A new PC government will ensure all government programs and services are scrutinized, as part of our **Results-Based Budgeting** approach. New legislation requires departments to start fresh and build their budgets from zero every 3 years. This will identify unnecessary spending and programs that have outlived their usefulness, redirecting dollars to higher priorities and front-line services.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

*DELIVER a balanced budget by 2013 with **no new taxes and no service cuts**. We will achieve a surplus by 2014 and will rebuild Alberta's savings.*

Secure Alberta's Economic Future

Spend wisely, manage our finances and improve Alberta's competitiveness to build a strong fiscal foundation for Albertans

- Follow a renewed fiscal policy and savings strategy to reduce dependence on non-renewable resource revenue and seek Albertans' input on the future of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund.
- Develop a Transportation Strategy, within an aligned funding model, to support competitiveness, sustainability, and the timely completion of major projects such as the Calgary and Edmonton Ring Roads.
- Develop a plan to make the Alberta Public Service a leader in innovation, efficiency and delivery of services to Albertans.
- Continue our work with the *Red Tape Reduction Task Force* to reduce costs and burdens for businesses.

Build a knowledge economy, by offering a sustainable education system that meets the economic needs of the province, and supports life-long learning

- Enhance the *Alberta Innovates* model to build more capacity and stability in agriculture and energy research, and strike a better balance between the priorities of researchers and government.
- Identify strategies to expand the recruitment of post-secondary students in rural areas, including those within Métis and First Nations communities.

Advance World-Leading Resource Stewardship

Create win-win solutions for developing Alberta's resources while protecting Alberta's environment for future generations

- Introduce an initiative to make Alberta the national leader in energy efficiency and sustainability.
- Work with the federal government to develop sensible and pro-consumer future coal-fired regulations that support the common goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions
- Implement the *Regulatory Enhancement Task Force* recommendations, including the creation of a single regulator for upstream oil and gas, and coal.
- Develop the appropriate partnerships, inside and outside of government, to deliver a credible and open-source information system on science-based environmental indicators.



Build relationships with our partners, enhance market access and attract investment

- Serve as the catalyst for a **pan-Canadian Energy Strategy that promotes inter-jurisdictional collaboration** to develop a sustainable energy roadmap based on common goals and priorities.
- Implement *Alberta's International Strategy*, including the negotiation of "externships" – competitive placements for talented Albertans in international organizations, foundations, multilateral institutions and the private sector.
- Expand market access, attract investment and make Alberta a preferred global supplier of agricultural, energy and forestry products and services.
- Continue to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal communities and people, including those related to land management and resource development.

Invest in Families and Communities

Safe communities that are prosperous, culturally diverse and desirable places to live, and visit

- Ensure that Alberta grows as a tourist destination, and that the province's parks and recreational resources continue to be world-class destinations for Albertans, and visitors from around the world.
- Establish three-year predictable funding arrangements for municipalities, post secondary institutions and school boards.
- Review and assess the *Municipal Sustainability Initiative*.
- Implement the *Safe Communities* program to deliver positive outcomes for Albertans in our neighbourhoods, communities and on our streets.

Support all Albertans to reach their full potential

- Lead the development of a sensible policy framework to guide social policy and programs, and achieve better outcomes for children and families.
- Ensure information sharing practices within government and with service agencies support the best decisions possible in regard to the health, education and safety of children and families, while respecting Albertans' expectations around issues of privacy.
- Implement increases to the monthly living allowance and the employment income exemptions for participants of the *Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped* program, as outlined in Budget 2012.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

LEAD the development of a social policy framework to guide social policy and programs, and achieve better outcomes for children and families.





Reaching Our Full Potential: Wellness and Performance- Oriented Healthcare

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

*The Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta supports a **strong, publicly funded health care system** that focuses on individuals, families and communities – a system that is accessible, flexible and responsive.*

- **We will take bold steps to tackle looming challenges:** an aging population, a shortage of skilled professionals, and significant demographic shifts.
- We will ensure **every Albertan has access to a family physician, primary care network or Family Care Clinic – when and where they need it.**
- We will revamp the system to meet targets for **acute and emergency care.**
- In Budget 2012, we confirmed **our commitment to achieving the expansion of the Electronic Health Records** – with the goal of having health information **available electronically within 2 years.** With electronic records, we will be able to develop and implement a secure ‘patient portal’ through which Albertans can access their own healthcare information, be better informed about their health status and treatments, and take an active, informed part in its management.
- Albertans want to be healthier – and accordingly, we will **accelerate our uptake of best-practices that promote wellness** while **improving access to mental health services** in the community and in the workplace.
- We will reduce the long-term health effects of childhood obesity and chronic disease. These health challenges are rapidly becoming the most significant drivers of healthcare costs, and the greatest threats to the financial sustainability of healthcare systems around the globe. Many of the injuries and chronic conditions that afflict Albertans today are preventable and we will use education and awareness to **promote wellness and positive quality of life** choices.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Improve Primary Healthcare

- Albertans need broader access to primary healthcare and emergency services. We will build a network of up to **140 Family Care Clinics** based on the pilots in Calgary, Edmonton and Slave Lake. These 'team-based' community health centres focus on local needs, and provide access to a range of services, all in one place – and will be open longer with 'user friendly' hours to reduce pressure on Emergency wards. Forty-four per cent of patients recently surveyed at an after-hours clinic indicated that they would have gone to the emergency room if the clinic weren't an option. Providing an alternative for non-emergency, but worrying medical issues is part of the solution. **Quicker response and better access will reduce emergency wait-times** and result in better patient outcomes.
- A new PC government will implement a **"Fast-track Emergency" model**, where those requiring standard or easily identifiable emergency treatments can be appropriately directed in a quicker screening process that results in faster treatment, and a faster return home.
- Palliative (or non-curative, quality-of-life) is an important option for terminally ill patients and those suffering from painful chronic conditions, as well as those wanting end-of-life care with dignity. We will **increase the availability of both palliative and hospice care options** through a multidisciplinary approach – one that ensures these services are available to Albertans on the ground and in their communities when they need them.
- We will encourage more doctors to specialize in family medicine and set up their practice in rural Alberta by providing **tuition refunds for students qualifying in family or community medicine** who commit to a contract to work in rural Alberta for a minimum of 10 years.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

BUILD a network of up to 140 Family Care Clinics that will be open longer, and have more 'user friendly' hours to reduce to the pressure on Emergency wards.

