



Alberta Party

ALBERTA PARTY
2022
RESOLUTION BOOK
September 2, 2022





Rules for Debate

Introduction:

This document is a set of guidelines that details the debate and voting process that will be utilized at the 2022 Alberta Party Policy Convention, being held in conjunction with the 2022 Provincial AGM in Edmonton on October 15 – 16, 2022. It is structured according to Robert's Rules of Order. A parliamentarian will be on hand to rule and advise the moderators throughout the convention sessions.

General:

1. The debate process will be under the direction and control of:
 - a. Chairman: Mr. Jim Stevenson
 - b. Parliamentarian: Mr. Ken Chapman
 - c. Clerk/Scrutineer:
2. **Robert's Rules of Order** will be the governing structure of the proceeding.

Order of Proceedings:

3. Resolutions will be debated in the order they appear in the Alberta Party Policy Book, September 2, 2022.
4. The Resolution Session shall not be closed until all resolutions listed in the Policy Book are debated and voted upon, or the allotted time for the Resolutions Session has expired.
5. Resolutions which are not debated at a Resolutions Session because of insufficient time will be considered by the Board following the Convention.

Debate Process:

6. The Chair will introduce each resolution by number and title and call for the sponsor or their designate to present a brief summary and move the adoption of the resolution. The Chair will call for a seconder.
7. If the resolution is seconded, the sponsor will have up to 2 minutes to speak to the resolution.

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8. The Chair will then open debate by calling for a speaker in opposition, seeking clarification or proposing an amendment.
 9. Speakers will have a 2-minute time limit and shall not speak more than once to a resolution.
 10. Speakers will be in an alternating rotation of those “in support” and “those in opposition”.
 11. If no one rises to speak in opposition, for clarification, or to propose an amendment to a resolution, the question will be immediately called.
 12. When no opposing speaker is available, the Resolutions Session Chair will declare the end of the debate and the spokesperson from the mover will be allowed one (1) minute for the closing of debate.
 13. Debate may be closed when any member, upon being recognized by the chair, states “I move to call the question”. Upon receiving a seconder and receiving a simple majority from voting delegates the question will be called.
 14. Any member may call a “point of order”. The Chair will defer to the parliamentarian for a ruling. The ruling of the parliamentarian will stand.

Amendments:

15. Amendments may be made to any resolution via motion, which must also be seconded. If it is ruled to be a friendly/editorial amendment, no vote is required. Amendments must be voted on prior to voting on the main motion.

Voting:

The number of votes necessary for any resolution to pass is a simple majority of votes cast for that resolution (50% plus one vote).



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HEALTH CARE

1. Child Centred Health

Preamble:

Whereas the primary role of government is to protect and empower all citizens to optimize their full potential starting during childhood. Children represent our future, and we strive for intergenerational and cross socioeconomic status (SES) equity. Optimizing one's full potential requires physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Children have unique healthcare needs that must be addressed. All children should have access to publicly funded, coordinated, tailored, and multidisciplinary care to ensure that they are physically, mentally, and socially well, regardless of SES.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) within Alberta provide patients with comprehensive care. Health care professionals, such as family doctors, dieticians, pharmacists, social workers, and mental health workers, collaborate to provide care to patients based on their individual needs. For children with various health needs, PCNs allow for access to specialists targeted at preventive healthcare and to improve their physical, mental, and social wellbeing. However, navigating the multiple providers can be time consuming and stressful for parents/caregivers. Coordination of children's multidisciplinary care within PCNs may fall onto family physicians, who are expensive and valuable resources within the system.

Registered Nurse Case Managers have been found to improve the outcomes of individuals with complex diseases that require a multidisciplinary approach, such as diabetes.^{1,2} Registered Nurse Case Managers decrease the workload and stress on families. In addition, they can decrease the workload for the other healthcare professionals involved in a child's care.

Investing in preventative and early healthcare promotion for children is cost saving. Preventative care decreases the risk for chronic health conditions and emergency room visits. Investing in children's health allows them to reach their full potential, which creates a better and more productive society.

