



In the wake of Capital Ex, I'm feeling invigorated by all of the conversations I have had with constituents like you. The warm, sunny days of August are the perfect time to continue these discussions about your priorities. As your MLA, I want to hear what you have to say. In this newsletter you will find information about some of the ways the Alberta government is working to engage with you, now and in the future.

A conversation with Albertans

This summer, our provincial government is making a commitment to change the way we consult with Albertans, widening the channels of communication to foster an ongoing, two-way dialogue about the issues that matter to you. To get the ball rolling, we have introduced an initiative called "A conversation with Albertans," that will welcome all points of view as we develop and move forward with new policies and programs.

Consultation and discussion are powerful tools that have already taken our province in the right direction, and will continue to do so. As I related in my July eNewsletter, our government has worked hard to speak with as many constituents as we can. We heard what Albertans said, and established three priority areas to guide our work, which include: investing in families and communities, advancing world-leading resource stewardship, and building Alberta's economic future.

With these priorities in mind, over the course of the summer we will be actively consulting with Albertans on three key areas of public policy:

- developing a new social policy framework;
- enhancing primary health care; and
- making sure we have our finances in order.

Social policy framework

The Alberta government is currently holding a key consultation to ask for your feedback about our provincial social policy. We want to know what Albertans need from a social policy, and also what strategies we can use to achieve that vision. To read what others have to say, or to provide your own input, please visit <http://www.socialpolicy.alberta.ca/>.

Primary health care

During the election, Premier Redford committed to creating a network of 140 Family Care Clinics to ensure that Albertans have access to the best possible health care. Because each community is different, and has unique health needs, one of my top priorities this summer will be to learn about our

constituency's needs, and how our government can meet them. To do so, I will be speaking with various local stakeholders, including community members like you, to learn more about the health needs of our constituency.

Finances

Finally, I want to hear from you about our finances. The Alberta government is committed to spending your tax dollars responsibly, to ensure you get the best value for your money. Last fall we introduced results-based budgeting, which will help to ensure our revenues are spent even more effectively. But we also need to start rebuilding our savings in the Sustainability Fund, and have a conversation about the future of the Heritage Fund. Your feedback will help us to envision a strong future for our savings.

So how can you be part of this ongoing conversation about issues that matter to you? Get involved by contacting my constituency office at **[email]** or **[phone]** with your ideas, or by visiting:

- Alberta.ca
- Facebook.com/YourAlberta.ca
- Twitter.com/YourAlberta
- Soundcloud.com/Your-Alberta
- YouTube.com/YourAlberta

This is your Alberta, and you can help shape its future.

Construction digs in on final leg of Edmonton ring road

The finish line on the Edmonton ring road is in sight with the final northeast leg of the Anthony Henday Drive scheduled to open in fall 2016.

More than 50,000 Albertans use the Henday each day. The ring road, once completed, will change the way residents in the Capital Region connect with the people and services that matter to them – reducing commute times and traffic congestion. It will also dramatically benefit industry that uses the freeway as a vital route in all four directions, getting our products to market more quickly and efficiently.

The Alberta government signed a 34-year contract with the Capital City Link General Partnership to design, build, operate, and partially finance Northeast Anthony Henday Drive. The public-private partnership (P3) contract is worth \$1.81 billion in 2012 dollars, to be paid over the term of the contract, and follows a P3 selection process which began in March 2011.

This is a savings of \$370 million, compared to the estimated cost of \$2.18 billion using traditional delivery. The other two bids received were \$2.03 billion and \$2.22 billion.

The Capital City Link General Partnership's (CCLGP) partners are:

- Meridiam Infrastructure NEAH ULC (a subsidiary of Meridiam Infrastructure North America Inc.);
- ACS NEAH Partner Inc. (a subsidiary of ACS Infrastructure Canada Inc.); and
- HOCHTIEF NEAH Partner Inc. (a subsidiary of HOCHTIEF PPP Solutions GmbH).

The design and construction of the project will be subcontracted to a construction joint venture made up of:

- Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited;
- Dragados Canada, Inc.;
- Aecon Construction Management Inc.; and
- Lafarge Canada Inc.

The operations and maintenance will be subcontracted to Volker Stevin Highways Ltd.

Running from Manning Drive to just south of Whitemud Drive, the project includes 27 kilometres of six- and eight-lane divided roadway, nine interchanges, two road flyovers, eight rail crossings (flyovers), and two bridges across the North Saskatchewan River, for a total of 46 bridge structures.