Focus on Health Promotion

- In Canada today, an average of only 5% of healthcare resources are spent on health promotion and disease prevention. It is critical we adjust the balance, given the growing evidence of the long-term and immediate benefits of supporting a healthier population through targeted programs and services. Research shows that participation in recreation and active living contributes to the physical mental, emotional, psychological and spiritual health of individuals.
- A new PC government **will promote healthy lifestyles and respect holistic and alternative approaches** to healing. In addition, we will continue to make progress in both the province-wide **Chronic Disease Management Strategy**, and **Mental Health Strategy**. This approach better connects patients through lasting relationships with their health care providers.
- For Albertans who suffer from Type 1 diabetes, a new PC government will ensure **cost-free access to insulin pumps** that will help them better manage their condition and improve their quality of life.
- The insulin pump program would complement initiatives recently announced to improve care and reduce costs for Albertans suffering with both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. As of July 1, Alberta Health and Wellness will pay the costs of a comprehensive range of supplies for insulin-dependent diabetics through the Alberta Blue Cross Seniors, Non-Group and Palliative Care Drug plans to a maximum \$600 per person per year.

- **Alternative medicine** plays an increasingly important role in preventative health, and needs to be considered in a holistic approach to wellness – especially in cases where naturopathic, homeopathic, chiropractic and other therapies help patients attain personal health goals. Qualified patients will be able to claim **up to \$500 per year** for these treatments starting in 2013.

Eliminate Waste

- Making healthcare more efficient and reallocating as much money as possible to frontline services continues to be our highest priority. **Finding cost efficiencies, duplication and savings in administration and overhead** will leave room to reinvest in increasing the number of doctors, nurses, and accessible timely services.
- The efficiencies realized through the work of Alberta Health Services have already resulted in **savings of over \$660 million per year**. A re-elected PC government would continue to build on these successes.

Provide Better Care for Seniors

*Albertans want more options as they age, and in this year's Throne Speech, Budget and Strategic Plan, we committed to **develop Continuing Care Centers** – a model that:*

- Allows seniors to age where they reside, together with their spouses, and near friends and family, with dignity and respect;
- Enhances the care capacity of every long-term and continuing care centre in Alberta, whether they are newly built facilities, or renovations and upgrades to existing ones;



- Integrates medical care capacity and 24-hour on-site Registered Nurses to ensure that residents have the resources and services they need.
- A new PC government will **increase the number of long-term care spaces by 1,000 per year** over the next five years and meet the needs of Alberta's aging population and changing demographic profile.

Promote Healthy Choices for Our Children

- A new PC government will work to **increase our children's knowledge about healthier eating and living options** – motivating change that can positively influence communities, individual families and lives.
- We will introduce **a refundable tax credit**, starting in 2013 (to a maximum of **\$500 per child per year**), for fees paid in that tax year related to the cost of registering children in a prescribed program of physical activity.
- We will encourage school communities to **adopt a comprehensive 'school health' approach** through increased levels of physical activity and a wellness-oriented physical education and health curriculum from elementary through high school.
- We will also make additional progress on the 10-year **Healthy Kids Alberta! Strategy**; promote the wellness of Alberta children aged 0-18; and support the *Healthy Alberta School Communities* partnership strategy.
- And, we will also **double the current funding support to amateur sports** organizations to \$20 million a year, enabling greater numbers of Alberta's children to get active and stay active while learning team work, leadership and social skills.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

INCREASE the speed at which treatments can be started, and potentially reduce the hospital trips by ambulance for Albertans in remote and smaller rural communities.

Improve Access for Rural, Aboriginal and Remote Communities

- A new PC government, as a centrepiece of its integrated approach to emergency health care services in rural and remote communities, will provide **new funding of \$10 million a year to STARS**, the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service, for expansion of its operations in Alberta, including its 24 hour Emergency Link Centre. STARS personifies innovation, dedication and ingenuity in health care, operating bases in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. It delivers a comprehensive, responsive system that is second to none – a vital lifeline for rapid, highly specialized emergency medical transport that increases Albertans' chances of survival and prospects for recovery in the face of critical injuries, accidents and emergency medical events like heart attacks and spinal cord injuries,
- We will also actively investigate and develop real-time, **virtual or distance-delivery health care** through the use of existing technologies, leveraging Alberta's Super-Net capacity and our commitment to expand high-speed internet access throughout the province.
- Pilots being tested elsewhere show real potential in enabling healthcare providers to consult with patients and colleagues via real-time video links and deliver diagnoses and advise on the need for medical interventions. This initiative will increase the speed at which treatments can be started, and **reduce the disruption and upset of hospital trips** by ambulance for Albertans in remote and smaller rural communities, as well as those receiving home-care, long-term and continuing care.



Reaching Our Full Potential: Discovery, Innovation, and Post- Secondary Education

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Today's global, advanced economies are built on a foundation of knowledge and resources. In Alberta we are blessed with both – but we can also do better at realizing our untapped potential.

- A new PC government will strengthen post-secondary education. We will **attract the world's top talent** to come and work and live in Alberta and be a part of our competitive and prosperous economy.
- We will **foster a rich innovation and research culture** that attracts investment and encourages students to come to Alberta, and for Alberta's students to go abroad through a range of international initiatives.
- Alberta's universities, colleges and technical institutes are world leaders, with innovative programming, excellent teaching, and ground-breaking research. From solving the environmental issues associated with oil sands development, to treatments for diabetes and advancements in nanotechnology – we have been and continue to be leaders in innovation.
- Our commitment and track record are clear – we will continue to fund research that will make a difference in people's lives. And we'll continue to help entrepreneurs get great ideas off the ground and into the marketplace.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Provide New Grants, Improve Student Aid and Student Loans

- In Budget 2012, your PC government introduced **changes to the student aid program** that will directly and significantly benefit provincial post-secondary students. Changes to the program include the introduction of a flat-rate contribution of \$1,500 (reduced to zero for single parents); elimination of savings, RRSP, part-time earnings or parental contributions in determining loan eligibility; and new grants designed to encourage students to graduate and remain in Alberta. The government also allocated \$274 million to the student loan program so that any student who qualifies for student loans will be provided with funding.
- **New Completion Grants** will replace the previous remission program, designed to ease a student's debt load on graduation. They will provide students who have loans with grants of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 upon graduation. In addition, a **new Retention Grant** will provide graduates who work in Alberta for three years in essential occupations with an additional \$1,000.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

INTRODUCE changes to the student aid program that will directly and significantly benefit Alberta's post-secondary students.

