

WILDROSE POLICY

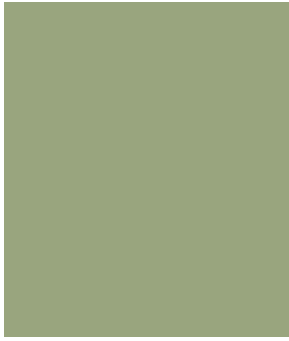
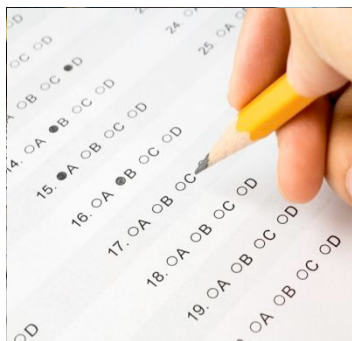
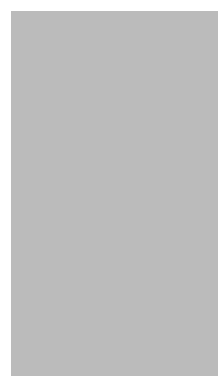
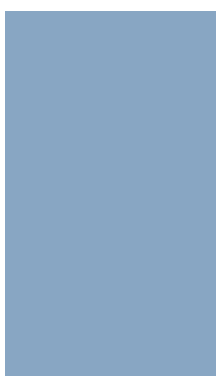
*comprehensive ideas and solutions
for ALBERTA*



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Advanced Education

Building a Stronger Post-Secondary Education System



Wildrose Alliance Caucus

Get it Right!

Advanced Education

A strong post-secondary education system is essential to unlocking opportunity for tens of thousands of Albertans. It is also critical for our province's long term economic prosperity. Unfortunately, the current PC government has done little to make post-secondary education more available or affordable for Albertans.

Tuition rates are among the highest in Canada, saddling graduates with excessive debt loads while scaring away many others from pursuing higher education entirely. If Albertans are to reach their full potential, our province must do a better job ensuring that tuition rates are more affordable and predictable than they are currently.

As more and more Albertans seek the education and training necessary to succeed in the global economy, it has become apparent that we need to tailor our post-secondary system to better suit the needs of Albertans.

It has been disappointing to watch the Stelmach Government pour billions of dollars into our post-secondary institutions only to see thousands of students turned away despite a continued shortage of workers with skills in the trades and professions our province most desperately needs.



Affordability, Accessibility, Research

A key component of building a world class post-secondary education system involves strong research and development capabilities. Post-secondary research in Alberta has resulted in phenomenal advances in medicine, energy, agriculture and a host of other areas.

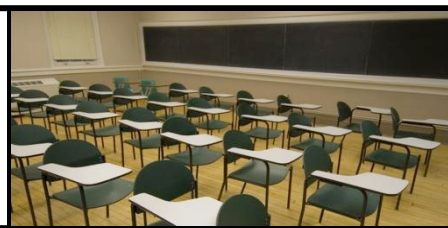
It is imperative that we attract more private-sector research funding into our universities while ensuring that Alberta taxpayers receive a return on investment for commercialized technologies stemming from publicly funded research grants.

This document outlines the Wildrose Alliance Caucus' plan for building a stronger post-secondary education system. Our plan focuses on three key areas:

Affordability



Accessibility



Research



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Alliance government will improve Alberta's post-secondary education system by implementing the following reforms:

Affordability

- Establish a student loan forgiveness program that gradually forgives student loans incurred by graduates who choose to remain in Alberta to practice a trade or profession of high need over an extended period of time.
- Restore the limit on post-secondary tuition fee increases to the rate of inflation.
- Review the Alberta student loan application process to ensure loan amounts meet the basic living needs of students and eliminate parental income as a factor in determining final approved loan amounts.

Accessibility

- Invest in Internet-based learning and other technologies for the purpose of opening up thousands of additional post-secondary spaces without having to spend billions of taxpayer dollars unnecessarily on increasingly outdated teaching methodologies and infrastructure.
- In cooperation with post-secondary institutions and industry, permit trades students to select a written or verbal examination to complete their trade certification.



- Coordinate with all Alberta post-secondary schools to improve the seamless transfer of post-secondary credits between institutions.
- In consultation with Alberta's post-secondary institutions, industry and professional associations, expand spaces for high demand degrees, diplomas, and trade certificates by allowing a substantial amount of post-secondary government funding to directly follow the student to the institution of his or her choice. Rather than setting arbitrary limits on courses of study, Alberta universities, colleges and technical schools should be competing for students by offering the programs and courses students most want to enroll in.

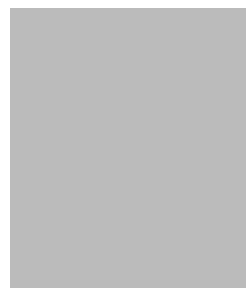
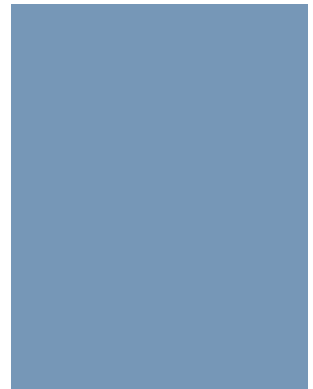
Research

- Ensure that Alberta taxpayers receive maximum value in the form of royalties and other compensation for commercialized patents and other intellectual property stemming from government-funded research grants to Alberta's post-secondary institutions.
- Work with the federal government to expand federal and provincial tuition and related tax credits, and implement tax incentives that promote the creation and growth of post-secondary endowment funds for scholarships, research and infrastructure projects from individual and corporate donors.

Did you know?

- Statistics Canada reported that tuition and fees at Alberta universities are above the national average.
- Alberta has the lowest post-secondary participation rate in Canada, with only 17% of Albertans between 18-34 years old attending a post-secondary institution.

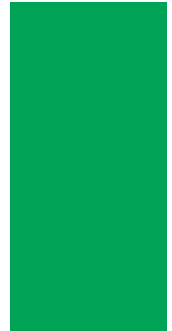
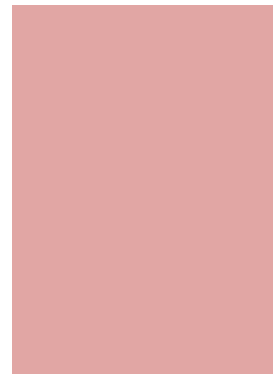
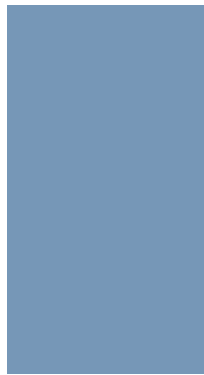




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosealliancecaucus.ca

Agriculture

Giving Alberta's Farmers and Ranchers the Freedom to Thrive



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Agriculture

The Wildrose Caucus believes that the agricultural industry in Alberta is now and will continue to be a vital component of Alberta's economic and social well-being.

As the province's largest and most dynamic renewable resource, the food production sector will become even more important as our non-renewable resources decline. We have the land, the water, and above all else the expertise to supply a range of safe, high quality food products into domestic and world markets at a competitive price. Those markets will only grow as the world population increases and as more countries develop the ability to improve their standard of living and their consequent need for quality food products.

To meet those needs and fully develop these opportunities, the Wildrose is committed to creating an efficient, market-oriented, and flexible agri-food sector which will be a major contributor to the future prosperity and well being of the Province.



We are convinced that a competitive agricultural sector must be built around the actions of individual producers left free to decide what they produce and where and when they want to sell it. The role of government is to provide a positive and properly regulated business environment, to remove artificial production and marketing distortions, and to administer proper regulations in a fair manner. We will fulfill that role.

Competitiveness at Home and Abroad

The burden of regulatory costs has become a major factor in reducing our competitiveness in world markets. Many of the costs that have been imposed by the current Government through both direct and indirect regulatory intervention in the farming and ranching business can be either reduced or removed completely. We will ensure that all regulations survive a stringent cost/benefit analysis before being retained or imposed.

The Wildrose Caucus is committed to legislating effective private property rights and to repealing bills 19, 24, 36 and 50. We know that the industry has the expertise and the desire to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner and that it will take whatever steps necessary to ensure the safety of its production activities and of its products without the need for oppressive regulatory oversight.



In the field of marketing, we are committed to giving producers the freedom to sell their products where and when they want to and will work closely with the majority Conservative government to remove the marketing restrictions currently imposed on our grain producers by the Canadian Wheat Board.

We recognize that the agriculture industry needs access to markets outside our borders in order to thrive. In that context, we are prepared to work with industry to assist it in creating effective international marketing mechanisms. We will also press the federal government to put much more emphasis than it has in the past on accessing agricultural markets in its trade negotiating activities.

Long-Term Stability in an Unpredictable Industry

The Wildrose recognizes that farmers and ranchers face unique challenges in dealing with erratic weather conditions and uncertain world markets. We'll ensure that farmers and ranchers with legitimate claims get swift payments. While we are opposed to long-term support programs that distort production and marketing decisions and impede access to overseas markets, we favour targeted relief mechanisms that provide short-term assistance when disaster strikes. Further, we will work with the agriculture industry to develop effective insurance programs to deal with production and/or income losses.



Beyond that, we believe that the erratic nature of farm income levels needs to be addressed through tax mechanisms that average revenues out over the long-term, such as a farm income and savings account.

We also favour accelerating capital cost allowance to encourage investment in productivity upgrades and an increase in the capital gains exemption for small businesses (which would apply to the majority of farm and ranch operations).

We will work tirelessly with the federal government to implement these changes.

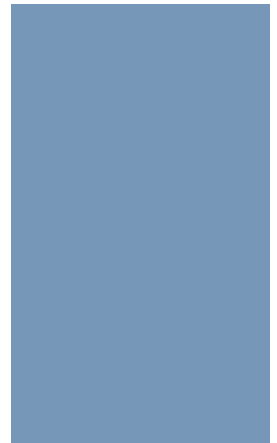
Get it Right

The agricultural policies we pursue will work to create an environment in which individual farmers and ranchers are able to maximize the opportunities that we know are ahead for our agricultural industry.

Alberta's agricultural producers deserve better. A Wildrose government will:

- Enact effective property rights legislation to provide more certainty to farmers and ranchers about their access to and use of land, water, and other private property.
- Review provincial regulation of the agriculture industry to ensure proper management of real risks to human and animal health. All regulations should take into account an accurate cost/benefit analysis of their impact on agricultural producers and food safety.
- Leave the development of agricultural marketing in the hands of industry. This will ensure that marketing initiatives are based on market forces.
- Reform provincial agriculture insurance and disaster relief programs to effectively and fairly deal with legitimate production and/or income losses.
- Work with the federal government to introduce tax reforms including effective income and saving plan provisions, such as an income averaging trust account.
- Introduce policies and programs that ensure adequate supplies, storage and efficient use of water for all Albertans.
- Work with the federal government to change the emphasis of their current trade policies to ensure access to world markets for Canadian farm products.
- Secure marketing freedom for Alberta grain producers.

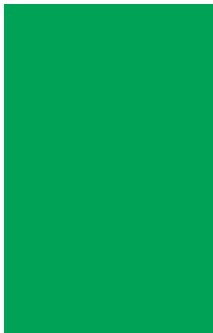
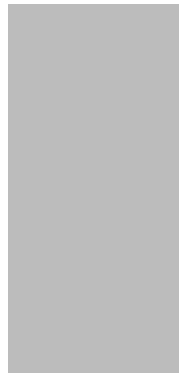
For Wildrose Caucus' Environment, Property Rights, and other policies, go to:
[Wildrose Caucus Policies](#)



Released August 2, 2011. For more information, please visit: <http://www.wildrosecaucus.ca>

Competitiveness

Establishing Alberta's Long-Term Economic Prosperity and Security



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Economic Competitiveness & Fiscal Management

Since the most recent election, the current PC Government has plunged our province back into deficit and debt, has spent every cent of interest earned in the Heritage Fund and continues to spend billions of our 'rainy day' Sustainability Fund far past the end of the recent recession. This government has also overseen an explosion of anti-business regulations, and has raised taxes, levies and fees on our most economically important industries making them less competitive with neighbouring jurisdictions.

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Spending Control Strategy

Provincial government spending has been growing out of control for some time. Over the past several years the Alberta Government has spent far more per capita than any other province in Canada. Spending increases have been more than double the rate of provincial inflation plus population growth. This has plunged our province back into deficit and debt, and has made Alberta dangerously reliant on highly volatile non-renewable resource revenues to pay for key social programs like health and education. What's even more disturbing is that despite this spending spree, we have not seen a corresponding increase in the quality of our core social programs.



If our provincial government had controlled spending increases to the rate of inflation plus population growth Alberta would have continued to enjoy multi-billion dollar surpluses these past few years, instead of being mired in multiple record billion dollar deficits. These surpluses could then have been put towards increasing our savings. Had

spending been limited to the rate of inflation and population growth for the past seven years, we would have accumulated \$50 billion more in surpluses and our Heritage Fund would be well on its way to ensuring our long-term prosperity.

Instead, by undoing years of fiscal restraint and sacrifice by our province during the 90's, the PC Government is now accruing billions in debt and liabilities for future generations to pay. The temptation to impress constituents with unnecessary frills, the knee-jerk reaction to solve political problems with public spending sprees, and the general desire to be seen to be doing something have become hallmarks of this Government's money management policy.

Piling up billions in debt on the backs of future generations to dull the pain of a self-inflicted spending hangover is the height of irresponsibility. So too is expanding the size of government to the point where the only way to finance essential social programs is to slash spending, raise taxes or increase debt on future generations.

Conversely, implementing proven and reasonable austerity measures will have the effect of curtailing the size and scope of government bureaucracy. Departments should look for innovative ways to provide more efficient and better services by reallocating existing resources rather than simply asking for more funding while outdated and wasteful programs are permitted to linger.



Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will responsibly prioritize and control government spending by implementing the following financial reforms:

- **Legislate a cap on year-over-year increases in overall government spending to the rate of inflation plus population growth.**
- **Prioritize spending on front line staff and critical core social services such as Health and Education. Reductions in spending should be targeted at unnecessary bureaucracy, executive bonuses, non-priority infrastructure and corporate grants.**
- **Institute 'pay-as-you-go' legislation which means that any in-year non-budgeted expenditures approved during that same budget year (excepting emergencies) must be offset by a corresponding decrease in the budget elsewhere.**

- **Reduce government waste by requiring all government departments to implement a zero-based budgeting program mandating that every Ministry justify the effectiveness and efficiencies of their expenditures and programs each and every year.**
- **Improve financial accountability and transparency in government by passing legislation that will:**
 - **Establish an independent Cabinet and MLA pay and benefits review process preventing the Premier, Cabinet and MLAs from setting their own salaries.**
 - **Ensure all MLA expenses are publicly posted online.**
 - **Implement a government ‘Waste Buster’ program and website that allows the public and government employees to anonymously report instances of government waste and mismanagement.**
This program would also create a set of financial incentives for public service employees and departments who reduce waste and find ways to run programs and initiatives more efficiently.
 - **Introduce whistleblower protection for all government-paid employees who might wish to report inefficiencies, waste or wrongdoing.**
 - **Strengthen the office of the Auditor General.**
 - **Create budget transparency guidelines to ensure government debts and cash deficits are reported accurately and in plain sight.**
 - **Mandate public disclosure of the Government’s priority list and rationale for all infrastructure projects and maintenance.**
 - **Guarantee an open tendering and bidding process on all major government-sanctioned and approved procurement and contracts.**
 - **Provide easier and more affordable public access to Freedom of Information requests as well as to the financial information of all Crown corporations and government investments.**



Heritage Savings Strategy

Over the past several decades our province has come to rely on non-renewable resource wealth to maintain low taxation rates while dramatically increasing spending on infrastructure and social programs. Continuing this course is unsustainable – it simply can't be done without mortgaging our and our children's future.



In 1976, Premier Peter Lougheed created the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. The purpose of the Heritage Fund was to save a significant portion of non-renewable resource revenues so that when oil and gas revenues decreased permanently, future generations would be able to use the Fund's interest to maintain our competitive advantage and continued prosperity.

Unfortunately, the temptation of politicians to dip into the fund was too strong, and tens of billions of dollars in savings from the fund continue to be used for the wants of here and now. In Budgets 2009 and 2010 for example, the PC Government withdrew billions from the fund in order to mask the enormity of their deficit and their return to debt financing. Such mismanagement has resulted in the Heritage Fund being worth less today per Albertan (when adjusted for inflation) than it was when first established by Premier Lougheed in 1976. What a sad and selfish legacy to leave future generations of Albertans.



Albertans deserve better. We need to turn our sea of volatile non-renewable oil and gas revenues into a mountain of permanent investment capital that sustainably improves our economic competitiveness and quality of life. A Wildrose Government will implement a Heritage Savings Strategy that will:

- **Refrain from transferring any portion of the Heritage Fund (including annual interest earned) into general revenues until the total yearly interest earnings from the Fund exceed that of the average annual provincial revenues from oil and gas.**
- **Implement the Spending Control Strategy detailed in the previous section. As economic growth increases and government revenues begin to greatly outstrip newly restricted spending levels, invest the growing budget surpluses as follows:**
 - **Grow the Heritage Fund so the total yearly interest earnings from the Fund exceeds that of the average annual provincial revenues from oil and gas**
 - **Pay down or offset the new debts and liabilities incurred by the current Government**
 - **Sustainably lower personal and business taxes and fees**
 - **Invest in infrastructure critical to economic growth and development**
 - **Establish endowments dedicated to excellence in research and education**

Market-Driven Diversification Strategy



In a global economy, entrepreneurs, businesses and ideas flow to where the best opportunities for success exist. The best minds don't necessarily work where they graduate as skilled workers are highly mobile and will go wherever the best opportunities arise. A technological breakthrough is often not commercialized where created.

The PC Government recently convened a competitiveness council to determine why the Alberta Advantage is disappearing. The Council concluded what most Albertans already know: over-regulation, out-of-control spending and fiscal mismanagement are the root cause of the problem. Despite the Council's correct diagnosis, it got the prescription horribly wrong by recommending higher taxes to balance the budget while encouraging the Government to spend non-renewable resource revenues on grants and funding for private businesses and initiatives it feels will help diversify the economy. In effect, the Council recommends institutionalizing the Government's ill advised role in picking winners and losers in the private economy. This type of strategy has repeatedly failed around the world and it is certainly not the Alberta way.



To strengthen and successfully diversify Alberta's economy, we must make our province more fiscally attractive to the brightest people, best entrepreneurs and most successful businesses. We can accomplish this by reducing taxes and red tape while maintaining solid core

infrastructure and social programs. The current PC Government has failed to do this.

In fact, under their administration Alberta has lost much of its tax advantage and has become one of the most over-regulated jurisdictions in all of Canada.

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will diversify Alberta's economy by introducing the following initiatives:

- **Implement the Spending Control and Heritage Savings Strategies outlined in the previous sections in order to grow the Heritage Fund so that annual interest earned from the Fund is enough to end our dependence on non-renewable resource revenues, permanently maintain well funded core social programs, and sustainably lower personal and business taxes and fees for all Alberta residents and businesses.**
- **Actively review and reduce the unnecessary regulatory burdens faced by most Alberta industries that harm their competitiveness with other North American jurisdictions.**
- **Commit to proactively restoring and maintaining the most competitive tax rates in Canada for individuals and businesses; continue inflation-proofing the basic personal and spousal income tax exemption in order to maintain low taxes for all Albertans – particularly those with modest incomes.**
- **Implement broad based tax incentives (i.e. accelerated capital cost allowance, flow through shares, etc) to stimulate research, investment and economic activity across all sectors.**
- **End the current provincial government's failed strategy of handing out grants to corporations of its choosing.**

Industry Competitiveness (Arts, Tourism and Forestry)

The Wildrose [Energy](#) and [Agriculture](#) policies (as outlined in separate policy statements) will make Alberta's largest two industries much more competitive than they have been under the current PC Government.

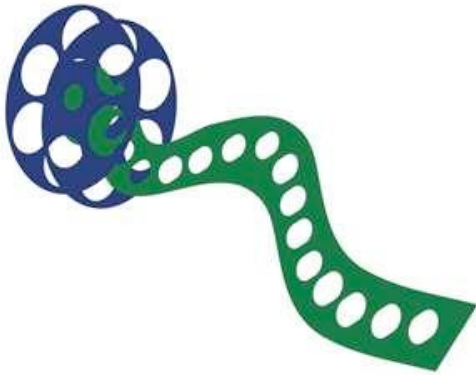
And although Alberta is better known for its vast non-renewable resources and millions of acres of fertile agricultural land, there are many other industries important to Alberta's continued economic growth. Forestry, arts and culture, tourism, research, technology development, construction, manufacturing, food processing, the service industry and others account for billions of our province's gross domestic product.



The PCs poor handling of Alberta's arts, tourism and forestry sectors in particular, has resulted in continued struggle and hardship for these industries. Having world-class artists and cultural institutions plays an essential role not only in attracting the best people and industries to our province, but also in ensuring that talented young Albertans choose to stay here. Great musical, theatrical, and other artistic events and institutions also the enhance widespread economic boost that tourism provides Alberta's economy.



World-class artists from Alberta can also play a vital diplomatic role in a globalized political and economic environment. By telling the Alberta story far more effectively than any political delegation, great artists can be the best ambassadors we have.



The current government delivered a serious setback to our film and television industry when they failed to match the tax credit system in other jurisdictions, while maintaining direct grants to projects chosen by the Government. The PCs proved how bad government is at picking winners and losers when it was found they had given \$50,000 to

a film attacking the very oilsands they have spent billions attempting to defend. A generous film and television tax credit regime will work much better, keeping government out of the business of picking winners and losers, as it does in other jurisdictions.

In Forestry, the Government has been placing additional expectations on the industry to address the demands that have come from changes within the sector as well as those imposed by governments. This added responsibility comes at a cost, whether in terms of time and effort or in the increased risk of companies losing access to forest resources because of unexpected political interference.



The existing command and control authority in legislation regulating this sector has permitted the Government to off-load and delegate its responsibilities to business thereby significantly decreasing the industry's competitiveness. There needs to be a re-think of the province's land-use planning and administrative processes to facilitate the forestry industry's economic viability and ability to effectively help the Government steward this valuable natural resource.

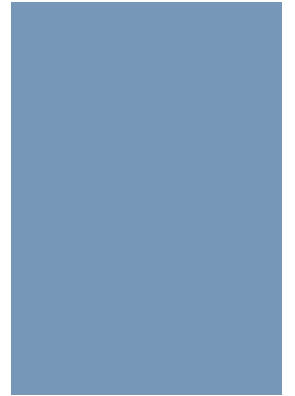
Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will implement the following initiatives to make the arts, tourism and forestry industries more competitive:

- **Bring Alberta's film industry back to life by implementing a generous tax credit regime comparable to other successful North American jurisdictions.**
- **Increase the charitable tax credit for donations to non-profit groups (including organizations that fund arts and culture) to be at least as or more generous than the tax credit given for political contributions.**
- **Promote stay-in-Alberta tourism through an industry sponsored rewards program such as the, Stamp-Around-Alberta initiative, for visiting multiple attractions across the province.**
- **Significantly reduce timber royalties and temporarily ease regulations on pine beetle damaged timber to encourage its expedited harvest and replanting.**
- **Support an outcome-based forest policy that balances social and environmental objectives rather than micro-managing by government prescription.**
- **Work proactively with Alberta's forest industry and Federal Government to ensure a fair and equitable Softwood Lumber Agreement with the US and trade agreements with other countries.**
- **Commit to consulting with the forest industry on any changes to government policy or regulatory items which may impact forest resource sustainability or cost structure of the industry.**

For more on Wildrose Caucus' Economic policies, go to:

[Wildrose Caucus Policies](#)



Released July 23, 2011. For more information, please visit: <http://www.wildrosecaucus.ca>

Democracy & Accountability

Strengthening Alberta's Democratic Rights



Wildrose Alliance Caucus

Get it Right!

Democracy & Accountability

Alberta has a rich and proud history of producing great men and women to champion the democratic causes of voting rights for women, senate reform, government accountability and provincial rights. Disappointingly, the PC Government has failed to show leadership on democratic issues in recent years.

Politics in our province has evolved into a process that is largely undemocratic. There are no free votes in the Legislature. Government MLAs are expected to tow the party line without question. The Premier and a small group of mostly unelected appointees make almost every decision in government. The people's elected representatives, on the other hand, generally have little if any real input into the decisions that impact the lives of those who voted for them.

This democratic deficit is compounded by a lack of transparency and accountability in government. Government documents are difficult and expensive to publicly access; Cabinet sets its salaries behind closed doors; billion dollar government contracts are awarded without tender (i.e. Bill 50); approval for infrastructure projects is often politicized; budget deficits and other important financial information is underreported (including MLA expenses); and a culture of fear and intimidation keeps potential whistleblowers from stepping forward.

Predictably, this lack of democracy and transparency has resulted in poor government policies, low voter turnout, almost universal cynicism towards elected officials and a feeling that the average Albertan has no voice or influence on issues that affect them personally.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government would implement the following plan to strengthen democracy and accountability in our province:

- Restore the role of elected MLAs by mandating that all votes in the Legislature and caucus be free and transparently reported to the public. Motions of non-confidence would remain an option, but would be held as separate stand-alone votes. This would allow MLAs to vote on each piece of proposed legislation based on the interests of their constituents and Albertans, rather than being forced to tow the party line.
- Implement legislation establishing the essential democratic tools of voter recall and citizen-initiated referenda. In a healthy democracy, ultimate power must reside with voters. This can only be truly achieved if there are legislated mechanisms in place that allow voters the opportunity to recall their representatives and/or initiate legislation that their representatives are unwilling to bring forward. Of course such tools should be used sparingly and without frivolity. The support thresholds for both must be high enough to ensure that only petitions with exceptionally strong grassroots support are permitted to proceed to a vote. As with all legislation, all proposed initiatives should be constitutionally sound and kept within the parameters of the provincial budget.
- Institute fixed dates for general elections, senate elections, the Budget, Legislative sessions, and the Speech from the Throne.

Did you know?

- In Alberta there is no way to remove an MLA no matter badly you are being represented. Our neighbours in British Columbia have had Recall Legislation in place for a decade.

Get it Right

- Strengthen accountability and transparency in government by passing provincial legislation that:
- Introduces whistleblower protection for all government-paid employees and professionals including health care workers.
- Provides easier and more affordable public access to Freedom of Information requests as well as to the financial information of all Crown corporations and government investments. A reverse onus of proof should be put in place mandating that before any FOIP requests are denied, the government must prove to the Privacy Commissioner that the information requested by the media or public should not be released.
- Establishes an independent Cabinet and MLA pay and benefits review process that prevents the Premier, Cabinet and MLAs from setting their own salaries.
- Strengthens the offices of the Ethics Commissioner and Auditor General.

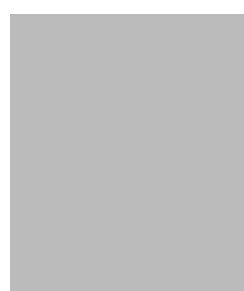
Did you know?

- In 2008 Alberta's voter turnout was a record-low 41%. No provincial election in the last 50 years has had a worse turnout. Citizens need to be re-engaged.
- The multi-million dollar contracts awarded to Alta Link to build power lines under Bill 50-Electric Statutes Amendment Act were not publicly tendered.

Get it Right

- Creates budget transparency guidelines to ensure government debts and cash deficits are reported accurately.
- Mandates public disclosure of the Government's priority list and rationale for all infrastructure projects and maintenance.
- Ensures all MLA expenses are publicly posted online.
- Guarantees an open tendering and bidding process on all major government sanctioned and approved procurement and contracts.
- Elevates the important role of opposition parties and the Albertans they represent by increasing opposition research and communications funding, strengthening all opposition parties' role in ensuring government accountability, providing opposition and government private members increased opportunities to propose legislative amendments in committee, granting greater opposition access to departmental documents and briefings, and dramatically increasing the amount of time available for questioning the Premier and Ministers on their areas of stewardship.
- Overhauls the rules governing the Legislative Assembly in order to reduce partisanship, ensure fairness and impartiality to opposition parties by the Speaker's Office, and to improve decorum in the House.

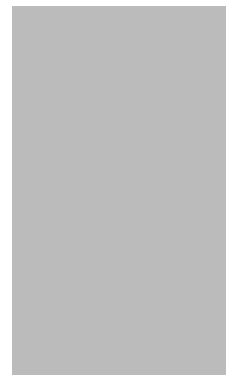




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Education

Alberta's Education Action Plan



Wildrose Alliance Caucus

Get it Right!

Education

Ensuring Alberta's children have access to a world class education is one of the most important roles provincial government can play in building our province.

In partnership with the important core values taught by parents, education provides a launching point for a healthy and contributing citizen. To deny a child a proper education is to greatly increase the risk of losing that child to ignorance, poverty and crime.

Locally-Based Decisions

The provincial government currently spends more per capita than any other province on education. The problem is that hundreds of millions of these dollars are wasted and often misallocated by what has become a massive centralized bureaucracy at the Legislature.

As we have seen with the new Alberta Health Superboard, placing control of program and service delivery in the hands of large centralized bureaucracies is a recipe for disaster.

Even more disturbing has been the current PC Government's track record of selecting new school sites based on politics rather than actual need.