In emergency situations, children may need healthcare in hospitals, which are outside PCNs. The majority of children in Alberta do not have timely access to pediatric-specific emergency rooms.³ Instead, they present to general emergency rooms. A study published in 2020 assessed the pediatric readiness of general emergency rooms in Alberta.³ Pediatric readiness was measured by a standardized survey assessing items such as pediatric-specific equipment, staff training, and policies. The median score amongst responding general emergency departments in Alberta (response rate: 59.8%) was 48.4 out of 100. Low pediatric readiness has been associated with



higher mortality, longer hospital stays, and poorer health-related outcomes. (Harper et al, 2021, [in press])

Be it resolved that: The Alberta Party will

- In conjunction with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, expand Primary Care Networks and Alberta Health Care coverage to ensure all children have access to required services to improve their physical, mental, and social. This will include nutrition, physiotherapy, mental health, educational, and speech pathology supports,
- Expand the role and number of Registered Nurse Case Managers within Primary Care Networks to oversee/organize/manage children’s various healthcare needs and to work with the education system to ensure synchronicity of services,
- Invest in general emergency departments across the province to enhance their pediatric readiness to improve children’s healthcare outcomes when presenting to general hospitals for emergent care with a goal of all emergency departments having a Weighted Pediatric Readiness Score (WPRS) of 100 within ten years
 - Develop a Pediatric Readiness of Emergency Departments Team to manage the improvement of pediatric readiness in general emergency departments across the province
 - Provide funding for periodic surveys (every 5 years) to ensure targets are being met

Sponsoring constituency organization(s):
Edmonton-Glenora



2. EMS – Emergency Response

WHEREAS a significant disparity of Urban / Rural 911 response exists within 911 response as well as EMS services under Alberta Health Services. We recommend pursuit of a hybrid model of both dispatch of services as well as the facilitation of the service delivery. Understanding the need for rural services dispatch and allocation of assets within prescribed response times, will be managed and executed within acceptable levels of its urban counterparts. Therefore;

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party address the disparity of service and response times through the following:

- Address the type of assets used for non-emergent patient movement (clinics, testing, non-emergent inter-facility transfers)
- Address the floating boundaries of response areas, as well as how assets are moved within that coverage.
- Set a base mark of service response time for all Code levels and the allocation of response to each level.
- Investigate and invest into asset management technology to aid dispatch to dispense the proper level of response services. Ensuring the services are met without overburdening key resources.

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party address the wellness of the valued human resources within our emergency response system.

- Ensuring mental health supports for all levels of staff.
- Identification of infrastructure and training shortfalls, ensuring responders performance and minimalizing attrition and leave requirements.
- Identify the shortcoming of the current cross coverage model of service boundaries and the effects of responders.

Kieth Carlson

Livingston Highwood



3. Accreditation of Assisted Living Facilities

Whereas, prior to the inception of Alberta Health Services assisted living facilities were required to be accredited for a two, three or five-year term. This practice was discontinued shortly after the inception of Alberta health services. The government has had no consistent professional form of quality assurance in place since. The appalling state of many assisted living facilities was highlighted by the covid pandemic. Many facilities were staffed by poorly trained, poorly paid individuals who did not even know how to use equipment properly. The Alberta Party believes that all Albertans have the right to safe comfortable living conditions.

Be it resolved that assisted living facilities be required to be accredited for a two, three or five-year term. Each facility would be licensed on the understanding it is staffed by sufficient RNs, LPNs and personal care attendants. There should be provision for regular training updates in all areas allowing nutrition, pharmacy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy needs to be met.

Accreditation of Assisted Living facilities will give staff knowledge of how their facility should be run, will give staff a say in how the facility functions and ensures written policies and procedures are in place for all categories of staff. It will allow residents and their families procedures for information gathering about the facility.

Be it further resolved that an accreditation council be established with representatives from Nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, dietary, bioengineering, maintenance and accounting would be required. The cost of accreditation visits should be covered by the facilities out of their budgets.

Additional Comments:

The appalling state of many assisted living facilities was highlighted by the covid pandemic. Many facilities were staffed by poorly trained, poorly paid individuals who did not even know how to use equipment properly. The treatment of residents was questionable in fact seniors were warehoused. Residents are seniors and occasionally adults with disabilities.

Historically prior to the inception of Alberta Health Services assisted living facilities were required to be accredited for a two three- or five-year term. This practice was discontinued shortly after the inception of Alberta health services. The government has no consistent professional form of quality assurance in place since. Had there been, covid deaths might have been reduced. Each facility is licensed on the understanding it is staffed by sufficient RNs, LPNs and personal care attendants, unfortunately staffing can be difficult. There should be provision for regular training updates in all areas allowing nutrition, pharmacy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy needs to be met. Seniors are living longer and the need for assisted living facilities will only increase.