Improve Access to Post-Secondary Education

- A new PC government will **encourage collaboration between institutions**, especially programs and partnerships that allow students studying at one of our colleges to stay in their home community, but receive a degree from one of our universities. Some of these partnerships are already in place, like the one between Mount Royal University and Medicine Hat College for delivery of MRU's business degree program. The province will also provide new financial resources to expand access to locally-based medical training through a pilot project at the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge, and the Rural Clerkship residency training program.
- We will also **support Aboriginal people in achieving their post-secondary goals**, by empowering our post-secondary institutions to work with Aboriginal communities to create the "communities of support" necessary to facilitate Aboriginal post-secondary success.
- We will find **mechanisms to achieve a more 'seamless transition'** from Alberta high schools, certificate and diploma programs to Alberta degree programs. This initiative will include the opportunity for high school students to earn credits through apprenticeship and trades courses.
- We will also **improve access to education in remote and rural communities through a new bursary program** that will make it easier for students from these communities to more fully participate in post-secondary education in Alberta.
- We will create a program of **Externships** where students receive competitive work-experience opportunities facilitated through **placements in multilateral organizations and agencies** – placements that allow recent Alberta graduates to jumpstart their careers and establish global networks.

- A new PC government will enhance post-secondary facilities across the province through **five expansion projects and a new three-year capital funding commitment**. Alberta's post-secondary institutions have strong and innovative visions for the future and we are proud to support that vision. This promise represents a real investment that will support students for years to come.

Increase Private-Sector Support

- A new PC government will complement market forces and facilitate business investment, **sensible tax incentives, investment promotion and matching grant programs**. In turn, the business community will directly benefit from participation and partnership through an increased number of highly skilled graduates, apprentices, engineers and trades-people.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

CONDUCT a thorough review of current programs in research and innovation, and improve Alberta's 'discovery potential'.

A new PC government will:

- Work collaboratively with the business community to identify the right incentives to **foster increased private sector involvement and investment** in post-secondary education.
- **Facilitate initiatives across a range of academic and business sectors** – directed at efforts to find solutions to provincial, national and global problems, and the identification of wealth creation opportunities for Alberta (based on 20 and 50-year outlooks).
- Position post-secondary institutions and programs as integral elements and contributors to our provincial vision and economic strategy.

Promote Excellence in Innovation and Research

- A new PC government will conduct a thorough **review of current programs in research and innovation**, and improve Alberta's 'discovery potential'.
- The review will **examine each of the Alberta Innovates Corporations** to find areas of greater efficiency. We will also develop a more coordinated approach to innovation, research and discovery supports – at polytechnics and universities, within government, and in the private sector – to **optimize how resources and talents are employed**.

The end result for Albertans is to 'punch above our weight' in research, discovery and innovation to support a thoughtful and well-informed economic strategy.



Reaching Our Full Potential: Alberta's K-12 Education System

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Every Albertan should have the opportunity to benefit from a leading-edge education, from kindergarten to the highest levels of post-secondary education. Alison Redford's government has been committed to ensuring all Alberta students, have the opportunity to expand their education.

- Alberta's education system is recognized as one of the best in the world. Our students continually outperform their peers – both in Canada and globally – on international exams. Other school jurisdictions look to Alberta as a leader.
- There are 600,000 children in Alberta's school system, and we want each of them to graduate with ethical citizenship, critical thinking and entrepreneurial spirit.
- Our government is committed to education, and our intention is to continue to build on Alberta's world-class education system. Premier Redford **delivered on our commitment to an additional \$107 million** in funding to the school system. This resulted in the **hiring of 623 teachers, 397 education assistants and support staff**, plus the purchase of materials, technology, and classroom resources. These dollars are making a difference every day, in every classroom, and will continue to be directed where they are most beneficial to our students.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Amend the Education Act

The updated Act will emphasize that education is the shared responsibility of all partners in education. There is a diverse range of learning environments and the changes will outline the importance of learning environments being welcoming, caring, and respectful.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EDUCATION ACT (BILL 2) INCLUDE:

Access to education

- Bases residency on the residence of the student rather than where the student’s parent(s) live, which recognizes the increasingly mobile nature of our society.
- Increases the age of access to 21, allowing students more time to graduate and aligning Alberta with the majority of other provinces and jurisdictions.
- Raises the age of compulsory attendance to 17 from 16 years to encourage more students to complete their high school education.

**A NEW ALISON REDFORD
GOVERNMENT WILL:**

*INCREASE the transparency,
clarity and accountability
of the education system
providing better information
to stakeholders.*

Student success and opportunities for learning

- Emphasizes the importance of welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments by defining bullying and providing more direction for boards.
- Requires boards to develop a student code of conduct that addresses bullying behaviour, whether or not it occurs within a school building, during the school day or by electronic means.
- Confirms the Government of Alberta’s commitment to a publicly funded education system that provides a choice of educational opportunities to students.
- Describes the provision of specialized supports and services, recognizing that the needs of all students will be met within a single inclusive education system.
- Enables more flexible learning opportunities and supports for students by providing school boards with natural person powers. Natural person powers give boards the discretion to fulfill their responsibilities to the community within the limits placed on what they cannot do instead of what they can do.

Governance and collaboration

- Emphasizes the partnership roles and responsibilities of students, parents, school boards and trustees.
- Provides the Minister of Education with the authority to establish a *Student Advisory Council* so that the student voice can be heard more directly.
- Changes procedural requirements for the establishment of separate school districts, improving the transparency of the process and providing opportunities for public input.
- Allows separate school electors the choice of which school board to vote for or run as trustee in, improving the democratic process while protecting minority denominational constitutional rights.

- Provides criteria around the establishment of charter schools, expands who may establish them, and provides for regulations to establish criteria by which a charter may be issued on a continuing basis.
- Compels schools boards to collaborate with post-secondary institutions and the community to enable smooth transitions for students from high school to post-secondary education.

Administrative and financial responsibility

- Requires boards to establish an audit committee with public members, highlighting the importance of partnerships and collaboration.
- Allows boards to appoint a superintendent without the prior approval of the Minister of Education.
- Removes specific requirements related to the transportation of students, allowing boards to be more responsive to the needs of their community when determining how to best provide safe and appropriate transportation to their students.
- Allows school boards to charge student fees in accordance with regulations.
- Allows the Minister of Education to close a private school where the financial administration of the school is unstable and threatens student learning.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

RAISE the age of compulsory attendance to 17 from 16 years to encourage more students to complete their high school education.

Our 10-Point Action Plan

A new PC government will implement a 10-point action plan in the opening months of a new mandate.

Our **10-point action plan** will:

- 1** Create a **stronger voice for parents** in the education system to supplement the work of school councils. Working with the Alberta School Councils' Association, new initiatives will strengthen parental input, and new materials will support the department's online interaction with parents.
- 2** **Increase the transparency, clarity and accountability of the education system** by providing better information to stakeholders. More efficient and relevant reporting from school boards will help identify information and ways to present it that are useful for Albertans
- 3** Create **more opportunities for students to earn credits** in high school and post-secondary to help them be successful in their chosen career, and provide better 'bridging' to those career goals. A **provincial dual credit strategy** will be developed to assist school boards in linking programs. Separately, a new project will provide **apprenticeship training to teachers** so they are better equipped to teach advanced dual credit courses in Career and Technology Studies.
- 4** **Reduce the administrative burden** for established, effective charter schools to increase their focus on students, teaching and performance.
- 5** **Reduce travel time** for students who spend more than one hour on a bus. A trial project in one school division will identify bus route efficiencies and improve transportation services. Another trial will look at enabling students to better use technology when they travel.