It is far more transparent, efficient and effective to decentralize decision making into the hands of parents, local schools, and elected school boards. They best understand the needs of their students and would never think to play politics with our children's welfare.



Freedom to Choose

A distinguishing and important feature of Alberta's education system is that it provides parents with a greater range of educational choices than other jurisdictions in North America.

Although strong public schools are critical to our education system, Catholic schools, public charter schools, private schools and home-schooling provide educational opportunities and teaching methods that are sometimes unavailable in our public system.

In fact, our public schools have responded to competition from Catholic, public charter, home and private schooling by rolling out a diverse range of excellent core and optional courses that are benefiting students across Alberta.

Continuing to foster a culture of educational choice, innovation and competition will pay dividends for our teachers, parents and children for decades to come.

Did you know?

- The Edmonton Public School Board implemented an 'open boundary' system in 1974. The "Edmonton Model" is touted by public education specialists across North America.



Our Next Generation

Respecting Individuality

As most teachers and parents well know, the traditional classroom model of a teacher lecturing students of the same age is outdated.

This system often results in gifted students having their potential restricted by peers who may not learn as quickly, while students who have not grasped key concepts are moved on to higher grades and more complicated subject matter regardless of whether or not they are ready.

This can result in frustration, the domination of a teacher's time by a few struggling students, perpetual poor grades, and even behavioural problems.

Furthermore, all students respond to different teaching methods in different ways. The standard classroom lecture model may work well for some students, but for others it results in a constant battle to comprehend and learn.

Fortunately, emerging technologies and teaching methods makes it possible to centre teaching on the learning needs of each individual student. Taking advantage of these educational advances will ensure our children are able to learn at the right pace and in the right way for them, rather than participating in the traditional one-size-fits-all approach.



Special Needs Support

Thousands of Alberta parents have children with special learning needs.

It is absolutely critical that we ensure these students and their parents are provided with the funding necessary to address these challenges as early as possible in a child's development. Failure to do so can have catastrophic consequences for the child, the child's family, and will result in massive costs to taxpayers down the road.

Unfortunately, the PC Government continues to fail to take sensible action on this issue.

Often, special needs funding is difficult to access with parents and teachers having a very limited say in how it is best utilized. In most cases, parents will want to work with their child's school to include their student in a regular classroom setting. When proper support is provided, inclusive education is very beneficial to both special needs students as well as their classmates. Some parents may choose a different option and this choice should be respected as well. Each special needs student is unique and should, in partnership with parents, be considered and supported accordingly.



Get it Right

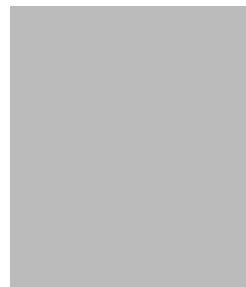
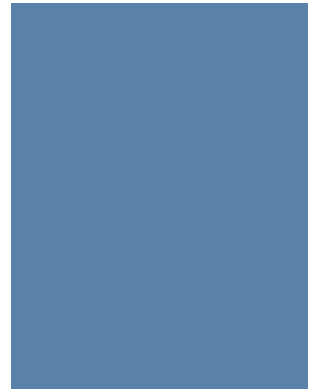
Alberta students and parents deserve better. A Wildrose Government would strengthen our K-12 education system by implementing the following reforms:

- Empower individual public, Catholic and public charter schools by implementing a funding model that sends per-student operational and maintenance funding directly to the school each student attends while accounting for the fixed costs of schools in smaller rural communities. Individual schools will then be able to determine how to allocate those resources most appropriately (i.e. more teachers, new equipment, etc).
- Transfer decision-making authority concerning the building of new schools away from the provincial government and place it squarely in the hands of locally elected school boards. This would be done by implementing a publicly disclosed and objective funding formula that grants capital funds directly to local school boards based on student enrollment, school utilization rates, student growth projections and other relevant factors.
- Establish multiple pilot projects across the province where open-enrollment and tuition-free public, Catholic and public charter schools are permitted to opt into a competency-based learning and assessment education model. Students in these schools will have the opportunity to learn at a pace and in a way that is tailored to their individual needs and will not move on to more advanced material until they have demonstrated strong understanding of previously taught subject matter. Students who learn at an accelerated pace under this system will also be able to obtain college and university level course credit while still in high school.
- Grant public, Catholic and public charter schools more flexibility to offer a specialized curriculum track in the trades, arts, music, physical education and business.



- Protect a parent's right to choose what school their child attends (public, Catholic, public charter, private or homeschooling) and continue the current Alberta Education practice of permitting a fixed percentage of regular per pupil funding to directly follow a student to a private school of the parent's choice if desired.
- Mandate the public reporting of each school's graduation rate and overall subject-by-subject assessment results so parents have the information they need to make informed decisions regarding their child's education.
- Work with teachers and other educational professionals to replace the outdated and inadequate Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) with a new standardized assessment model that evaluates a student's actual improvement and comprehension of subject matter and more effectively identifies where further learning is required. It is also important to ensure teachers are provided with the professional development training necessary to implement such a model.
- Ensure students are properly assessed and any special learning needs identified as early as possible in a child's development. Mandate that adequate funding follow each special needs student to the institution of that child's parent's choice to be used in a way that the parent and the school's learning support team feels will best meet the individual needs of the child.
- Respect the choice of parents who wish to give their special needs student the opportunity to attend the same classrooms as typical students wherever possible, and ensure that adequate supervision and support is provided to each such student so that the classroom can remain a healthy learning environment for all.

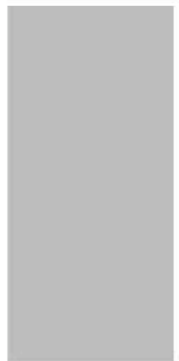




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Energy

Positioning Alberta as the Energy Capital of the 21st Century



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Energy

Alberta's diversified energy resources rank among the greatest economic treasures in the world. They include oil, natural gas, coal, hydro, wind and the feedstock for biofuels. New oilsands extraction technologies have resulted in Alberta now possessing the largest recoverable oil reserves on earth! Alberta is already a major global hydrocarbon energy producer, fifth in the world behind only Saudi Arabia, Russia, the United States and Iran.

With energy, capital, knowledge and technology, Alberta also has the potential to significantly expand into alternative energy sources. Behind the energy itself are numerous spin-off technologies, the myriad of products and services related to our energy industries that have already made Alberta a global leader for Research and Development, innovative equipment manufacturing and world-class support services.

With strong leadership, Alberta can lead the world in responsible, safe and reliable energy development. Done thoughtfully, this will secure a dynamic and prosperous economy in Alberta for generations to come.

Unfortunately, we have not seen thoughtful leadership from the current government. In fact, they have failed to show competent policy leadership in any aspect of energy development, management or stewardship. Examples include the disastrous royalty changes that drove tens of billions in investments and tens of thousands of jobs out of the province, and the mismanagement of the oilsands environmental file that has drawn global negative attention to Alberta.



Oil & Gas

Because oil and gas will remain the primary driver of our province's economic engine and be the world's major transportation fuels in the coming decades, an important balance must be struck between creating a fiscal and regulatory regime that encourages exploration and development and protection of the environment, while at the same time ensuring Albertans receive appropriate value for their resources.

Albertans deserve competent and forward-looking management of their oil and gas industries. A Wildrose Government would institute the following policies to ensure responsible development of these energy resources in our province:

- **Create and maintain royalty and tax regimes that attract and sustain investment in our energy industries from research and development right through to bitumen upgrading, value-added products, and spin-off industries.**
- **Commit to consulting extensively with industry and other affected stakeholders to ensure new policies do not harm Alberta's investment climate.**
- **Help create new markets and reduce market barriers for natural gas in electricity generation, co-gen, and transportation.**
- **Create a formula to remit provincial energy revenues fairly to the municipalities that need help coping with the impacts of energy development in their regions.**
- **Cut red tape to streamline our energy application, permitting, and regulatory regimes without compromising the safety of Albertans or the health of our environment.**

Electricity Generation and Transmission

Alberta is a growing province with quickly expanding commercial and industrial sectors. Even with increases in energy efficiency, Albertans will continue to need more electricity each and every year. Unfortunately, the PC Government, as with virtually every portion of the energy file, has mismanaged Alberta's electricity generation and transmission system as well.

Alberta's current electricity system is oriented to benefit generators and transmitters more than ratepayers. Because the costs of transmission are not internalized for generators, and because the price-setting mechanism is faulty, electricity prices for individuals, families, and businesses are higher than they should be.

Most disturbing of all has been the PC Government's passage of its infamous Bill 50, which expedites the construction of billions of dollars worth of new transmission lines across Alberta. An objective needs-based assessment by the Alberta Utilities Commission would undoubtedly show that emerging alternative energy sources, especially local natural gas-based electricity generation, render much of the Bill 50-facilitated transmission lines unnecessary. Instead of looking at the future of electricity in these rapidly-changing times, the government by-passed consultation and introduced expensive policies based on an outdated electricity paradigm.

Because of advances in recovery technology, there is suddenly much more natural gas available across North America, including in Alberta. This has depressed the price and vastly increased its potential as a reliable and cost-effective energy source for electrical generation. Therefore, it makes sense to level the playing field so that generators can start to use more cleaner-burning natural gas for local electricity generation.

Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government would implement the following reforms to vastly improve our province's electricity generation and transmission system:

- **Repeal Bill 50 and restart the process with an impartial needs assessment by the Alberta Utilities Commission.**
- **Promote more locally-generated electricity from natural gas.**
- **Ensure transmission costs are properly worked into planning and delivery, so that generators and transmitters are encouraged to minimize costs instead of ratepayers subsidizing inefficiency.**
- **Reform the way in which electricity is purchased and sold in Alberta, specifically focusing on reducing price spikes for consumers and businesses.**
- **Reduce electricity demand by developing market based mechanisms that encourage efficiency and allow businesses and individual Albertans to sell locally-generated electricity from co-gen, wind, solar, biomass, and other alternatives back to the grid.**

Did you know?

- Bill 50 enables power companies to spend approximately \$16 billion constructing new transmission lines that will increase capacity 8-fold. That's the equivalent of allowing a paving company to expand the QEII Highway to 16 lanes. Alberta's companies and homeowners will pay for this boondoggle overbuild.



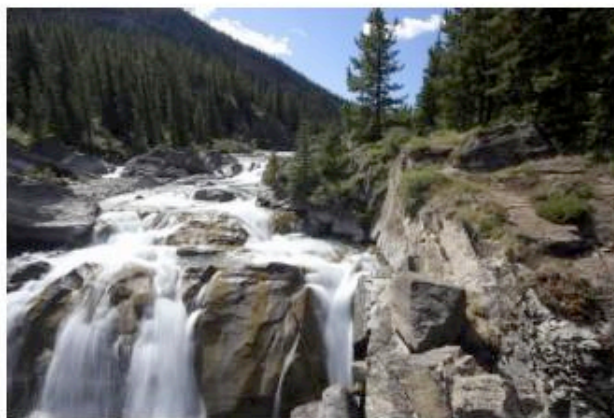
Environmental Stewardship

Energy production and development has become inextricably linked with environmental stewardship. It is imperative that our province's economic reliance on the production, use, refinement and sale of hydrocarbons and other sources of energy never undermine the right of Albertans to enjoy a healthy and pristine environment.

The current government's approach to environmental management has been reactive to public criticism instead of pro-active in the development of cost-effective long-term solutions. Short term and expensive solutions to demonstrate Alberta is "doing something" include massive funding for selected carbon capture and storage experiments and oilsands lease cancellations under the guise of a land-use framework. A better alternative is examining Alberta's total emissions from all energy sources and working with energy producers to develop economically viable solutions that will yield measurable improvements to air, land, and water province-wide.

Albertans love and respect the environment. We expect our provincial government to act accordingly. That is why Alberta was the first province in Canada to appoint a provincial minister of environment and has, until recently, been a national leader on a wide variety of environmental initiatives. It's time for Alberta to lead again on this issue.

For more on Wildrose Caucus' environmental policy, go to:
www.wildrosecaucus.ca/issues/environment



Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Alliance Government will ensure our energy resources are developed in an environmentally sustainable manner by undertaking the following initiatives:

- **Place all energy producers on a level tax and regulatory playing field, and work with industry to develop viable, long-term strategies that will yield measureable improvements to Alberta's air, land, and water.**
- **Work with industry to develop and implement a strategy that will see the eventual elimination of tailings ponds and an accelerated elimination and reclamation of existing tailings ponds sites.**
- **Work with industry to reduce fresh water use and minimize surface impact while maintaining a competitive fiscal regime that sustains commercial development.**
- **Ensure all oil and gas development conducted on privately owned land is done in an environmentally responsible fashion, and that properties are returned to landowners in essentially the same condition and value as they were before development.**
- **Promote industry investment in environmental research and upgrades through tax incentives (i.e. accelerated capital cost allowance) with the private sector making the technical and economic decisions, not governments.**
- **Work with industry to review air quality and emission standards, particularly in areas with concentrated, high volume industrial activity, such as oilsands extraction, bitumen upgrading, refining, petrochemicals, and power generation.**
- **Encourage technologies for enhanced recovery of existing conventional crude oil and natural gas supplies. Incremental recovery of oil and gas from existing reservoirs has the lowest environmental impact of any new supplies of hydrocarbon fuel. Furthermore, the processes, equipment and technologies developed for enhanced recovery have global market applications, thereby enhancing Alberta's value-added industrial and technology sectors.**

Alberta Energy Promotion

As the fifth largest producer of oil and natural gas in the world, Alberta is highly regarded on the global energy stage. Our knowledge, capital, expertise, equipment, procedures and technologies are internationally recognized as world-class.

Yet somehow, this PC government has managed to either play down or under-promote the importance of Alberta's energy industries, particularly in our own provinces. Alberta needs and deserves a government that is able to competently manage our energy industries and clearly articulate our positive and powerful message to Canada and the world. In fact, through the *New Royalty Framework* in 2007, the current PC government pitted Albertans against Albertans by claiming that Alberta's participation in oil and gas development was "unfair." It then introduced economically devastating fiscal policy changes at the same time as the collapse of world commodity prices and capital markets.