The Alberta Party believes that all Albertans have the right to safe comfortable living conditions. Assisted living facilities are needed, some seniors are on their own, their families may be unable to care for them, medically and physically they may be unfit to live in their own home.

Accreditation of Assisted Living facilities will give staff knowledge of how their facility should be run, will give staff a say in how the facility functions and ensures written policies and procedures are in place for all categories of staff. It will allow residents and their families procedures for information gathering about the facility.

An accreditation council would have to be established, representatives from Nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, dietary, bioengineering, maintenance and accounting would be required. The cost of accreditation visits should be covered by the facilities out of their budgets.

Presented by Beth Bell on behalf of the St. Albert CA

St. Albert CA



Education

4. Building a Child-Centered Society Through Early Developmental Education

Preamble:

Whereas the primary role of government is to protect and empower all citizens to optimize their full potential starting during childhood, children represent our future, and we strive for intergenerational and cross socioeconomic status equity (SES). Early childhood education (ECE), prior to Kindergarten, has the potential to enable students to start formal schooling with equal levels of preparedness and enhance early socialization and development. Therefore, all children should have access to, and be encouraged to, attend these programs. Currently in Alberta, Early Childhood Services (ECS) provides ECE for children who require additional support (English as a second language, diagnosed with a disability or delay, etc.).⁴ All children, especially those from low SES backgrounds, could benefit from ECE.

Research on ECE (preschool, pre-Kindergarten) has found positive benefits for children that attend, particularly for children from low-income families.⁵ However, children from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to attend.⁶ One study found that children who attended ECE had stronger math and reading skills at the start of Kindergarten and in grade 1.⁶ In most cases, they found that the largest effects were for disadvantaged children. This indicates the potential for ECE to promote equity and allow all children to reach their full potential even before starting elementary school.

Some research has not found the positive benefits of ECE to be long lasting, and may potentially “fadeout” during the early years of elementary school.^{5,7} It is unclear if this potential decrease in the benefits over time is due to aspects of ECE itself, or due to what happens after children leave programs.⁸ It is possible that pre-K programs may differ in quality.⁵ Some programs may have lasting impacts, while others may not. Alternatively, elementary school teachers may focus more on students that are struggling, and potentially did not attend ECE.^{5,8} For example, it has been found that some of math skills taught in Kindergarten repeats what is covered by some ECE programs.⁹ Although this allows students who did not attend ECE to catch up, it prevents students who did attend from learning new things and building new skills. Furthermore, a recent policy brief published in 2020 from the United States analyzed 15 research studies and reported a sustained effect of ECE beyond the first year of elementary school (Kindergarten).⁵



Be it resolved that: The Alberta Party will

- Establish a task force with early education specialists to develop
 - An evidence-based Early Childhood Education curriculum to be followed by qualified Early Childhood Education Centres (Preschools, Playschools, Early Kindergarten, etc.)
 - Criteria and standards for Early Childhood Education Centers to follow to be considered qualified,
- Provide a \$25 per day subsidy per preschool-aged child for day learning and care on an income-tested, priority need basis. Subsidy will be contingent upon the child enrolled at a qualified Early Childhood Education Center

Sponsoring constituency organization(s):

Edmonton-Glenora

References

1. Connor KI, Siebens HC, Mittman BS, et al. Quality and extent of implementation of a nurse-led care management intervention: care coordination for health promotion and activities in Parkinson's disease (CHAPS). *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2020;20(1):732.
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7. Bailey D, Duncan GJ, Odgers CL, Yu W. Persistence and Fadeout in the Impacts of Child and Adolescent Interventions. *J Res Educ Eff.* 2017;10(1):7-39.
8. Stipek D. The Value of Early Education: Why the Fade Out Effect Does Not Mean We Should



Give Up on Preschool. *Development and Research in Early Math Education: General, Policy Makers, Researchers, Teacher Educators*. Published online 2017. <https://dreme.stanford.edu/news/value-early-education-why-fade-out-effect-does-not-mean-we-should-give-preschool>

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Sponsoring constituency organization(s):
Edmonton-Glenora



5. Merge Public and Faith-based Schools

(Additional Comments – Appendix “A”)

Whereas the Alberta Party envisions a province that promotes an equitable society, where children are educated in a school system that is inclusive, not exclusive, and.