- 6 **Update school design** to better support communities when we build new schools. New school design specifications will better **accommodate health-related services, community sports programs, and wheelchair access.**
- 7 Coordinate the building of playgrounds, and **develop a better process for building recreation** to enable our children to be active sooner.
- 8 **Support First Nations students** by working more closely with the federal government. Our focus will be on enhancing literacy and numeracy skills, with a focus on students in Northland and band schools adjacent to Northlands.
- 9 **Review provincial achievement tests** to find better ways to understand how students are doing, and to use that knowledge to **improve students' success.** The review will be launched by spring 2012, and provincial tests will continue for students in grades 3, 6 and 9 until the review is complete and any resulting changes are made.
- 10 **Review the benefits of full-day kindergarten** and identify operational issues to better understand the implications of a possible future programming change.



After School Recreation Strategy

- A new PC government will implement a province-wide ‘**After School Recreation Strategy**’. The ‘After School Recreation Strategy’ is supported by evidence that unsupervised children, between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m., are more vulnerable to anti-social and other behaviours that lead them into trouble with the law. We would spend an estimated \$1.5 million to develop the program, with an **ongoing operational budget of between \$3 and \$5 million per year**. Funding for the program would come from the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Update Alberta’s Curriculum

- A new PC government will focus on updating Alberta’s Curriculum. **Curriculum Redesign** is an opportunity to review today’s curriculum and the process by which it’s developed, to ensure that it remains relevant and forward-reaching. The redesigned curriculum will **respond to needs of today’s globally connected young minds**. Increasingly, sophisticated technologies must be part of our approach to support the kinds of learning experiences that challenge and engage today’s young learners – positioning them to reach their full potential.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

BUILD an additional 50 new schools and renovate 70 more over the next 4 years in the communities that need them most.

The outcomes of *Curriculum Redesign* will be:

- **Efficiencies** in curriculum development;
- **Enhanced access** to curriculum, supported by technology;
- Supportive, flexible, paced and **student-centred learning**;
- A **balanced approach to assessment**; and
- **Inclusiveness** for all learners.

Add New and Modernized Schools

- A new PC government will **build an additional 50 new schools and renovate 70 more** over the next 4 years in the communities that need them most – those experiencing tremendous growth pressures like Fort McMurray, Airdrie, Grande Prairie, Okotoks, Leduc, Beaumont, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Grimshaw, as well as urban centres like Edmonton and Calgary. Because we know school boards know their jurisdictions best, and are most sensitive to their communities, we will determine specifically which communities are most in need when we hear from the school boards regarding their priorities.

Implement a Teacher’s Tax Credit

- A new PC government will also introduce a new Teacher Tax Credit of up to \$500 a year. Every teacher goes above and beyond for students in their classrooms, and this tax credit will **recognize the exceptional contributions of Alberta teachers**, who exceed the requirements of the job, both in terms of contributing time and financial resources – like stepping in to buy lunch for a student who has forgotten theirs at home, or building a learning environment in the classroom that is more personal, and that helps children learn and experience a happy environment.



Reaching Our Full Potential: Environment and Water

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Clean air, land and water are the foundations for a high quality of life, a competitive economy and vibrant communities. Our promise is to continue to succeed, and rise to the challenge of meeting Albertans' expectations.

- An Alison Redford government will protect and manage the province's air, land, and water. We have consistently worked to be a leader in sustainable development and environmental management and protection – including the adoption of a world-leading, outcomes-based cumulative effects management framework and system.
- Moving forward, we will focus on the development of a 25 or 40-year vision that secures Alberta's place as a global environmental leader and enables sustainable economic and population growth.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Support Conservation and Best-In-Class Monitoring

- A new PC government will begin the final stage consultation on actions under the **Water for Life Strategy**, and move forward with stakeholders and recognized experts. No further changes will be made until full and inclusive consultations have been completed.
- We will deliver a credible, “**open source**” **information system** on science-based environmental indicators, as outlined in Budget 2012, and will deliver as part of the Strategic Plan.
- We will continue to develop a **best-in-class cumulative effects management system** – one that works to attain desirable economic, social and environmental outcomes through the implementation of regional plans, place-based plans and other regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

- We will design an **incentive system to encourage individual action on energy efficiency**, including a review of how provincial micro-generation regulations can be improved to allow more homeowners, farmers and small businesses to participate.
- In collaboration with Municipal Affairs, we will also work on the **development and implementation of water conservation and management strategies**, reviewing and amending, by the end of 2012, relevant building and construction regulations to encourage greater use of water conservation and recycling technologies, and approaches in residential and commercial development and redevelopment.

Improve Regulatory Integrity

- As committed to in Budget 2012 and the Strategic Plan, we will **implement the Regulatory Enhancement Task Force recommendations**, including the creation of a single regulator for upstream oil and gas, and coal. This new model will maintain the integrity of environmental protection and management in Alberta through a better, more consistent, efficient, and effective regulatory regime.
- Work with the federal government to develop sensible and pro-consumer future coal-fired regulations that support the common goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

WORK to become a world-leader in sustainable development and environmental management and protection.

Create a Land Reclamation Framework

- Alberta is home to one of the most beautiful landscapes in the country. A new PC government will work with oil sands developers to create a **Land Reclamation Framework**. The framework would **expedite reclamation strategies, as well as the re-use and re-commissioning of pipelines**. This would ensure that Alberta's landscape is preserved without handicapping our economic growth.





Reaching Our Full Potential: Energy – Innovation, Markets and Sustainability

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Alberta has a wealth of hydrocarbon resources with the potential to meet global demand for several generations. If production and consumption continued at current rates, Alberta's oil sands could produce energy resources for the next 300 years. This is the basis for much of Alberta's, and a significant proportion of Canada's economic engine. It represents the 'endowment' that builds hospitals, funds health care, and provides world-class education for our children.

A resource this valuable requires capable and experienced management. The PC Party has proven leadership and direction. This government has successfully managed this billion-dollar resource. And it is this government who can best deliver to Albertans today and into the future.

Premier Redford's Canadian Energy Strategy

Much of Canada's success is dependent upon Alberta's position as a global energy supplier. Premier Redford's single focus on responsible government led her to advocate for a national dialogue to encourage cooperation in energy. The *Canadian Energy Strategy* will help provinces and territories understand how all of Canada benefits from resources in Alberta.

WHY A CANADIAN ENERGY STRATEGY?