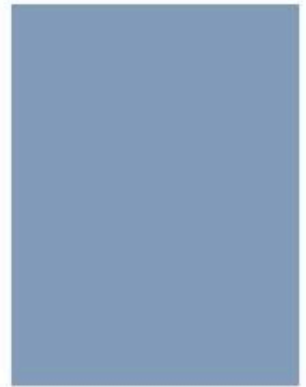
Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Alliance Government will protect and promote our interests at home and abroad by implementing the following strategy:

- **Lead by example and demonstrate a plan to achieve sustainable long-term environmental improvements in the years ahead instead of being reactive to the "flavour of the day" criticism of particular special interest groups, sectors or industries.**
- **Develop an aggressive, thought-provoking and articulate communications strategy that promotes our energy resources and environmental stewardship to the world – starting in Alberta then expanding across Canada, the United States and Europe.**
- **Facilitate increased partnerships between Alberta's post-secondary institutions and the private sector with the intention of making Alberta a recognized global centre of energy excellence.**

For more on the Wildrose Caucus' post-secondary policy, go to:
www.wildrosecaucus.ca/issues/advanced-education

- **Encourage local understanding and support for our most economically important industry by supporting energy literacy initiatives in Alberta.**
- **Diversify Alberta's energy export markets, particularly in Asia, by promoting investment and trade opportunities with interested governments, while working with the same to reduce import and export barriers. We will work with the federal, provincial, and U.S. governments to facilitate the building of pipelines to new markets.**
- **Develop a natural gas strategy to create and expand domestic markets for natural gas in electricity generation, co-gen, transportation, and value-added industrial inputs.**
- **Resist any attempts by the federal government to regulate Alberta's international exports of bitumen via policies in areas such as environmental protection or marine transportation.**
- **Appreciate that the energy industries in Alberta are greater than the energy sources themselves. This includes dynamic and vibrant technology-based energy services and equipment manufacturing for domestic and export markets. This gives Alberta a value-added, vertically-integrated energy industry that can export knowledge and import wealth from other energy-producing regions.**

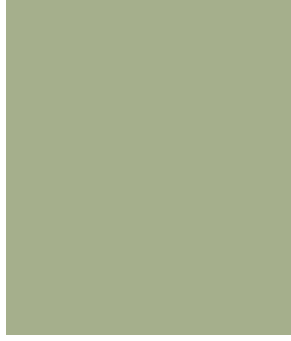
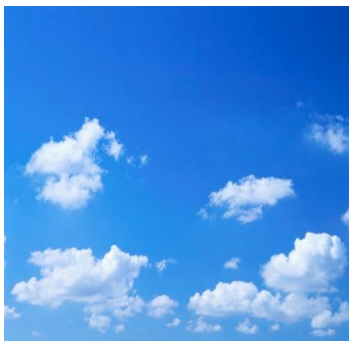
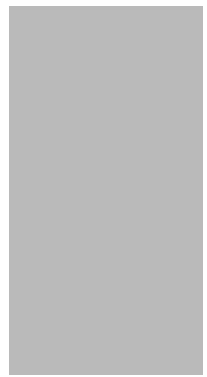
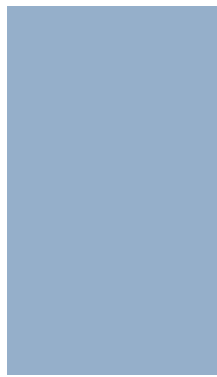




Released May 24, 2011. For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Environment

Alberta's Environmental Action Plan



Wildrose Alliance Caucus

Get it Right!

Environment

Albertans have always demanded responsible stewardship of our natural environment. However, Albertans also understand that protecting our environment does not mean unnecessarily harming economic progress.

In fact, history clearly demonstrates that those jurisdictions with strong economies are more able and willing to invest in and protect their environment when compared with those areas that have less.

The goals of protecting the environment and ensuring economic prosperity and opportunity are not mutually exclusive; in fact, they are inextricably linked.

This document outlines the Wildrose Alliance Caucus' plan for protecting Alberta's Environment. Our plan focuses on three key areas:

Clean Air



Clean Water



Clean Land



Clean Air, Land & Water

Clean Air

There is nothing more important to individuals than the quality of the air they and their loved ones breathe every second of every day. It is imperative that our province's economic reliance on the production, use, refinement and sale of hydrocarbons never undermines the right of Albertans to breathe clean air. Dangerous pollutants such as nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide, mercury, lead and other particulates must be reduced. California and Toronto-like smog from vehicle tailpipes and smokestacks are not acceptable to Albertans.

The discussion surrounding global warming has become highly emotional. There is obviously still healthy scientific debate as to the extent manmade emissions of CO₂ are affecting global temperatures – and this debate will likely carry on for many years.

As a province we must strike the delicate balance between promoting out of precaution a practical reduction of CO₂ emissions while ignoring the environmental extremists that would have us needlessly overreact to the severe detriment of our economy.

It is thus important that government avoid enacting CO₂ reduction policies for the sake of simply appearing to be doing something.

The PC Government's reckless insistence on funnelling \$2 billion into various potentially dangerous mass carbon capture and storage projects is one very expensive example of such.



Clean Air, Land & Water

And more puzzling still, the current government undermines its stated goal of reducing CO2 emissions by their ramming of Bill 50 through the Legislature in 2009.

This legislation actually accelerates the massive overbuild of new transmission lines largely for CO2-intensive coal fire electric generation; this despite the emergence of locally generated, cost effective and clean burning natural gas power plants as well as other renewable alternatives.

Albertans want a government that will implement practical strategies to improve air quality, increase energy efficiency, reduce emissions, and stimulate economic growth while providing tangible benefits for its citizens.

This PC Government has failed miserably in this regard.

Did you know?

- *The proposed new transmission lines will increase our capacity 8-fold. That's like deciding that because there is occasionally too much traffic on the QEII, we should make it a 32-lane highway.*



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. The Wildrose Alliance will implement the following initiatives to ensure all Albertans have clean air to breathe:

- Tighten and strictly enforce the rules and approval mechanisms regulating air quality particularly in and around heavy industrial zones such as Fort McMurray and the Industrial Heartland. New projects should only be approved when a rigorous cumulative effects assessment shows that air quality will remain at acceptable levels for human health and the environment.
- Expand the use of clean burning Alberta natural gas and propane for industrial and residential electricity production and transportation. This can be done by levelling the royalties between coal and natural gas, reviewing energy regulations to ensure on-site residential, commercial and industrial co-generation is promoted, and providing tax incentives for increased use of natural gas and propane powered vehicles.
- Cancel the PC Government's wasteful and expensive \$2 billion Carbon Capture and Storage initiative, and instead focus funding on improving and expanding mass transit and commuter rail. Doing so will reduce pollutants and CO2 emissions while improving the economy and lives of thousands of Albertans.
- Repeal Bill 50 to ensure that the new and costly transmission capacity it approves is subjected to an objective and impartial needs assessment to determine whether alternatives such as locally generated electricity from natural gas would be a more cost-effective alternative.
- Promote industry investment in environmental research, development, equipment and upgrades through tax incentives (i.e. accelerated capital cost allowance) made available to all businesses, rather than permitting the government to pick winners and losers by granting millions of dollars in 'green' money to companies with the most effective lobbyists.

Clean Air, Land & Water

Clean Water

Our province's fresh water is our most precious natural resource.

Not only is it essential for human life, it is vital to the sustainability of our most important industries – namely energy and agriculture. Without it agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial growth are impossible.

Given the critical importance of clean water to all Albertans, it is not something that should be used to wield control over those without adequate access to it. It is unfortunate the current PC Government has allowed access to water to become a stumbling block for regional cooperation between communities. With proper planning and management, this need not have occurred.

The quality of our water supply is a very emotional issue as well. There has been no greater black eye for the province of Alberta over the last decade than the images of tailings ponds sitting next to the Athabasca River by Fort McMurray.

Although it is yet unclear as to the affect these ponds are having on the local water supply, there is no doubt they have, at the very least, had an adverse affect on local wildlife (i.e. the duck incident) and have attracted damaging media coverage that threatens to devastate our most financially important industry.

The PC Government has utterly failed to be proactive on this issue; they continue to talk without showing any ability to act.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. The Wildrose Alliance will employ the following policies to ensure all Albertans have access to clean water:

- In cooperation with industry, implement a strategy that will substantially accelerate the reduction and reclamation of new and existing tailings ponds sites.
- Develop a comprehensive on and off-stream fresh water storage plan to ensure Alberta's agricultural producers, developers and residents have access to the clean water needed for quality of life and economic growth.
- Review and reform our water licensing system to ensure that existing licenses are fully utilized while respecting the principle of first in time, first in right. In cooperation with an effective on and off-stream fresh water storage plan, existing water licenses should be more than enough to address Alberta's growth pressures for decades.
- Promote improved water conservation by eliminating regulations that make it impossible for developers to implement new conservation technologies such as grey water recycling for residential or commercial use.
- Ensure that all Alberta municipalities are able to provide safe and reliable drinking water to their population and that proper sewage treatment practices are followed.
- Strictly enforce existing regulations on effluent producing industries.
- Support the federal ban on bulk water exports to the United States from Canada.



Clean Air, Land & Water

Clean Land

Alberta's land is a treasure trove almost without rival.

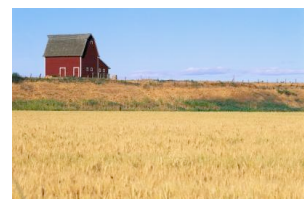
With our world renowned mountains, fertile prairie soils, rolling grasslands and massive northern forests, Albertans have come to revere this land and are overwhelmingly committed to protecting it.

Albertans want to know that environmental challenges arising from our province's growth are handled professionally, quickly and with common sense.

The current PC Government is far too worried about regulating mole hills while leaving weightier matters largely unaddressed. This does nothing to protect the environment, but does create unnecessary bureaucratic costs for Alberta residents and entrepreneurs.

Did you know?

- **Bill 19** allows the Provincial Cabinet to freeze land for extended periods without compensation?
- **Bill 50** allows the Provincial Cabinet to approve of massive power lines across the province without an independent assessment of whether it is necessary and where it would be most efficient?

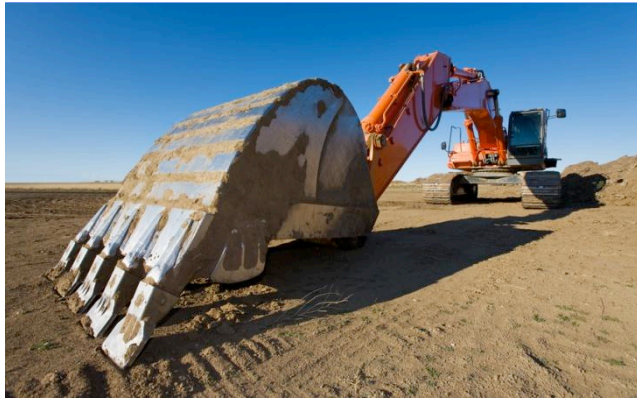


Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. The Wildrose Alliance will employ the following strategy to strengthen our province's commitment to clean land while addressing the environmental-related concerns of Alberta residents and businesses:

- Establish an Environment Ombudsman to facilitate better communication between the public and the provincial government on emerging environmental issues, and to see that such issues are resolved in a fair, timely and effective manner.
- Within the Ministry of Environment create a one-window application for all provincial environmental approvals. When it takes two years in Alberta to gain regulatory approval for the same project it took two months to approve in Saskatchewan, it is clear our environmental approval processes must be streamlined.
- Ensure all oil and gas development conducted on privately owned land is done in an environmentally responsible fashion, and that such properties are returned to landowners in essentially the same condition and value as they were previous to development.
- Recognize our national and provincial parks as vital provincial ecosystems and strictly protect these areas from development and other environmentally intrusive activities while enabling safe recreational use of them by the public.

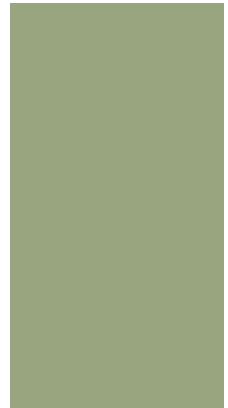
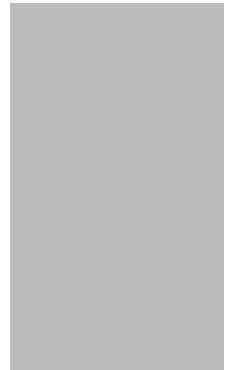
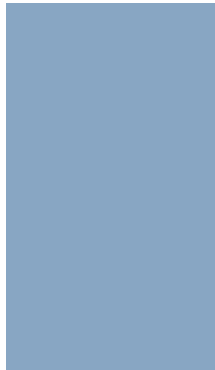




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosealliancecaucus.ca

Families and Children

Strengthening Families To Secure Alberta's Future



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Families

Strong families are the foundation of the past, present, and future of Alberta. As a province, we should make every effort to support families and the challenges they face. We must ensure all government programs and incentives assist, rather than hinder, the ability of parents to provide for and spend more quality time with their children.

There are, of course, many instances where families are in crisis: addictions, mental health issues, family violence, and relationship breakdowns can have serious and even tragic repercussions for all family members. When this occurs, it is critical to protect the interests of the children involved. Among other things, this means ensuring that children are safe, maintenance and access orders are expeditiously enforced, adequate child care is available and, in extreme circumstances, children are placed in stable and caring foster homes.



Although family and community organizations are often able to provide assistance in circumstances of family breakdown (and should be encouraged to do so), this is an area where the provincial government must be actively involved to ensure the protection of those unable to defend or care for themselves.

But the current government has not adequately served children and families in need. Social workers are overburdened, foster parents are unappreciated, child care options are limited, and the tax system penalizes stay-at-home parents. And when good legislation is passed, like the *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Amendment Act*, 2009, the government lets it sit on a shelf without implementation.



Get it Right

Alberta's families and children deserve better. A Wildrose government would address the needs of families and children by implementing the following policies:

- **Encourage the federal government to accelerate their plan to allow income splitting between parents. Currently, single income families with a parent at home caring for their children, are penalized under federal taxation laws.**
- **Review federal and provincial tax law to identify other ways in which the law unfairly penalizes families with children, and work to implement tax reforms that will lessen the financial burdens they face.**
- **Review the entire spectrum of child care options, including daycare, day homes, pre-school, after-school care, kinship care and others, and identify ways to increase access and reduce unnecessary barriers. For example, the review should include an examination of standards so those with extensive practical child care experience are more easily accredited.**
- **Make government child care grants more flexible in what type of child care they can be used for, while ensuring they are better targeted to parents with the most financial need (particularly single parents with low incomes).**
- **Introduce family law reforms that will improve compliance with both maintenance and visitation orders.**



- Fully review our foster care system and group homes to ensure that safety, training, compensation, and caseload levels are set at the highest standards possible. It is also essential that foster parents are treated with the utmost respect and feel valued for the critical service they provide.
- Invest in proven community organizations and programs that work to prevent, assist and treat victims of addictions and abuse. A significant amount of gambling revenues should be reallocated for these investments.
- Immediately proclaim the *Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Amendment Act, 2009*
- The Children's Advocate should be independent and be accountable to all children in the province. A report should be tabled in the legislature once a year.
- Caseload management needs to be reviewed to ensure social workers are not overburdened.
- Ensure wrap-around services are available for youth by using a team approach with social workers and service providers.
- Establish a dedicated Family Resource Centre hotline to provide a source for information, outreach services, and community supports to relieve unnecessary pressure from our Emergency 911 system.