Using Alberta's P3 model for highways allows the Northeast Anthony Henday Drive to be finished three years earlier than through conventional delivery. Including the Northeast section, the Alberta government has committed more than \$4 billion toward the construction of the Edmonton ring road. Visit www.transportation.alberta.ca/3787.htm for more information on the Edmonton ring road.

Alberta pharmacists opening the door to primary care

Albertans can now visit their pharmacist for prescription renewal and six other publicly funded health services, making access to primary health care easier and more efficient.

As of July 1, Alberta pharmacists will be compensated by the government for providing the seven new services, which include administering drug injections and altering prescriptions based on a patient's health needs. This will allow pharmacists to work to the full scope of their practice while freeing up doctors' time to see more patients and handle more complex cases.

In addition to drug injections and prescription renewal and changes, Alberta pharmacists can now authorize medication in a medical emergency, create care plans to help Albertans understand and manage their medications better, and if the pharmacist has additional prescribing authority, prescribe medication.

A transition team representing Alberta pharmacists has been working with Alberta Health to develop a pharmacy services framework to expand the number of services pharmacists can provide Albertans.

The cost of expanding the services pharmacists can offer will be covered primarily from savings gained through the reduction of generic drug prices. Effective July 1, Alberta reduced what it pays for generic drugs from 45 per cent of the cost of name brand drugs to 35 per cent. The price reduction means Albertans will save on their out-of-pocket costs for generic drugs, and the Alberta government will save about \$85 million in 2012/13.

Premier Alison Redford has made access to primary health care a priority for government, promising each Albertan a home in the health system. This summer, MLAs will be having discussions with Albertans to determine the best way to meet the health needs of each community, including establishing more Family Care Clinics across the province.

Strengthening economy, responsible decision-making highlight 2011-12

2011-12 Annual Report Highlights:

- Revenue was \$39.2 billion, \$3.6 billion higher than budget mostly due to higher land lease sales, resource revenue and investment income.
- Expense was \$39.3 billion, nearly \$300 million higher than budget due to disaster assistance.
- The Sustainability Fund stood at \$7.5 billion at March 31, 2012, \$2.2 billion higher than the budget estimate.
- The Heritage Savings Trust Fund's fair value stood at \$16.1 billion at March 31, 2012; the fund generated almost \$800 million in investment income during the fiscal year.
- Alberta brought the bottom line close to balanced with a \$23 million deficit, \$3.4 billion lower than estimated at budget.

Albertans benefited from more schools, increased access to health care and improved services for seniors and the vulnerable last year while maintaining a healthy bottom line through increased revenue and disciplined spending.

From providing 1,000 new continuing care spaces to delivering seven new and replaced schools, 2011-12 saw the government focus on the results and outcomes Albertans expect. Other highlights from the year include helping 26,000 lower-income families cover the costs of child care, and repaving more than 1,200 kilometres of highway throughout the province. The provincial crime rate continues to decline, as does the homeless rate in the province's major cities, and more Albertans are completing high school and obtaining post-secondary certificates, diplomas or degrees.

Operating expenses were down from budget due to savings and lower capital grants. Total expenses were up about \$300 million from budget, mainly due to more than \$500 million for emergencies and disasters, including the Slave Lake and other wildfires, along with floods.

Total revenue was up \$3.6 billion from budget, mainly due to increased Crown lease sales and resource revenue, along with greater-than-expected investment income. These increases were partially offset by lower-than-expected income tax revenue.

The improved fiscal situation meant that less money was drawn from the Sustainability Fund, Alberta's short-term savings account. It contained \$7.5 billion at year-end, \$2.2 billion higher than originally forecast at budget.

Alberta's economy continued to grow, leading the country with real GDP growth estimated at more than five per cent in 2011. Alberta's population grew by nearly 60,000 people last year, a growth rate of 1.6 per cent, higher than the national average. There were also nearly 78,000 more Albertans working compared to the year before and on average Albertans earned the highest average weekly earnings in the country. Alberta workers are also the most productive, with the province having the best level of labour productivity in Canada.

Alberta continues to be the only province in Canada that is in a net financial asset position. The province's net financial assets (total financial assets less liabilities) are about \$27 billion, or \$7,000 per Albertan.

If you have questions or would like to know more, please contact me at:

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