Few countries are as fortunate as Canada. We have been blessed with vast natural resources and we have built the technology to harness them. **A long-term view to responsibly develop our resources benefits all Canadians.** The *Canadian Energy Strategy* is the forward-looking plan that includes:

- **Integrated energy systems, sustainability, and conservation** – systematic and credible monitoring of the cumulative impacts of existing and future development, and facilitating development of renewable energies.

- **Technology and innovation** – increasing our focus on creating cleaner energy technologies, employing energy-smart and sustainable initiatives, and balancing the economic and environmental impacts of the energy we produce and consume today, and into the future.
- **Delivering energy to people** – first, by securing access to new markets with pipeline and electricity infrastructure, and streamlining regulatory processes; and second, enabling full and active participation of Canada’s provinces and territories in international energy discussions and multilateral agreements.

Canada’s provinces and territories, each with their own resources and energy systems in place, are coming together to **develop a sustainable energy roadmap based on common goals and priorities**. As Albertans, we will stand as global leaders in energy – and Canada is well-positioned to set high, yet sustainable standards for energy management, environmental stewardship, and innovation.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program

- The recently introduced **Joint Oil Sands Monitoring Program** is a major step forward, both in the quality and effectiveness of environmental monitoring and protection – and in the coordination and streamlining of regulatory oversight by two levels of government. The program will collect and publish data related to the environmental impact of oil sands development.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

SUPPORT the Keystone XL and Northern Gateway pipelines and continue to work strategically to bring Alberta products to market.

Launch AOSTRA-2

- A new Alison Redford government would replicate the success of the *Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority (AOSTRA)* model. AOSTRA was a cooperative and jointly funded science and technology initiative created in the 1970’s to tackle the technology challenges inherent in oil sands extraction.
- We would work with industry to **launch “AOSTRA-2”** to focus in the coming decade on the sustainability, environmental, and emissions-related technology challenges of today – encouraging innovation, the development of our resources, and expanding our economy in ways that would have been impossible without joint action, support, and provincial leadership.

Provide New Transportation Options

- Securing expanded pipeline capacity to Eastern Canada, and exploring new partnerships with other provinces is a key to creating options and reducing Alberta’s exposure to price volatility, transportation bottle-necks, and global supply and demand fluctuations.
- Premier Redford has made her **support for the Keystone XL and Northern Gateway** pipelines clear. A re-elected Redford government will continue to work strategically in Alberta’s interests to build the relationships that will ensure the province’s industry is well positioned, and able to capitalize on new and expanded opportunities to bring Alberta products to market.

Improve Temporary Foreign Worker Program

- The PC party is committed to working with our federal counterparts to **improve the temporary foreign worker program**. The program has been effective in reducing of labour shortages as the province enters another period of economic expansion and activity. A re-elected Alison Redford government would **ensure that the program continues to grow** and remains supportive of Alberta’s businesses and the diverse industries that require skilled labour in the coming decade.



Reaching Our Full Potential: Agriculture and Rural Development

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Rural Alberta is at the forefront of cutting-edge agriculture and agri-food production. As world population increases our ability to grow and export food makes rural Alberta and our proud agriculture industry more important than ever – contributing to our vision and goal of all Albertans realizing their full potential.

- Our continued success and prosperity require agriculture and rural development policies that capitalize on our resources, respect the environment, and make use of the latest technologies to keep Alberta one step ahead.
- Young leaders are vital to building our resources and know how. To this end, Alison Redford's government announced the formation of a Council to provide advice on engaging the next generation of agricultural, food and rural entrepreneurs. The **Next Generation Advisory Council** will build strategic alliances between representatives from government, industry and the community.
- Members of the council, aged 18-39, selected based on their interests and qualifications – represent various sectors including media, technology, post-secondary education, processing, rural small business, agricultural organizations, new entrants, non-profit organizations and primary production. They will provide advice to the minister on communications, coordination and enhancement of programs, policy solutions, leadership and mentorship.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Position Alberta as a Preferred Supplier to Global Markets

The world's population is at 7 billion and in the next 30 years, it will climb to 9 billion. Global stability will depend on the ability of a handful of countries to deliver supplies to an increasingly hungry planet. Alberta is well positioned to meet the national and international demand for our goods and services. The PC party is committed to forging stronger relationships with key partners to expand market access and meet the demand for Alberta's products.

A new PC government will:

- **Secure greater market access for Alberta's producers** – especially in evolving 'high-value' high-growth markets in Asia and establish Alberta producers as **long-term preferred global suppliers to consumers worldwide**.
- Make the **suite of Business Risk Management programs**, products and tools, simple, bankable and predictable – providing greater stability and certainty to new entrants to agriculture.
- Examine the feasibility of creating a **special purpose endowment for the agricultural, forestry and bio-technologies sectors**, to support both existing activities of Alberta Innovates – Bio-solutions, and innovation in the agriculture sector. Funding for this new endowment would come from permanent new investment income generated from a growing Heritage Fund.
- Alberta should be a leader in advances in agriculture, and we need to explore new avenues to advance agricultural and bio-technologies, and sustainably raise production capacity.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

SECURE greater market access for Alberta's producers – especially in evolving 'high-value' high-growth markets in Asia.

Expand Access to Local and Niche Markets

Increasingly, health-conscious consumers want specialized products that meet their concerns and lifestyle choices and our province can meet these needs. Producers need a **responsive and innovative partner in government**, and a re-elected Alison Redford government will:

- **Shore up successful programs** – such as AVAC (a private non-profit that invests in agri-business) and the *Alberta Capital Finance Authority* – to finance start-ups, help with marketing and deliver technology solutions that work for local and global markets.
- Design incentives to encourage energy efficiency and sustainability, including specific programs for the agriculture and food-processing sectors. We will use different models, like public-private partnerships, that will **capitalize on bio-waste and geo-thermal energy opportunities**.
- Identify creative solutions that will **ease logistical bottlenecks** arising from bad weather and the vast distances between producers and markets.
- **Ensure that government regulation is flexible** and allows for the production and sale of non-commodity goods.
- Create financial mechanisms that will allow for intergenerational transfers, or transfer to new entrants – **making entry into agriculture easier for young people**.

Support Rural Development

- A new PC government will **respect the property rights of landowners and leaseholders** – including all existing rights to compensation, plus the right to compensation for loss of value caused by any new environmental restrictions on current use.
- We will also **enhance the framework and funding for Agriculture Societies, the cultural fabric of many rural communities** – which operate programs and services that promote agriculture activities and rural development. They should be rewarded for being 'good community citizens', and for taking on important initiatives such as farm safety and promoting volunteerism.