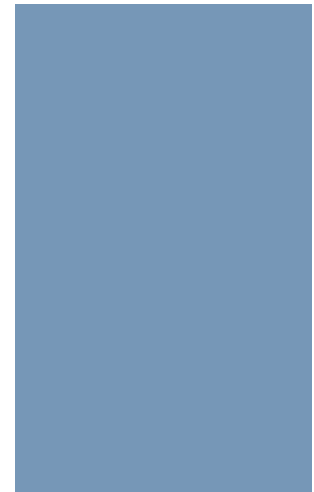
- **Ensure a full spectrum of child and youth services are available to protect the child while working towards reunification where possible and provide supportive living alternatives where not.**
- **The cultural needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children are of particular importance when intervening through use of residential care. There needs to be a clear direction and mandate that allows all aboriginal children to stay connected with their families and their communities. Connection may take diverse forms and will be assessed and determined based on the individual needs of the child and the input, expertise and knowledge of the First Nation, Inuit and Métis people.**

Albertans believe strongly that our most vulnerable need to be protected. The services must be there when they are needed. Children and families are essential to the well-being of everyone in our province and the better they cope with and overcome setbacks, the more they can make a positive contribution to our communities.



For the Wildrose Caucus' Families and Children, and other policies, go to:

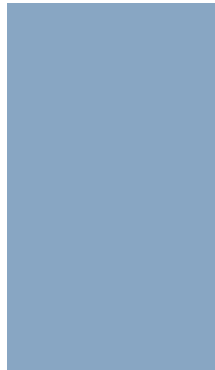
[Wildrose Caucus Policies](#)



Released October 3rd, 2011. For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Federal Relations

Ensuring Alberta is Leading the Nation Forward



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Federal Relations



Canada is a fantastic country with wonderful people. However, our nation will not reach its full potential and our national unity will be constantly undermined if we practice and institutionalize an unbalanced, undemocratic, and irresponsible brand of centralized federalism. A decentralized federalism that respects the diverse strengths, needs, cultures, resources and values of Canada's provinces, will both strengthen our economy while achieving a more unified nation.

Promoting strong provinces means respecting their constitutional rights and jurisdictions. Whether it is environmental regulation, the export of provincial resources, property rights, or securities regulation, the Government of Alberta must be ever vigilant with protecting our province's rights of self-governance. We have learned by unfortunate experience (i.e. National Energy Program, Wheat Board, Gun Registry, Equalization, etc.), when the federal government seeks to centralize and regulate a responsibility of the provinces, it generally ends in failure.

Another critical area of concern is the massive transfer of wealth between Alberta and Canada's so-called 'have-not' provinces. In 2009 alone, Alberta taxpayers sent \$21 billion more to the federal government for direct use by other provinces than we received in return. This equates to roughly \$5,700 for every man, woman and child in our province – by far the largest contribution per capita in Canada. A much larger portion of these dollars should be returned to Alberta for our infrastructure, health care, education and deficit reduction needs.

Equalization

Federal equalization and other wealth transfer programs were ostensibly intended to balance the quality of social programs across the country. Instead, what has happened is that the provinces benefiting most from these programs are now able to offer significantly more generous services to their citizens than the two or three provinces who are the actual net contributors (primarily Alberta and Ontario). It is no small irony that the biggest single beneficiary of such transfers, Quebec, provides cheap university tuition and inexpensive provincial day care, while Albertans pay high prices for, and have severe shortages of both in their own province. These annual wealth transfers also create the perverse incentive for 'have-not' provinces to retain fiscally irresponsible taxation and spending levels thereby remaining on the transfer dole in perpetuity. Equalization and other wealth transfer programs are failed Trudeau-era reforms that clearly are not working as originally intended and do not treat Albertans fairly.

Did you know?

Alberta has been sending around \$20 Billion more to Ottawa than it gets back in services in recent years. That works out to around \$21,375 *each year* for a family of four.

Finally, an effective and streamlined immigration system has become critical to the health of Alberta's economy and workforce, not to mention the strength it lends to our increasingly diverse provincial culture. As a province we need to take more control over our immigration system from the federal government, just as Quebec has, to ensure immigration better serves our provincial needs.

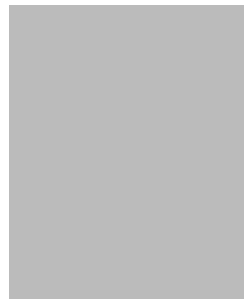
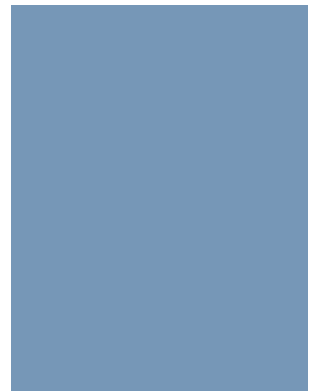
Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Alliance Government would strengthen our province and nation by implementing the following policies with regards to federal relations:

- Aggressively address the issue of interprovincial wealth transfer with the federal government and Canada's premiers. Alberta must never sign another equalization agreement unless it is fair to the people of Alberta. Whether it be through the transfer of tax points, a formula-driven cap on net equalization transfers from Alberta, removing natural resource revenues from the equalization formula, or through constitutionally challenging the current equalization formula, a Wildrose government would ensure that billions more of Albertan's hard earned tax dollars remain in the province to help keep up with the growth pressures we face.
- Assert our provincial constitutional rights by demanding that the federal government cease any initiative which seeks to regulate Alberta industry or property through the auspices of environmental regulation. Alberta's resource based economy is unique in all of Canada, and therefore, so too should be our environmental strategy. Any proposal that imposes a 'cap and trade' wealth transfer scheme, an arbitrary emissions cap, restrictions on bitumen exports, or any other federal intrusion into a clearly provincial jurisdiction must be met with unflinching opposition using all political, media and legal tools at our disposal.
- Work with other provinces to greatly reduce interprovincial trade barriers by expanding the Trade, Investment, Labour and Mobility Agreement (TILMA) to include Canada's other provinces and territories.

- Ensure Alberta businesses and entrepreneurs continue to have the choice of a provincial securities regulator (in addition to any contemplated national regulator) that serves the unique needs and interests of Alberta's investors and companies. A Wildrose government would also work with other provinces to improve and further streamline the securities 'passport' system thereby making it more seamless for Alberta companies to raise capital across the country.
- Explore the option of taking more control over immigration from the federal government as Quebec has done. A provincial immigration system, if administered properly, will greatly benefit Alberta's economy by making it easier for qualified and financially sponsored working-age immigrants to enter, integrate, have their foreign educational credentials recognized, and contribute to Alberta on a permanent basis. The current provincial nominee and temporary worker programs administered by the province are under-utilized, rife with unfairness, massively backlogged and are not serving the interests of Albertans.
- Protect the rights of law abiding hunters and farmers by aggressively lobbying the federal government to eliminate the failed long gun registry.
- Work with the federal government and neighboring provinces to end the western wheat board monopoly.
- Continue to insist that only duly elected senators be appointed to represent Alberta in the Senate.

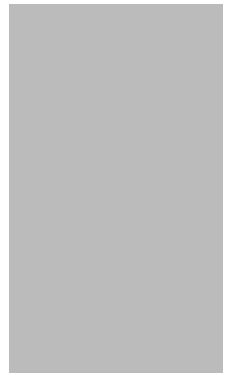
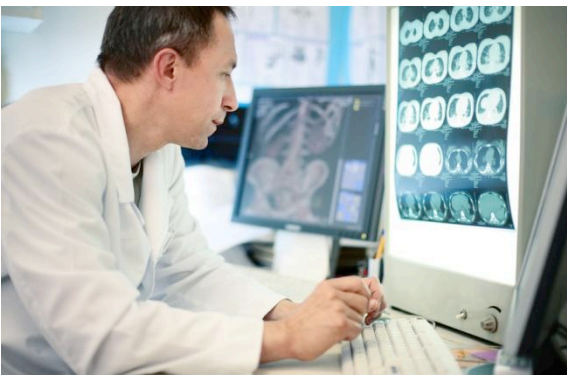




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Health

Reforming Alberta's Health Care System



Wildrose Alliance Caucus

Get it Right!

Health

Alberta's health care system has arrived at a critical crossroad. Despite massive annual increases in health spending, waiting lists are at all time highs, patients are left languishing in emergency rooms for hours and sometimes days, finding a family physician is increasingly difficult, and many seniors find it impossible to secure the care they so desperately need.

The PC Government continues to mismanage health care. They have squandered millions of dollars on executive health salaries and bonuses for chronic underperformance. They have centralized control of health care in a massive Health Superboard bureaucracy that has been unresponsive to local needs. They have broken contracts with our most effective health care providers, subjected our health care professionals to intimidation and censorship, and misallocated billions of dollars on projects that are unable to open due to unavailable operating funds and staff shortages.

To be clear, once patients gain access to the system, our doctors and nurses provide treatment that is second to none. However, being forced to wait weeks, months and sometimes years for access to needed health treatments is not health care, it's a prison sentence that thousands of Albertans are suffering through each and every day.

Alberta's health care system can be fixed, but we cannot continue to allow the PC Government to repeat the same flawed strategies and expect different results. Reforming health care will take honest and principled leadership. It will take a new government working cooperatively with Albertans and health care professionals to do what is necessary to build a health care system that puts Albertans first. The Wildrose is ready to be that government.



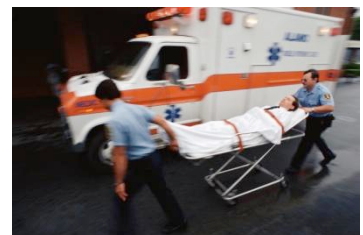
Universal Public Health Insurance

Albertans want access to the health care they need. Albertans do not want a U.S.-style health care system that leaves millions uninsured. It is critical that any proposed health reforms for our province comply with the five key principles of the Canada Health Act – namely that health insurance coverage is publicly administered, comprehensive in scope, universal, portable among provinces and accessible.

Unfortunately, many special interest groups and political parties have used the obvious flaws inherent in the U.S. health care system to actively scare many Albertans into resisting critically needed health reforms. This has resulted in one of the least accessible, least flexible and most expensive health care systems in the developed world.

The fact is the most effective, sustainable and patient-centred health systems in the world are not found in Canada or the United States; they are found in Western Europe. Countries such as France, Austria, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland all deliver world class universal public health care to their citizens; and they do this while spending less per person on health care than we do. These countries, and others, are able to accomplish this by fostering a culture of patient choice and accountability and providing competition within their publicly funded health system.

We cannot continue to allow the voices of the status quo to keep our province from doing what so badly needs to be done. Failure to change our direction on health care will result in a bankrupt system with ever-growing wait times and increasingly poor health outcomes.



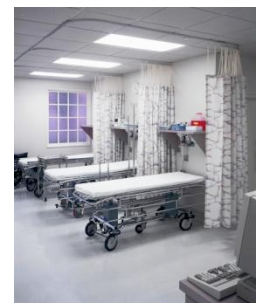
Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will implement the following principles to ensure Albertans have timely access to world class health care:

- Uphold the five key principles of the Canada Health Act, namely that health insurance coverage is publicly administered, comprehensive, universal, portable and accessible.
- Foster a culture of patient choice and competition by giving Albertans the right to use their public insurance to obtain needed treatment at the public, private or non-profit health provider of their choosing.
- Look to model Alberta's health care system after successful European systems that have substantially shorter waiting lists and higher patient satisfaction while maintaining universal health insurance coverage for all.

Did you know?

- Canada has the fourth-highest per capita health spending in the world, but ranks near the bottom of OECD nations in results. Almost all European countries have better results with less spending.
- Even with its elderly population, Japan has a much better health system despite spending one-half of what Canada does on health care.
- Canada not only spends twice as much on health as New Zealand does, we spend triple what they do on pharmaceuticals. Canada ranks second in the world in drug costs.



Decentralized Health Care

With each passing week, it becomes increasingly clear that the PC Government's decision to place control of health care delivery in the hands of a massive centralized Superboard has been a mistake.

Under Alberta Health Services (AHS), the health budget has skyrocketed, waiting times for cancer treatments and emergency care have increased dramatically, access to hospital beds has worsened, and local communities and hospitals have been stripped of any and all decision-making related to their unique health care needs. Despite these problems, millions in performance bonuses have been paid to an ever growing number of health executives.

Meaningful health care reform is extremely difficult at the best of times, but it is made infinitely more challenging by the AHS's neglect of our frontline health care staff. Instead of consulting with local doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who understand exactly what needs to be done to improve local health services, AHS has instead created layers of cumbersome bureaucracy making timely decisions and improvements impossible.

AHS has even imposed restrictions on its employees who want to publicly disclose ways in which the health system can be improved. And despite an official reversal of this policy by AHS, health care staff continue to express fears of retaliation should they dare to speak out. It is hard to understand how we can improve health care when front line health practitioners feel unable to inform Albertans (and their representatives) of needed improvements.

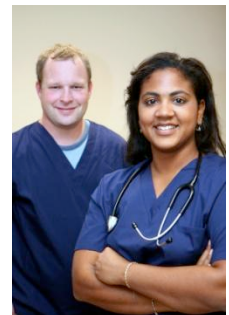
Centralizing the administration and delivery of core social programs does not work – it never has. If we centralized control of all food production and delivery in the hands of bureaucrats at the Legislature, long lines, high prices and shortages would inevitably result. Health care is no different.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will work with front line health care workers to return health care decision making back to the local level by implementing the following measures:

- Gradually decentralize the delivery of health care services to locally funded, managed and integrated hospitals, Primary Care Networks, family physicians, specialty centres, long term care facilities, chronic care programs and other health services. This will enhance and incent a proper continuum of care for patients and allow for flexible innovation to address unique local needs while meeting established care standards.
- Overhaul bonus incentives for health care managers and workers to ensure that reasonable bonuses are awarded only to those that have had a direct effect on measurably improving the quality and efficiency of the health care system.
- Immediately remove any clause in the current AHS Code of Conduct that might act as a deterrent to the ability of health care professionals to voice their ideas and concerns regarding health care.
- Work closely and cooperatively with front line health care professionals to ensure needed changes to the health care system are practical and effective. This should include the establishment of an advisory panel of qualified health care professionals that will meet with the Health Minister at least once every 2 months to act as an early warning system for health issues that need to be immediately addressed.



- Establish a fully independent Health Ombudsman to help Albertans anonymously deal with problems and barriers encountered in the health care system. Currently, patients facing such challenges have no effective recourse.
- Redirect funding to health education programs that assist Albertans (especially those for whom English is a second language) to better understand the most appropriate and effective ways to access the health care system.

Did you know?

- The supposedly streamlined Superboard has 74 Vice-presidents.
- Albertans average length of hospital stay is 7 days, more than 2 whole days longer than the Scandinavian average (4.7).
- Alberta already spends more than any other province on health.



Patient-Centred Service Delivery

The most fundamental flaw of Alberta's health system is the lack of choice and competition in the delivery of health services.

The provincial government has created a monolithic public delivery monopoly wherein there is virtually no competition for patients; no incentives for providing effective service or excellent treatment; and no reason to run hospitals or utilize operating rooms more efficiently. Is it any wonder why emergency rooms are in crisis?

Choice and competition between health care providers is the key to solving these problems. In many cases, well run public hospitals will provide patients with the best and most timely treatment.

In other instances, independent non-profit and private facilities will be able to treat patients more effectively and efficiently. As long as the needed service is publicly paid for and done safely, it shouldn't make a difference whether an operating room is run by a public hospital or private surgical centre.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will ensure that Alberta's health care delivery is patient-centred, and that wait times for specialists, procedures and emergency room care are significantly decreased by implementing the following policies:

- Significantly reduce wait times for specialists and medical procedures by opening delivery of publicly paid for health services to any accredited private and non-profit health service provider. If a private or non-profit provider can deliver the same or better quality of care, more quickly and at a reduced cost to government, that provider should have the opportunity to compete with the public sector for each and every patient.
- Introduce a health care funding model in which public, private and non-profit health service providers and facilities are compensated according to the quality and timeliness of the care they give, and guarantee Albertans the right to select the health provider and facility of their choice. Many Western European health systems have proven that building a culture of patient choice, competition and accountability within a public health insurance system successfully incents hospitals, emergency rooms, surgical centres, specialists, doctors and others to provide world class health treatments in a timely and cost effective manner.
- End the practice of building expensive health facilities until there is clearly enough available staff to open them. With the money saved from this practice, immediately work to open and staff available capacity within the public system to reduce wait times.
- Further reduce surgical and specialist wait times by funding needed services for Alberta patients outside the province should timely access to a medically necessary procedures be unavailable in Alberta. In such cases, the cost to the Government to have that same procedure performed in Alberta would instead be sent to the out-of-Alberta health provider. The patient would be responsible for costs over and above that amount.

Seniors Health Care

As individuals age, health care becomes a primary concern. The PC Government continues to fail our seniors on this issue. Despite continued promises, there remains a dearth of funding for assisted home care and massive waiting lists for rooms in long-term and palliative care facilities.

Instead, seniors are often left to age in uncomfortable and expensive hospital rooms far away from loved ones. This, of course, exacerbates emergency room wait times, jams hospital beds, and because of the high cost of an acute care bed, unnecessarily drains millions from the health care budget which could be put to better use elsewhere in the system.

The PC Government has also mishandled drug coverage for seniors. The Government's unfairly structured proposed 'Seniors Drug Plan' would see a monthly premium charged to seniors on already stretched fixed incomes.

Did you know?

- Alberta has the second-lowest level of home care spending in Canada.



Get it Right

Alberta seniors deserve better. A Wildrose Government would improve health care for seniors by taking the following steps:

- Redirect more of the health budget to expanding home care thereby empowering seniors who are able to continue living in the comfort of their own homes and communities. This will not only save taxpayers millions, it will free up hundreds of badly needed acute care hospital beds.
- Greatly reduce the complexity and regulatory barriers to families, non-profit organizations, charities and businesses who wish to establish safe and affordable facilities providing assisted living, long term care and palliative care. Again, increasing the number of these beds will greatly reduce health costs and hospital overcrowding due to the thousands of Alberta seniors who have been placed unnecessarily in acute care hospital beds.
- Introduce a 'Kinship Palliative Care' program where family members who might otherwise be employed in the workforce are moderately compensated for providing end-of-life care for their loved ones. As our province's nursing shortage becomes more acute, it is imperative that we enlist the help of family members in caring for our aging population.
- Scrap the PC Government's new Seniors Drug Plan which introduces onerous premiums for tens of thousands of Alberta seniors. The current drug plan for seniors is far more fair and appropriate.



Sustainability

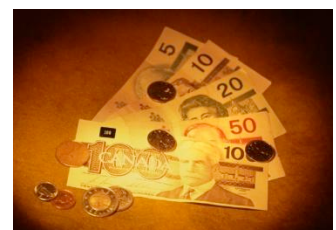
In Alberta, health care now consumes over 40% of provincial spending, and is on pace to grow to more than 50% in coming years. Clearly, this is an unsustainable system, and we must address the issue immediately or we will soon see health expenditures erode other essential public services such as education, policing and environmental protection.

As is the case with any good or service, choice and competition between health providers will certainly moderate increases in health care costs. However, given the nature of our current public system, it is important that Albertans, doctors, the provincial government and other health service providers understand the individualized costs of health care in order to capitalize on efficiencies.

As we have seen with the Alberta Health Superboard's unwillingness, or perhaps inability to fully publicly disclose its financial statements, it is difficult to understand where efficiencies may be realized if no one knows where the money is actually being spent.

It is also critical that patients have all the information needed to make informed decisions as to which health provider is the best fit for them. Albertans need to be able to monitor waiting lists, know which health facilities provide the best patient outcomes, and have complete access to their personal medical records.

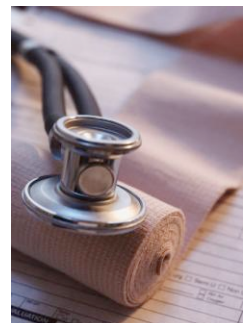
Finally, a critical part of having a sustainable health care system is to ensure there are enough health professionals available to work in the system – especially given the increasing number of seniors requiring additional health services. The current PC Government has moved in the opposite direction by permitting restrictive limits on post-secondary enrolment for health-related degrees and diplomas and doing little to expand the number of available residencies for medical students.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will ensure a sustainable health care system by introducing the following policies:

- Ensure Albertans have full access to their medical records and treatment histories and make those records available to each patient's physician through a vastly improved electronic health record (ensuring patient privacy and confidentiality is respected) in order to minimize duplication of medical services and ensure the right medical information is available to the right person at the right time.
- Make electronically available to each Albertan an annual statement outlining the costs of health services provided to that individual during the previous year.
- Carefully track and publicly disclose waiting lists for all procedures and emergency rooms, the per-person and overall cost of each type of procedure, and the treatment outcomes of all health facilities.
- Work with doctors and their related professional organizations to significantly increase the number of residencies available to medical graduates.



- Establish a student loan forgiveness program that gradually forgives student loans incurred by graduates who remain in Alberta to practice a profession of high need (i.e. doctor, nurse, etc) over an extended period of time. Incentives could be strengthened further to encourage health practitioners to practice in more remote rural areas as well.
- In consultation with Alberta's post-secondary institutions and professional associations, expand spaces for high-demand degrees and diplomas (i.e. medicine, nursing and other health related fields) by allowing a substantial amount of post-secondary government funding to directly follow the student to the institution of his or her choice. Rather than setting arbitrary limits on courses of study, Alberta universities, colleges and technical schools should be competing for students by offering the programs and courses students most want to enrol in.

Did you know?

- 37% of Canadian doctors use electronic health records. In New Zealand and Australia it's 96%.

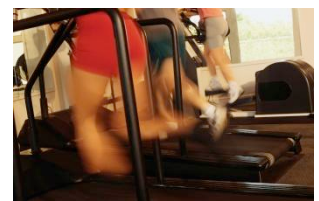


Preventative Health

An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure. Unfortunately, this sage advice is being ignored by far too many. Whether it be smoking, drugs, too much alcohol, a lack of exercise or over-eating, billions of dollars are spent each year in our province to treat entirely preventable illnesses and conditions.

A successful health care system should be focused on supporting wellness as much as treating the sick. A continuous and healthy doctor-patient relationship is vital to preventative monitoring and early treatment of disease.

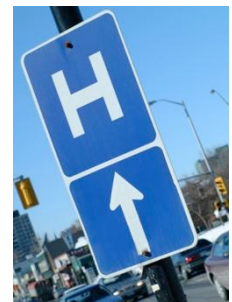
Of course, the taxpayer cannot afford to pay for every kind of health service or treatment. Relying on Albertans to do all they can to maintain their personal health is vital to the sustainability of our public health system. However, government can and should provide incentives where appropriate to empower individuals to do just that. Instead, the current PC Government arbitrarily delists preventive health treatments while providing no incentives for individuals to better manage their own care.

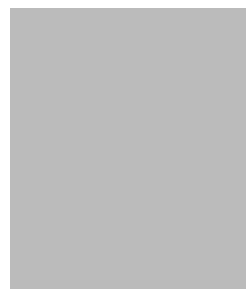
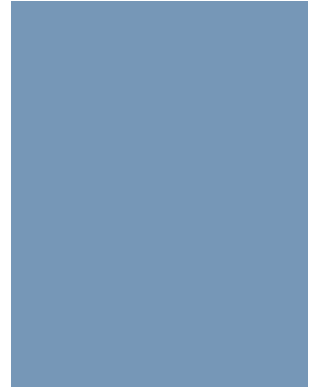


Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will promote wellness by introducing the following reforms:

- Give every Albertan the opportunity to set up and invest in a personal Medical Savings Account (MSA). Pre-tax dollars could be invested in these accounts, grown tax free, and used to purchase health-related services that are not fully or only partially covered by Alberta Health Insurance (i.e. chiropractic care, naturopathic medicine, long term care, etc).
- Promote healthy lifestyle choices by introducing tax incentives for various preventative health measures and activities.
- Guarantee that decisions regarding treatment for individuals that are mentally ill, AISH recipients and persons with developmental disabilities are based on the needs of patients first and foremost. Denying adequate treatment to these individuals greatly increases health and treatment costs in the long run.
- Invest in proven community organizations and programs that work to prevent, assist and treat victims of addictions and abuse, again saving health dollars down the road.

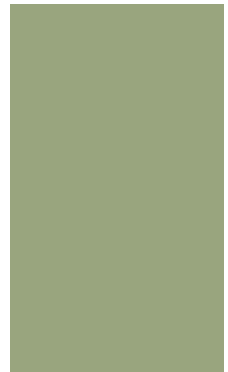
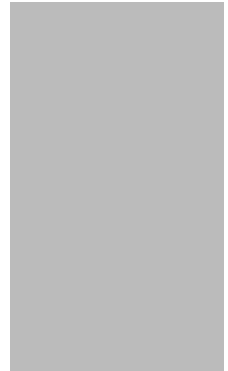




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Justice, Policing & Human Rights

Ensuring Safe Streets and an Effective Justice System for Albertans



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Justice

Many Albertans have lost confidence in Canada's justice system – and with good reason. Child killers, gang members and sexual predators are consistently being released without serving their full sentences and, in many cases, while still considered dangerous to the public. The system is seemingly obsessed with protecting the rights of the perpetrators rather than the victims of their crimes. Meanwhile, the rights of law-abiding citizens to be protected and fairly compensated are often undermined.

Compounding the problem further is a justice system that is increasingly difficult and expensive for the average Albertan to access and navigate. Single parents are finding it more difficult and costly to enforce maintenance orders against 'dead-beat' parents, while responsible parents following the rules often find that their rights of access to their children are not respected.



There has been a mountain of study and research conducted on improving our justice system (most notably the 2007 Safe Communities Task Force chaired by Wildrose MLA Heather Forsyth), however, the government seems more intent on appearing to be doing something than taking the decisive action needed to make our communities more safe and secure.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose government will restore the principle of justice to our justice system by implementing the following reforms:

- **Protect the rights of victims by advocating for federal legislation that would see convicted criminals financially compensate the victims of their crimes without need of a costly civil trial.**
- **Work aggressively with the federal government to end conditional sentences (house arrest) for serious violent offenses. Bail requirements for repeat and dangerous offenders must be tightened and the lack of mandatory minimum sentences for violent criminals leading to sometimes shamefully short sentences must be addressed.**
- **Task a panel of legal experts to make recommendations on ways to expedite prosecutions against gang members and criminal organizations, while increasing protection for Crown witnesses involved in such cases.**
- **Implement several critical 2007 Safe Communities Task Force recommendations including:**
 - The public reporting by the government of key justice system indicators including the sentencing records of judges in criminal cases, criminal plea-bargains, and bail orders and violations.
 - Increased monitoring of violent offenders and stricter enforcement of conditions of release.



- **Strike a taskforce to study and make recommendations that will make timely access to Alberta's justice system more affordable for regular Albertans. This review should include an examination of how to better streamline the rules of court, make self-representation easier and safer, elevate the role of legal agents, incent lawyers to do more pro bono work and build a more effective legal aid program.**
- **Make it easier under FOIP for parents, guardians and those they authorize to access information concerning students-at-risk.**
- **Introduce family law reforms that will ensure improved compliance with both maintenance and visitation orders.**
- **Review the Minor Injury Regulation, which caps compensation to which victims of motor vehicle accidents are entitled, to ensure (i) timely and proper medical treatment, (ii) payment of full and fair compensation to innocent Albertans for losses and injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents, (iii) elimination of fraudulent claims, and (iv) access to affordable private auto insurance for Albertans.**
- **Review the compensation that a spouse or dependent is entitled to under the *Fatal Accidents Act*, so that compensation payable by a wrongdoer is increased, and amend the Act to make a wrongdoer subject to punitive damages.**



Policing

Alberta is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. However, there continues to be a growing number of individuals preying on the innocent and taking advantage of others. Our province is facing significant challenges as it tries to deal with organized crime, gangs, child exploitation, identity theft, and white collar crime. Too often, the rights of the accused and convicted criminals seem to supersede the rights of victims.



Better integration and cooperation between our police forces is essential if we're going to reduce crime. Gangs, child predators, fraudsters and organized criminals do not adhere to clearly defined operational borders. They conduct their activities via sophisticated and integrated operations across multiple jurisdictions. It is imperative that our policing agencies upgrade and integrate current law enforcement techniques and equipment if we hope to successfully tackle these threats.



But efforts to combat violence, abuse, drugs and gangs need to begin much earlier. Instead of young people only learning about crime, guns, gangs, and drugs through glorified representations in music and on television, a more concerted effort must be made in our schools and after-school programs to ensure our youth understand how dangerous these issues are and how to avoid or escape them.