- We will **continue our work on the SuperNet**. The SuperNet is a broadband fibre-optic network linking schools, libraries and government offices throughout the province to the Internet. In fact, Alberta is the only province in Canada to have such a system. Through the 'Final Mile' initiative, we will complete the system, expand broadband capacity, and **achieve seamless Internet connectivity** to rural Alberta, creating a thriving and competitive marketplace.
- We will facilitate post secondary education opportunities in rural communities. This will be achieved by providing a **bursary program for students** from rural and remote communities to make it easier for them to participate in post-secondary education.
- If re-elected, we will **encourage collaboration between institutions**, especially programs and partnerships that allow students studying at one of our colleges to stay in their home community, but

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

*RESPECT the property rights
of landowners and
leaseholders – including
all existing rights
to compensation.*

receive a degree from one of our universities. Some of these partnerships are already in place, like the one between Mount Royal University and Medicine Hat College for delivery of MRU's business degree program. The province will also provide new financial resources to **expand access to locally-based medical training** through a pilot project at the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge, and the Rural Clerkship residency training program.

It is critical that individuals and families increasingly see the option of choosing life in rural communities as both attractive and viable.

Improve Healthcare Access in Rural and Remote Communities

- A new PC government, as a centrepiece of its integrated approach to emergency health care services in rural and remote communities, will provide **new funding of \$10 million a year to STARS**, the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service, for expansion of its operations in Alberta, including its 24 hour Emergency Link Centre. STARS personifies innovation, dedication and ingenuity in health care, operating bases in Calgary, Edmonton and Grande Prairie. It delivers a comprehensive, responsive system that is second to none – a vital lifeline for rapid, highly specialized emergency medical transport that increases Albertans' chances of survival and prospects for recovery in the face of critical injuries, accidents and emergency medical events like heart attacks and spinal cord injuries,
- We will also actively investigate and develop real-time, **virtual, or distance-delivery health care** through the use of existing technologies, leveraging Alberta's Super-Net capacity and our commitment to expand high-speed internet access throughout the province.
- Pilots being tested elsewhere show real potential in enabling healthcare providers to consult with patients and colleagues via real-time video links and deliver diagnoses and advise on the need for medical interventions. This initiative will increase the speed at which treatments can be started, and **reduce the disruption and upset of hospital trips** by ambulance for Albertans in remote and smaller rural communities, as well as those receiving home-care, long-term and continuing care.



Reaching Our Full Potential: Seniors and Vulnerable Albertans

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Seniors

We recognize the challenges our province will face over the next decade with the increasing seniors population – and we will make sure that we have the right programs in place to support the seniors who built this great province.

- We will work with contracted service providers to support and maintain a sustainable workforce that provides the highest quality services for Alberta's seniors, and Albertans with disabilities.
- Budget 2012 included \$36 million for a **\$1,500 lump sum and 5% wage increase for agency staff**. \$78 million has also been budgeted for 2013 and \$113 million is budgeted for 2014 to further support the contracted agency workforce.
- We want to do everything we can to ensure that seniors and vulnerable Albertans can live in their homes and stay in their communities as long as possible. When they can no longer live independently, we are committed to providing options for them to live in their communities, close to family and friends.
- As a result of Budget 2012, seniors and persons with disabilities in six Alberta communities will benefit from more than **500 new affordable supportive living and 30 long-term care spaces** in Calgary, Okotoks, Strathmore, Edmonton, Villeneuve and Olds, identified by Alberta Health Services as having the greatest need for additional spaces and services.

Vulnerable Albertans

The PC party is committed to improving the opportunities, community inclusion and quality of life for vulnerable Albertans.

- **Community agencies** contracted by the Alberta government to provide services to vulnerable Albertans will benefit from **increased funding** over the next three years to help them recruit and retain staff.
- Staff in contracted agencies play a pivotal role supporting adults with disabilities in community and home-like settings, and this new funding will help contracted agencies attract and retain qualified staff so that our most vulnerable Albertans get the excellent support they deserve.
- This year, agencies contracted by *Seniors and Human Services* received an additional **\$62 million – the equivalent of a five per cent wage increase** and a \$1,500 lump sum payment for an estimated **17,000 agency workers**.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

*COMMIT to providing seniors
with the recognition, supports
and services they need.*

- In Budget 2012, we also announced a **\$400 per month increase in the maximum monthly living allowance** for about 46,000 Albertans who use the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped program.
- We also strengthened the **Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped** (AISH) program. The **thresholds for the employment income exemptions will double**, from \$400 to \$800 per month for single AISH clients and from \$975 to \$1,950 per month for AISH clients with cohabiting partners or dependent children. Doubling the employment income exemptions for AISH clients will come into effect April 1. About 17 per cent of AISH clients and/or their cohabiting partners (more than 7,500 households) report some form of employment income.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Improve the Quality of Life for Seniors

The PC Party is committed to providing seniors with the recognition, supports and services they need.

- A new PC government will implement our **Elder Abuse Strategy** to focus efforts on awareness and prevention of elder abuse – as well as the new provision under the Protection for Persons in Care Act – to improve safeguards for Albertans receiving government funded care and support services;
- Collaborating with Health & Wellness, we will establish a **targeted seniors' advocacy component within the Office of the Health Advocate**.
- We will also **build a single point of entry** to all seniors housing and health services and programs. A portal, built into the ministry's website, would include information such as wait times to get into a supportive living, continuing or long-term care facility, as well as information on accommodation costs and services.

The commitments we have made, which are part of Premier's Redford's business plan going forward include:

- A **property tax deferral program** to assist seniors with the rising costs of home ownership;
- The **Aging Population Policy Framework** to help government and community organizations make sound decision on programs and services for seniors.
- A fully-refundable **Seniors Activity Tax Credit of up to \$500 per year**, supporting seniors wanting to pursue more active lifestyles, and a better quality of life through participating in the community, or engaging in a wide range of social, artistic, crafts and physical activities.

Address the Continuing Care Needs of Alberta's Seniors

- We have also committed to increase the number of long-term care spaces by 1,000 per year over the next five years, achieving significant progress toward meeting the needs of Alberta's aging population and changing demographic profile. This is part of our approach to enable seniors to stay in their homes as long as possible.

Engage Expertise in the Community

There are notable shifts toward new models or patterns of retirement, including 'episodic' and 'part-time' – where older Albertans are anxious to remain connected with their communities, and find opportunities in which to remain engaged, active and healthy – while 'giving something back' in a way that improves the welfare and prospects of future generations.

- To capitalize on these trends, a new PC government will bring experienced professionals into the classroom, to be an active part of teaching 'best practices' and career preparation skills to high-school students – mentoring and leading-by-example.
- As part of its next mandate, a new PC government will work with our counterparts in the federal government to identify improved policy and tax **frameworks that address, reduce or eliminate 'disincentives' to continued employment** for Albertans who would prefer not to retire, but who are financially discouraged from doing so due to existing claw-backs, thresholds and benefit provisions.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

***INCREASE** the number of long-term care spaces by 1,000 per year over the next five years.*

Provide Albertans the Option to "Age in the Right Place"

- Under Premier Redford's leadership, Alberta has been moving aggressively toward **a more client-focused continuing care system**. This is an approach that puts health and personal care needs first – and promotes increased choice of where to receive these services.
- Encouraging seniors and those with disabilities to "age in place" can improve their quality of life and life expectancy. But we want to go one step further so that **Albertans can "age in the right place"**.



Reaching Our Full Potential: Human Services, Employment and Immigration

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

A successful and vibrant Alberta means engaging Albertans in every aspect of our economic, social and cultural life. To provide sustainable programs, Alberta needs sound financial planning, a long-term vision and disciplined management of our resources.

- Budget 2012 allocated 75% of its funding to programs in health, education and human services without raising taxes. A re-elected Alison Redford government would continue to reflect this philosophy in the operation and development of quality programs and services that support the province's economy and growth.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Increase Child Care Subsidies

- Since Alison Redford was elected premier, the government has provided substantial support for Albertan families. In Budget 2012, **more than 9,000 Alberta families have new or increased funding** to offset childcare under the changes to the Provincial Child Care Subsidy program. That is the approach a re-elected PC government will continue to deliver to Albertans.
- Effective April 1, 2012, the income threshold for child care subsidy increased from \$35,100 to \$50,000. This means Alberta families, making a combined household income of \$50,000 or less will be eligible to receive the maximum subsidy rate, to help offset the cost of using a licensed or approved child care program.

Recruit Foreign Temporary Workers

*The PC party recognizes that labour shortages slow economic growth in the province. If re-elected, we will **improve the temporary worker and permanent immigration programs** to meet the needs of every sector of the economy.*

- We will act to **encourage the federal government to significantly increase the quota, or completely remove the cap** that Alberta is allowed under the *National Immigrant Nominee Program*. Industry specific nominees will allow the province to fast track workers in areas they are needed the most.
- Foreign **qualification recognition** has improved in more than thirty skilled labour force areas, and processes developed in conjunction with professional organizations have demonstrably reduced the time it takes for people to begin working in their area of expertise. A further 13 projects have increased newcomers' connections to employment programs, language training, and mentorship opportunities to get them started, and position them for success.

Protect Alberta's First Responders

- In support of the men and women who risk their lives every day to make Alberta a better and safer place, a new PC government will act to protect those who protect us, and immediately propose legislation to **add Post Traumatic Stress Disorder coverage** to the list of insured Workers' Compensation Board injuries and illnesses for Alberta's first responders.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

IMPROVE the temporary worker and permanent immigration programs to meet the needs of every sector of the economy.

Advocate for Children and Youth

- Because of the vital importance of acting decisively to protect vulnerable children and families, a new PC government will **ensure that the Ministry of Human Services works with the newly created Child and Youth Advocate Office** of the Legislature.
- We will also continue to **develop prevention and early intervention services**, including early childhood development, parenting programs, and programs geared toward preventing domestic violence.
- As part of the \$53 million increase to Child Intervention Services funding in this year's budget, **30 new child intervention positions were created to strengthen support for frontline caseworkers**. This move will help assure better outcomes for at-risk children, youth and families.

Expand Alberta's Aboriginal Workforce Strategy

The PC party is strongly committed to Alberta's Aboriginal peoples and expanding their workforce engagement.

- We have identified strategic priorities in the areas of collaboration, coordination, education and learning, urban communities, communication, raising awareness and capacity building. To support real, sustainable gains, the government, under the leadership of Alison Redford, was developing a **comprehensive Aboriginal Workforce Strategy**.

- Part of the **Aboriginal Workforce Strategy** is a plan to work closely with the province's First Nations, Métis and the federal government to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in program delivery coordination across Ministries. This includes efforts to ensure that educational institutions achieve better outcomes in K-12 and post-secondary.
- We would also **support the transition** to urban centres from reserves, settlements, and remote communities – whether for **employment, education and training or transition between schools, employers and workplaces**. We will work to ensure that Aboriginal Albertans have access to the skills training, information and tools they need to capture opportunities.

Amend Alberta's Labour Legislation

A new PC government will introduce a '**Paycheque Protection, Transparency and Freedom to Choose' Act** – making it mandatory for trade unions to:

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

FOCUS on a 5-year plan to eliminate child poverty and a 10-year plan to reduce overall poverty.

- Provide existing and prospective members with annual financial statements that summarize and disclose how dues were spent in the previous year; and
- Give members the ability to 'opt-out' of the proportion of union dues that fund activities unrelated to collective bargaining and grievance administration.

We will also enact **Amendments to the Labour Code** that:

- Close the 'frivolous lawsuit loophole'.
 - Ban the imposition of fines against members who do work for non-union employers or employers with a non-signatory union.
- Enable parties to negotiate single collective agreements for all workers of a company or project, rather than separate agreements for each trade group.

Implement a 10-Year Poverty Reduction Plan

- A new PC government is committed to strengthening supports for Albertans in their time of need. Our Plan for Poverty Reduction will focus on **a 5-year plan to eliminate child poverty and a 10-year plan to reduce overall poverty**. This community-led initiative will result in equality of access to the economy, better health for the impoverished in our community, stronger families, safer communities and increased civic participation.
- There are significant economic benefits to reducing poverty beyond the positive social impact for those immediately affected. Children raised in poverty are far more likely to have long term health implications and a difficult time in school, which is why early intervention is vital.
- Putting the department of Human Services through the Results Based Budgeting initiative will result in savings that will be directed to the Plan, which will build on Alberta's Social Policy Framework, with consultations starting in May of this year.



Reaching Our Full Potential: Culture and Community Development

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Premier Redford has worked hard to ensure that Albertans have the opportunity to share and participate in the rich cultural fabric of the province and its people. Our vision has consistently been to position Alberta as a place where we celebrate our heritage, embrace a unique sense of belonging and pride, and work together in building healthy communities.

This would not be possible without the incredible contributions of Alberta's artists, writers, publishers, community, non-profit and volunteer-based organizations, and all those who take up the challenges and opportunities Alberta has to offer. If re-elected, we will continue to work on the following core elements:

Support for Alberta's Non-Profit/Voluntary Sector

- Premier Redford believes in the importance of Alberta's vibrant non-profit/voluntary sector and actively supports its work through targeted programs and capacity building initiatives.
- **Financial support for community organizations, non-profit organizations and public-use facilities** has been delivered through a diverse range of programs and grants, including the **Community Spirit Program**, the **Community Initiatives Program** and the **Community Facility Enhancement Program**.