Our provincial corrections system also needs to be improved. Albertans expect inmates to serve their full sentences and to be rehabilitated as much as possible so they don't re-offend when released. One of the best ways to prepare inmates for their return to society is to teach them some employable skills, instill a work ethic, and help treat their alcohol and drug addictions.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will protect Albertans by implementing the following reforms:

- **Target child abuse, child exploitation and child pornography by significantly increasing funding for our province's Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) teams.**
- **Immediately proclaim into law Bill 202, the *Mandatory Reporting of Child Pornography Act* (introduced in 2010 by MLA Heather Forsyth), and organize a 'Child Protection Taskforce' to look at best practices from around the world in tackling these horrible crimes.**
- **Legislate a *Victims' Bill of Rights* to ensure victims are given the resources, protections and compensation necessary to cope with the damage inflicted on them by criminals.**
- **Create a fully integrated and compatible database and communications system for the sharing of investigative intelligence by police agencies and the coordinating of enforcement operations between first responders.**
- **Work with Ottawa to ensure the RCMP leadership in Alberta is accountable first and foremost to Albertans through their Solicitor General, rather than to bureaucrats and politicians in Ottawa.**
- **Undertake a comprehensive review of how we fund policing to ensure all municipalities, large and small, are provided with the resources they need to protect their citizens.**
- **Establish 'Treatment Jails' and strengthen sentencing guidelines so individuals who are mentally ill or who suffer from addictions can serve their sentences in an environment that will treat their addictions and illnesses, and connect them with social agencies that will assist in reducing recidivism.**

- Review the ratio of probation and correction officers to offenders to ensure both the safety of corrections workers and offenders.
- Introduce work programs for provincial offenders.
- Expand the use of electronic monitoring of dangerous offenders (GPS tracking).
- Support early awareness programs that educate children on the dangers of crime, gangs, drugs, and alcohol.
- Support targeted policing initiatives such as strategic task force teams comprised of police, social workers, probation officers and mental health workers.
- Ensure that when a property has been used for criminal activities that may result in long-term property damage (i.e. grow-ops or meth labs), such issues are identified on the property's land title so potential buyers have access to that information.
- Decrease youth crime by reducing unnecessary FOIP barriers so information can be more easily shared between social services, schools, health professionals, and the police where appropriate.



Protecting Human Rights

Albertans overwhelmingly support the principles of equality, freedom of speech, freedom of religion and all other rights protected under Alberta and Canadian human rights legislation. It is critical that we protect the human rights of all members of society, whatever their ethnicity, religion or background, and regardless of whether they have the financial means to defend those rights in our oftentimes expensive and complicated justice system.

However, the current Alberta Human Rights Commission has failed to fairly deal with human rights complaints. In fact, the Commission and their tribunals have become something akin to 'kangaroo courts', where rights are pitted against each other and interpreted by individuals who are often unqualified to make judgments on the most foundational of



protected rights in society. In addition, the hallmarks of justice, such as the rules of evidence, standards of proof, and protections against frivolous and vexatious lawsuits, are not afforded in these Commissions or their related tribunals, bringing the administration of justice into disrepute.

In fact, over the past 20 years many of the worst abuses of human rights in our province have been attacks against freedom of speech that, ironically, have been perpetrated by the very Commission tasked with protecting our human rights.

We need to safeguard and bolster the ability of all Albertans to protect and defend their human rights, but this can't be done without protecting our common law values of the presumption of innocence until proven guilty after a fair and impartial hearing and the right of an innocent person to recover court costs when falsely accused. We need to guarantee that the inalienable Rights of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion are not unjustly overridden by those with pre-conceived agendas and an almost fanatical devotion to political correctness.



When an individual is accused of violating human rights, he or she ought to be judged by someone with a full appreciation for all rights protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the hearing must be conducted in an impartial setting which permits a full and fair hearing of the evidence.



Get it Right

A Wildrose Government will strengthen and protect human rights for all Albertans by implementing the following reforms:

- **Strengthen Alberta’s human rights legislation to unequivocally protect the freedom of speech of all Albertans. This will include the repeal of section 3 in Alberta’s current human rights legislation. The Legislation will maintain the criminal code standard of banning speech that advocates for acts of violence or genocide against any individual or identifiable group.**
- **Replace the Human Rights Commission with a new Human Rights Division of the Provincial Court of Alberta, which will adjudicate all human rights complaints.**
- **Implement the following human rights complaint process:**
 1. An individual, who complains of a violation of his or her human rights, will be referred to the new Human Rights Division of the Provincial Court of Alberta.
 2. To ensure all individuals have access to justice, regardless of language, the Court will provide an interpreter, if needed.
 3. If the individual wishes to have legal assistance in making his or her complaint, the Clerk of the Provincial Court will supply to the individual a referral roster of ‘Human Rights Advocates’ who will provide an initial consultation paid for by the Government to help the complainant assess whether or not there are legitimate grounds to file a human rights complaint. Each Human Rights Advocate will be a designated member of the Law Society of Alberta in good standing, and will have experience in constitutional and human rights law. Alternatively, a complainant may retain a lawyer that is not a designated Human Rights Advocate or may decide to represent him or herself personally.

4. If a Human Rights Advocate believes there are legitimate grounds for a human rights complaint, and the complainant wishes to proceed, the Advocate will represent the complainant throughout the remainder of the process. Legal services provided by the Advocate will be paid for by the Government. If, in the opinion of the Advocate, there are not legitimate grounds for a human rights complaint, the complainant may still represent him or herself or hire their own lawyer to proceed with their complaint.
5. In order to protect the parties' procedural and substantive rights, and ensure expeditious and cost-effective justice, the new Human Rights Division of the Provincial Court of Alberta will use streamlined and simplified rules of procedure, which will include standardized forms for a complaint, defense, and other court documents, mandatory alternative dispute resolution, and case flow management.
6. The *Provincial Court Act* will be amended to empower the Court to impose stringent penalties and remedies for human rights violations.
7. If the Court finds an individual complainant's human rights have been infringed, the complainant (or the Government if an Advocate is representing the complainant) may be awarded court costs to be paid by the defendant. If the complaint is dismissed, the defendant may recover his or her court costs to be paid by the complainant (or the Government if a complainant is represented by an Advocate). An Advocate may lose his or her designation should he or she repeatedly represent complainants with frivolous and vexatious complaints.



****The above human right complaint process will be funded in a cost-neutral manner by re-directing funding from the current Human Rights Commissions (\$5.2 M) to the provision of legal services by Human Rights Advocates as well as the Provincial Court of Alberta for the additional cost of the administration of justice. This includes the appointment of any additional judges that may be needed to ensure the Courts are not overburdened by an increased case load. Until the new Human Rights Division is created by amendment to the Provincial Court Act and a streamlined and simplified court process is fully developed by regulation, the existing Human Rights complaint process and Commission will continue.***

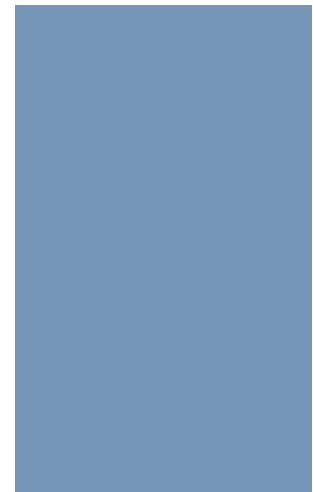
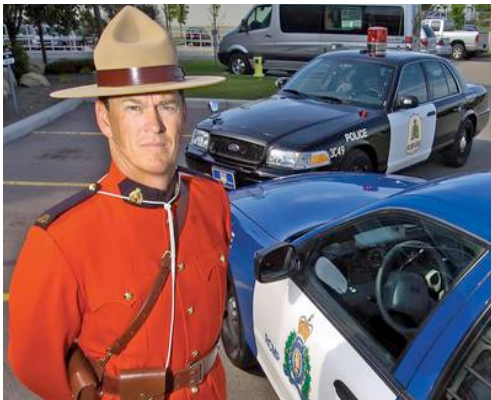


Comparison of Existing Human Rights Commission System and Proposed Wildrose Court-Based System

Issue	Existing Commission System	Wildrose Court-based System
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No charge to complainant to bring complaints forward Interpreters provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No charge to complainant to bring complaints forward Interpreters provided
Initial review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureaucrat at Commission reviews complaint and decides if there are grounds to proceed (no charge to complainant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights Advocate (lawyer) reviews complaint and decides if there are grounds to proceed (no charge to complainant)
Complaint Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission sends complaint as is, to defendant for response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Advocate determines there are grounds to proceed, will proceed with the complaint (no charge to complainant)
Defendant's Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After defendant responds to complaint, bureaucrats at Commission can dismiss or launch a full investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendant has right to make a full and fair defense in front of a judge.
Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After bureaucrats conduct investigation they provide report declaring dismissal or guilt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With streamlined and simplified rules of procedure, the evidence is presented transparently and efficiently
Verdict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If defendant refuses to settle, the Commissioner appoints a panel hearing. This panel does not operate according to standard evidentiary rules, and they are limited in what punishments they can give out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A provincial Court judge will render a verdict. Legislation will be amended so that the court can impose stringent penalties upon guilty violators.
Court Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendants found innocent bear the full cost of their defense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defendants found innocent will have their court costs paid for.

For all of the Wildrose Caucus' policies, go to:

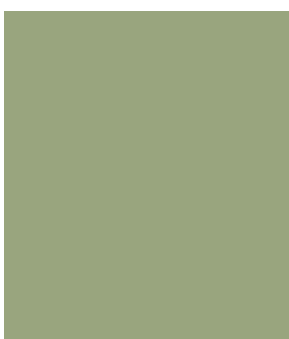
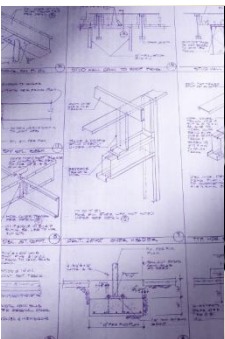
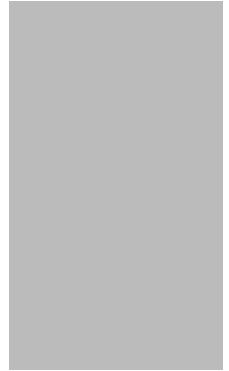
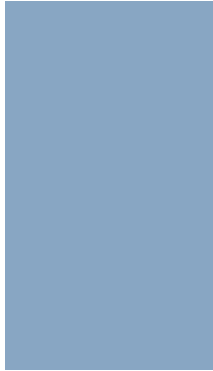
[Wildrose Caucus Policies](#)



Released September 26, 2011. For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Municipal Affairs & Infrastructure

Building a Stronger Alberta



Wildrose Alliance Caucus

Get it Right!

Infrastructure

As Alberta's economy grows, so does our population. As thousands of new Albertans arrive each year, additional roads, schools, medical facilities and public transit infrastructure are needed. And despite unprecedented overspending by the current PC Government, many of our most basic infrastructure requirements have been left unaddressed.

The reason for this is simple. The PC Government has utterly mismanaged the manner in which infrastructure dollars are allocated. Hundreds of millions in infrastructure dollars have been doled out based on political calculation and favouritism rather than on the needs of Albertans. Billions have been spent on facilities the Government can't afford to staff. Billions more have been wasted on corporate welfare projects such as carbon capture and storage.

Despite repeated requests for the Government's lists of priority capital projects and the criteria used to arrive at each priority, the PC Government continually refuses to publicly release such information.



Municipal Affairs

The PC Government's handling of municipalities has been equally poor. The Government's patchwork of municipal grants and funding programs has resulted in hundreds of millions wasted on middle-management.

Municipalities are unable to implement adequate long-term infrastructure planning as funding is promised, then cut, then promised again. Due to this type of chronic underfunding, many municipalities have increased local property taxes to the point where it has become a major financial burden on individuals and businesses.

The treatment of municipalities by the PC Government follows a familiar pattern – centralize decision-making and financial resources in Edmonton, force the municipalities to raise local taxes and come begging cap-in-hand each year for funding, then claim political credit for doling out cash while wasting countless millions on the bureaucratic process.

Did you know?

- *Government spending on infrastructure dropped significantly in 2003, then doubled by 2005. Actual spending is often not even close to projected levels.*

Steady and sustainable funding not only helps municipalities plan better, but helps our construction industry invest wisely in their equipment and staffing levels. This helps keep costs down for everyone in the long term.



Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Alliance Government would implement the following plan to ensure Albertans get the infrastructure they need at a price the taxpayer can afford:

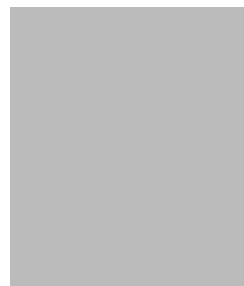
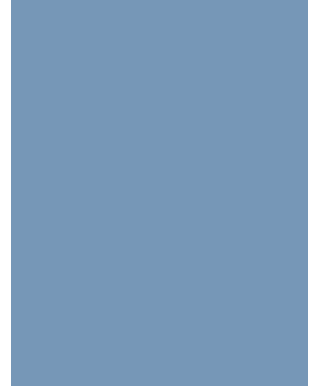
- Provide municipalities with a legislated long-term funding formula tied to the growth of provincial tax revenues and royalties, rather than continue with the current patchwork of wasteful and bureaucratic municipal granting and funding programs. Local communities, not the provincial bureaucracy, are in the best position to determine where local infrastructure dollars should be spent.
- Conduct a thorough assessment to determine Alberta's actual infrastructure deficit and prioritize new projects and maintenance to address these needs. The resulting list of priority infrastructure projects and maintenance must be publicly disclosed and any adjustments with accompanying rationale immediately reported. The practice of building schools, medical facilities, and other infrastructure projects based on politics and favouritism must end.



Get it Right

- Restrain provincial per capita infrastructure spending to a level consistent with the Canadian average. Currently, Alberta spends about twice the national average on infrastructure. This overspending drives up inflation, increases business costs and contributes to massive labour shortages during periods of economic growth.
- In consultation and cooperation with municipalities, conduct a review of the entire property taxation regime to ensure business competitiveness as well as fairness to all Alberta ratepayers – especially those individuals on modest and fixed incomes (i.e. seniors).

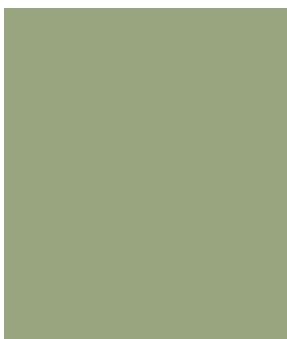
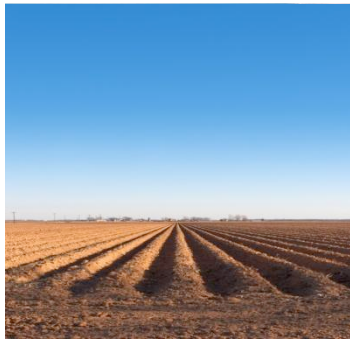
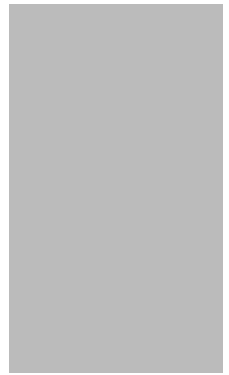




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Property Rights

Restoring Property Rights for Alberta Landowners



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Property Rights

One of the most fundamental roles of government is the protection and preservation of property rights. Without such protection, our entire economy would cease to function. Property rights are the foundation of each individual and family's financial security and prosperity. For example, farmers and ranchers need to know that their investment in their land and livelihood is protected and will not be devalued by others, including the government, without just compensation. Those owning residential or commercial property in urban, as well as rural, areas need to feel confident that not only will wrongdoers be criminally prosecuted for trespassing and vandalism, but also that government won't pull the rug out from underneath their investments without fair notice and compensation.