Promote Fairness, Access, and Inclusion

- The PC party supports human rights, fairness, and inclusion by **promoting the awareness and understanding** of Alberta's human rights legislation, and offering support to resolve and **adjudicate human rights complaints** through the *Alberta Human Rights Commission*.
- The *Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund* provides financial **support to community organizations and public institutions, including schools and post-secondary institutions**, for initiatives that foster equality, reduce discrimination and racism, remove organizational barriers and increase community capacity to build inclusive organizations and communities.

We are committed to giving Albertans every chance to share and participate in the rich cultural fabric of the province. Vibrant arts communities and cultural organizations make Alberta stronger.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

The Spirit of Alberta Policy

The Spirit of Alberta cultural policy has four objectives:

- 1 That Albertans, no matter where they live, or their level of income, have **access to a range of cultural activities**;
- 2 That communities have the **capacity to support cultural activities** and endeavours;
- 3 That artists and creators are able to strive toward excellence; and
- 4 That government policy encourages the cultural industry's capacity, sustainability, and development.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

*SUPPORT initiatives
that help to ensure that
our province's heritage
is valued, shared,
preserved and accessible
to all.*

Collaborate on Long-Term Sustainability

A new PC government will work with organizations to **develop a long-term plan** for the sector. The plan will:

- Recognize the **link between culture and the social and economic wellbeing** of Albertans;
 - Support the **development of creative clusters** and emerging cultural scenes – from Rosebud to Grand Prairie – demonstrating that local arts and culture programs are not confined to Alberta's largest cities;
 - Look at current efforts to promote arts and culture activities with a view to understanding how they might be leveraged regionally, nationally and internationally; and
- Consider the best mechanisms, incentives and approaches that would provide greater **long-term sustainability, certainty and stability** for the sector – including the development of business risk management programs and tools to support skills development and greater stability and certainty.
 - We will not only work with local governments to **explore innovative solutions to keeping public libraries viable and responsive to their communities**, including the designation of public libraries as multi-use facilities and 'community hubs' – but return responsibility for libraries back to this ministry.
 - We are also committed to **increasing the allocation to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts** by \$10 million a year starting in 2013/14.

Celebrate Alberta's Heritage

- We are growing and we are modernizing. The more our population diversifies, ages and grows, the more there is a need to appreciate what has come before – the people and events that formed what Alberta is today. That is why Premier Redford supports initiatives that help to ensure that our province's heritage is valued, shared, preserved and accessible to all.



*In 2010, Alberta businesses sold over **\$87 billion in goods and services** to more than 180 countries around the world – an indication of the vital importance of trade expansion to this province's economy.*

- Premier Redford has made it clear that she is willing to take an increased leadership role in confederation, and work constructively in support of effective federalism – one that embraces the world we live in, and recognizes the importance of our leadership role within Canada, and on the global stage.
- Premier Redford’s government strongly supported the initiatives announced by the Prime Minister regarding the importance of international trade, and expanding access for Canadian, and Alberta products and services through the negotiation of more open trade agreements.
- A new PC government will continue to encourage and support progressive, trade-expanding initiatives that will expand the potential of Alberta’s economy to reach new international suppliers, customers and trade partners.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Open New Markets for Alberta's Businesses

- A new PC government will continue to push for **international trade liberalization and expanded market access**.
- We will continue to advocate for the **reduction of inter-provincial trade, labour and investment mobility barriers** through the adoption and expansion of the principles in the *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* (TILMA), and the *New West Partnership Trade Agreement*. In order to maximize the potential of greater trade opportunity with other countries, we need to accomplish those same goals at home.
- Premier Redford is committed to a **re-evaluation and bolstering of Alberta's international strategy**, better positioning Alberta business and pro-actively, promote Alberta's energetic, global focus in everything from tourism and trade, to arts and culture, education, research, innovation, and investment.
- A new PC government will broaden and enhance our transportation corridors and linkages. This includes capturing opportunity to reach customers in Eastern Canada and the United States. While it is important to ensure delivery to new global markets, it is just as critical that we **expand our access to, and our customer base in the Canadian domestic market** – a key component of the Premier's Canadian energy strategy.

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

*CONTINUE to push
for international trade
liberalization and
expanded market
access.*





Reaching Our Full Potential: Municipal Affairs

FRAMEWORK AND VISION

Municipalities play a vital role in Alberta, delivering services and infrastructure that make our lives better. Ultimately, the provincial and municipal governments serve the same taxpayer. Coordination is therefore key to ensuring local needs are met, high quality service is provided and money is spent wisely.

- Premier Redford is committed to **a new partnership with Alberta municipalities** recognizing that local governments need clarity over roles and responsibilities and access to stable, predictable revenues to ensure self-sufficiency and sustainability.
- This government believes that a new partnership approach between the province and local governments should be based on a set of key principles, including:
 - Greater **revenue predictability** for the province and local governments to meet ongoing service responsibilities to Albertans;
 - Ensuring that the **overall tax burden remains competitive**;
 - **Improving accountability** to taxpayers; and
 - **Clarifying roles and responsibilities**, reducing program and service entanglement between the province and local governments.
- This type of approach is about reducing program and service complexity, and streamlining the system of municipal grants to ensure that funding goes to front-line and not increased administration.

- This approach will result in:
 - An improved level of service to Albertans;
 - Greater responsiveness to local needs and priorities;
 - Enhanced local decision-making and accountability;
 - Increased collaboration;
 - Improved connectivity within the community; and
 - Development of local leadership as opposed to blanket, one-size-fits all decision-making approaches.

NEW DIRECTIONS AND INITIATIVES

Premier's Council on a New Provincial-Municipal Partnership

A **Premier's Council on Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Arrangements**, will be chaired by the Premier, and comprised of provincial representatives, the *Alberta Urban Municipalities Association* (AUMA), the *Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties* (AAMDC), the City of Calgary and the City of Edmonton, with a mandate to:

A NEW ALISON REDFORD GOVERNMENT WILL:

*COMMIT an additional
\$600 million a year
to the Municipality
Sustainability
Initiative.*

- **Streamline grant programs** to municipalities with the objective of increasing program and service delivery flexibility for local governments;
- **Establish revenue sources available to the two orders of governments**, with a clear delineation of program and service responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms;
- **Clarify roles and responsibilities**; and
- **Reduce program and service entanglements** between the two orders of government.

Increase Support Through the Municipal Sustainability Initiative

- The Progressive Conservative Party understands that Alberta's growing economy means growing cities and communities. To help keep traffic moving, our water clean and expand transit we will **renew our ongoing commitment to fund cities** through the *Municipality Sustainability Initiative* (MSI). A new Progressive Conservative government will commit **an additional \$600 million a year** to MSI in 2014/15 and guarantee yearly funding of \$1.6 billion a year through 2023.



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