The current PC Government has shown a complete lack of respect for basic property rights. With *Bill 19, the Land Assembly Project Area Act (2009)*, the PC Government granted itself authority to freeze large tracts of private land for public purposes without having to fully compensate landowners for such things as relocation costs, losses incurred due to business interruption, and other related damages.

In the fall of 2010, the government passed *Bill 24, the Carbon Capture and Storage Statutes Amendment Act*, which was a simple declaration that all 'pore space' beneath the ground belongs to the government. 'Pore space' is a vague term referring to any spaces beneath the ground where CO₂ can be stored (for their misguided carbon capture and storage initiative). According to common law, the landowner's ownership extends to the centre of the earth. But rather than having to get permission from you to store liquefied gas under your land and compensate for any inconveniences, this Act gives the government the right to access your land and pump into your pore space whatever they want, whenever they want.

Bill 36, the Alberta Land Stewardship Act (2009), divides the province into seven land use regions and authorizes Cabinet to implement “regional plans” for each area of the province. This means that central planners at the Legislature, rather than locally elected and accountable municipal councils, will specify what types of activities are going to be permitted or prohibited on Crown or private land. This Act also allows Cabinet to “extinguish” existing rights held under licenses, permits, leases, and approvals with limited or no compensation, and without the right of appeal.

And finally, *Bill 50, the Electric Statutes Amendment Act (2009)* mandates the construction of billions of dollars worth of new transmission lines crisscrossing private lands up and down Alberta, with the largest chunk of new transmission set up between northern Alberta coal generated electricity producers and Calgary in the south. Not only did this bill bypass the requirement of an objective Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) needs-based assessment (that quite likely would have shown that local natural-gas electricity generation would render much of the Bill 50 transmission lines unnecessary); it also resulted in the government offering billions of dollars in untendered transmission line building contracts to large corporate donors and friends of the PC Party. This backroom deal will likely result in a massive overbuild of transmission lines whose massive costs will be passed on to residential, farm and industrial ratepayers.

Did you know?

- Bill 50 enables power companies to spend approximately \$16 billion constructing new transmission lines that will increase capacity eight-fold. That is the equivalent of allowing a paving company to expand the QEII Highway to 16 lanes.



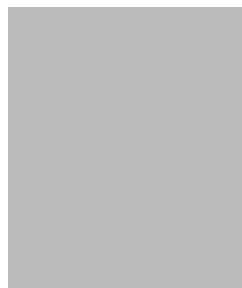
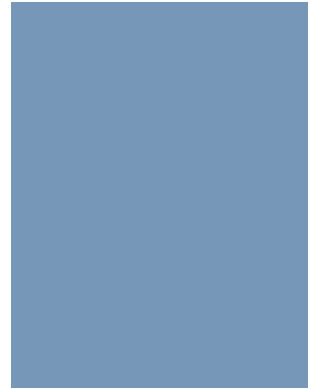
Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government will implement the following reforms to protect and preserve property rights for all Albertans:

- Pass an *Alberta Property Rights Preservation Act* that will entrench property rights protection in law. Existing legislation provides for compensation only when title is formally taken by expropriation, but not for property partially taken or devalued through government regulation. This Act will address this omission and ensure that all landowners have recourse to the courts to protect their rights.
- Review all existing legislation dealing with property rights as related to government expropriation and regulation to ensure that when needed public projects or government initiatives, such as highway construction or land-use alteration, are found absolutely necessary, any negative impacts on affected property owners will be fully compensated for. This should include a thorough examination of what government actions and regulations should result in compensation, as well as what amount of compensation is fair.
- Repeal Bills 19, 24, and 36. Replace the current “*Land Use Framework*” with one that better protects the rights of landowners and respects the role of locally elected and accountable municipal councils.
- Repeal Bill 50 to ensure that the new and costly transmission lines it approves are subjected to an objective and impartial needs assessment by the AUC to determine whether locally generated electricity from natural gas or other alternatives would be more cost-effective.

- Ensure all energy development is conducted in an environmentally responsible fashion, and that properties affected by such development are returned to landowners and licence holders in essentially the same condition and value as they were previous to development. If this is not possible, fair compensation must be provided. A thorough examination of current categories of damage and compensation amounts will be undertaken to ensure current compensation practices are fair.
- Develop a landowner arbitration process to complement the work of the Surface Rights Board. This mechanism would provide a more cost-effective arbitration and/or alternative dispute resolution process to resolve otherwise costly disputes between landowners, leaseholders, recreational users, hunters and the general public.
- Enshrine basic property rights in the current Alberta Bill of Rights and spearhead a national initiative to add property rights protection to Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The proposed Charter amendment would enshrine the principle that everyone has the right to life, liberty, security of the person, and enjoyment of property, and that no private property shall be taken for public use, without full, fair and timely compensation.
- Ensure that all Albertans are entitled to the right of appeal for firearms confiscation orders as well as the right to fair and timely compensation when legally owned firearms are confiscated from law-abiding gun owners.





For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Seniors' Health Care and Benefits

Ensuring a High Quality of Life for Alberta's Seniors



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Seniors' Health Care

As individuals age, health care becomes a primary concern. The PC Government has utterly failed our seniors in this regard. Despite continued promises, there remains a dearth of funding for assisted home care and a massive waiting list for rooms in long-term and palliative care facilities. Instead, seniors are often left to age in expensive and uncomfortable hospital rooms far away from loved ones.

The Government's failure to adequately plan for the impending baby boomer retirements will only exacerbate these pressures further. But instead of focusing infrastructure monies on addressing this shortage, the PCs continue to spend billions upon billions on new acute care facilities without a viable plan to fully staff them.

Permitting our seniors to spend their golden years in noisy and impersonal hospital wards instead of focusing resources on accommodating them in more appropriate (and affordable) arrangements has created a host of problems that plague our ailing health care system. Building the necessary facilities and programming to help our seniors make a seamless transition from independent living to assisted living to long-term care as needed must become the primary health system focus of the next Alberta Government.

To further complicate matters, the PCs have also mishandled drug coverage for our seniors. The Government's recently proposed 'Seniors Drug Plan' would see a monthly premium charged to seniors on modest fixed incomes. This is simply not acceptable – especially considering the many cost pressures faced by seniors in the current economic environment.

Get it Right

Alberta seniors deserve better. A Wildrose Government would improve health care for seniors by implementing the following plan:

- Ensure existing acute care facilities are fully staffed before building additional acute care capacity, and reallocate a portion of the resultant savings into significantly expanding the number of long-term care beds.
- Redirect more of the health budget to expanding home care and assisted living accommodations thereby empowering those seniors who are able to continue living in the comfort of their own homes and communities. This should include increased use of Personal Care and Special Care Homes where sponsor families are given the opportunity to accommodate and help care for willing seniors in the sponsors' homes where appropriate. These initiatives will not only save taxpayers millions, they will free up hundreds of badly needed acute care hospital beds.
- Introduce a 'Kinship Palliative Care' program where family members who might otherwise be employed in the workforce are compensated for providing end of life care for their loved ones.
- Greatly reduce the complexity and regulatory barriers to families, non-profit organizations, charities and businesses who wish to establish safe and affordable facilities providing assisted living, long term care and palliative care. Again, increasing the number of these beds will greatly reduce health costs and hospital overcrowding due to the thousands of Alberta seniors who have been inappropriately placed in acute care hospital beds.

- Conduct regular and random health, safety and care inspections of all licensed seniors facilities and post infractions online.
- Review all relevant legislation and strengthen enforcement to ensure the protection of our seniors from financial, physical and emotional abuse.
- Scrap the PC Government's proposed 'Seniors Drug Plan' which introduces onerous premiums for tens of thousands of Alberta seniors, and instead maintain the current plan where seniors pay 30% of each prescription up to maximum of \$25.
- Implement a 'Seniors Prescription Drug Hardship Benefit' that assists low income seniors who require an overly burdensome amount of expensive prescriptions. Seniors should not be placed in a position to choose between their needed prescriptions and the necessities of life.

Did you know?

- *One of the biggest causes of our ER backlogs is that there are not enough community long-term care beds for seniors. Because seniors have to wait in acute-care beds in hospitals, those beds cannot be used by people in the ER units that need them.*



Seniors' Benefits

The growth of our economy over the past decade (the recent recession notwithstanding) has significantly increased the cost of living for many of our seniors on modest fixed incomes. As a province, we need to ensure that those who have tirelessly worked to lay the foundation of our current prosperity, and who have paid a significant amount of taxes during their working years, enjoy a dignified retirement.

The Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) provides a relatively meager retirement income for Alberta's seniors. As costs continue to rise, this is concerning not only to retirees, but also to Albertans currently employed in the workforce. Albertans as a whole pay far more into the CPP than we receive back for our pensioners in benefits. This is not fair given the already unacceptably high transfer of wealth from Alberta to other provinces through federal equalization as well as our much higher average cost of living.

To supplement their CPP benefits, seniors often want to work part time during their golden years. Given the impending 'baby boomer' retirements and their effect on skilled labour shortages, this is certainly not a bad thing. However, for seniors, returning or remaining in the workforce is unattractive due to current taxation laws.

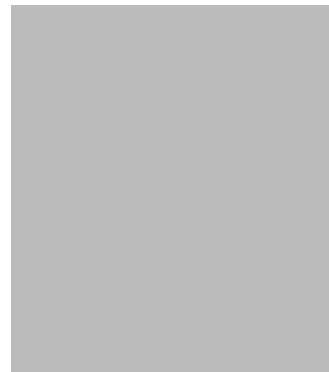
In addition, one of the most difficult financial challenges facing seniors today is the escalation of property taxes. As property values increase, seniors on fixed incomes find it difficult to cope. Many of these seniors have a great deal of equity in their homes, but are unable to take advantage of it without entering into a high-interest reverse mortgage.

Get it Right

Alberta seniors deserve better. A Wildrose Government would implement the following plan to improve the quality of life for Alberta's seniors:

- Introduce a program allowing seniors to defer their property taxes against the equity in their homes while working with municipalities to explore the feasibility of either freezing or restricting increases in property taxes for seniors living in modest accommodations.
- Work with the federal government to make it more financially attractive for seniors to return to or remain in the workforce. Any such changes should include reforms to reduce income taxes and eliminate claw-backs to benefits of seniors with modest incomes.
- Lobby the Federal Government to raise the basic personal and spousal tax exemptions in order to reduce senior income claw-backs and to leave more seniors and other modest income earners with more money in their pockets.
- Withdraw from the CPP and create an Alberta Pension Plan (APP). Our APP would provide Alberta seniors with increased pension benefits while also lowering premiums for Alberta's employers and employees.

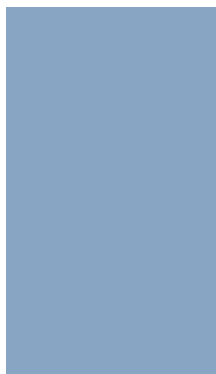




For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca

Social Support

Creating a Better Alberta for Everyone



Wildrose Caucus

Get it Right!

Social Support

Albertans have always been committed to care for the most vulnerable among us. We also understand the fundamental importance of personal responsibility, and that individuals, families and communities are the first and most important line of defense against crime, poverty and most other societal ills. Government can and should also play a supporting role by empowering people and charitable organizations to succeed, incenting charitable giving and volunteerism, and ensuring those who fall through the cracks are cared for in a compassionate and responsible manner.

The PC Government has clearly fallen into the trap of believing that a tightly controlled and centralized government bureaucracy is best suited to care for those in need. This has led to expensive and archaic assessment regimes, erratic funding for community support organizations and mental health facilities, and millions wasted on excessive administration.



In addition, many Albertans receiving social supports are able and would appreciate the opportunity to work part time in order to supplement their government income. Unfortunately, there is currently a disincentive to do so as support is often clawed back in proportion to the modest earnings or additional training such individuals achieve. Government should be providing incentives for those who are able to work or receive training – our current benefits regime often does the opposite.

Did you know?

- If you donate 100 dollars to a charity you get \$25 in tax concessions, but that same donation to a political party brings you \$75.

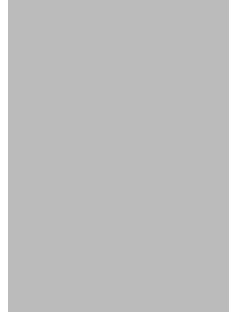
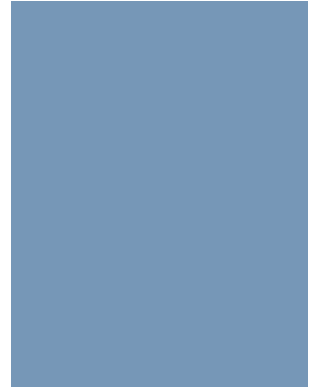


Get it Right

Albertans deserve better. A Wildrose Government would implement the following plan to responsibly care for those in need:

- Decentralize and streamline assessment procedures to ensure more support funding is flowing directly to the individuals, families and community organizations who need it, rather than to multiple large government bureaucracies.
- Phase out regional PDD boards and return decision-making authority to community organizations and families by developing a formula that has funding follow the individual primarily to the organization or agency caring for them.
- Support non-profit organizations and agencies with an ongoing track record of strong performance with predictable yearly funding increases in line with inflation and other growth pressures.
- Mandate all organizations and agencies receiving government funding for dealing with homelessness provide measureable and quantifiable objectives and are held accountable for achieving them.
- Ensure AISH recipients and other vulnerable Albertans receiving government support are given stable yearly funding increases in line with the escalating costs of living.

- Introduce a ‘volunteerism tax credit’ as an optional tool for volunteer organizations to use to attract and reward those who donate their time to charitable causes, while increasing the tax credit for charitable donations to be at least as generous as the tax credit given for political contributions.
- Make it more financially attractive for individuals receiving government assistance who are physically and psychologically able, to supplement their incomes by working or upgrading their skills without having their benefits clawed back.
- Guarantee that decisions regarding care, housing and treatment for individuals in need (especially the mentally ill and persons with developmental disabilities) is based on the needs of patients, not government budgets.
- Carry out regular and random audits of all licensed group homes as well as senior assisted living and long term care facilities, and publicly post any recorded infractions online.
- Ensure that individuals with disabilities are properly transitioned between childhood, adulthood and their senior years without temporarily or permanently losing access to the programs and funding necessary to their continued development.



For more information, please visit: www.wildrosecaucus.ca