Whereas The Alberta Party envisions a province where children can go to schools in their community and are not required to travel excessive distance because of school board jurisdictional barriers, and

Whereas the Alberta Party envisions a province where funding for the education of children is not lost to the duplication of administration, facilities, and support services.

Be it Resolved that the Alberta party endorses the principle of a single, inclusive public school system in Alberta, and that within two years of being elected, an Alberta Party government will introduce legislation to merge all Alberta school boards within an inclusive public system.

Additional Comments:

Merge Public and Faith-based Schools

Vision Statement(s)

- The Alberta Party envisions a province that promotes an equitable society, where children are educated in a school system that is inclusive, not exclusive.
- The Alberta Party envisions a province where children can go to schools in their community and are not required to travel excessive distance because of school board jurisdictional barriers.
- The Alberta Party envisions a province where funding for the education of children is not lost to the duplication of administration, facilities and support services.

Background

- Separate Catholic and public-school systems are an artifact of history - a way to keep the two dominant religious groups happy. Quebec and Newfoundland successfully eliminated separate school boards in the 1990s. Only three provinces (Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan) still have separate Catholic schools. The Alberta Act of 1905 maintained this separation.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/why-alberta-saskatchewan-ontario-have-separate-catholic-schools-1.4614462>
- The Alberta Act of 1905, which created the province maintained the separation of school systems. Therefore, a constitutional amendment may be required to merge the systems. The amending formula provides that “If a constitutional amendment affects only one province, only the assent of Parliament and of that province’s legislature is required.”



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amendments_to_the_Constitution_of_Canada#:~:text=If%20a%20constitutional%20amendment%20affects,that%20province's%20legislature%20is%20required.&text=There%20are%20some%20parts%20of,the%20two%20Houses%20of%20Parliament

- Our existing system of segregation contributes to divisiveness in society. For example, a (2022) legal application has been submitted against the Ontario government, arguing that its publicly funded Catholic school boards are unconstitutional. One plaintiff argues that separate boards are prejudicial to her employment opportunities. Another plaintiff argues that separate systems force her kids to go to schools that are too far from home. Similar arguments can be made in Alberta.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/catholic-school-legal-challenge-1.6348201>

- This proposal is not intended to abolish religious education. Faith-based education can co-exist in a secular setting by using electives and in-school programming. Of course, programs offered in faith communities and in the family home would remain outside the school system.

- Fiscal Impact:

- The existing system of separate boards results in duplication of administration, facilities and support services costing hundreds of millions of dollars. The Public-School Boards' Association of Alberta reported in 2019 that Alberta could save \$273 million/year if it ceased running public, Catholic, Francophone and charter schools independently. This \$273M should be put to better use in classrooms with more teachers, aides and supports.

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/eliminate-duplicated-school-systems-to-reduce-education-costs-association-says>

- In Ontario, it has been estimated that \$1.6 billion/year could be saved by amalgamating boards.

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/star-columnists/2021/03/17/is-it-time-for-ontario-to-end-catholic-school-funding.html>

- Merging of systems provides for a balancing of demand and potential future savings through reduced new infrastructure requirements. (i.e. improved community access to education as Alberta's school age population continues to increase, particularly in urban areas where existing school boundaries can inhibit access where some schools are over capacity while others operate below capacity.)

- Other parties have been silent on this issue in recent years. However, in its funding decisions and in plans outlined in the 2022 Throne Speech, the UCP seems to favor some faith based and private schools, so the UCP could be expected to oppose mergers. This may be an opportunity for the Alberta Party to own an issue and attract support.



Testimonial(s)

- David King, former Alberta Minister of Education, CBC News 31 March 2017.
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/public-separate-school-boards-merger-alberta-1.4049388>
- Precedents for the successful mergers of faith-based schools with public boards in Alberta.
 - Strathcona Christian Academy with Elk Island Public Schools:
<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/ata%20news/Volume%2033/Number%207/In%20the%20News/Pages/Private%20Christian%20school%20joins%20public%20school%20fold.aspx#:~:text=When%20the%20Strathcona%20Christian%20Academy,attitude%20of%20public%20school%20officials.>
 - Edmonton Christian Schools with Edmonton Public Schools:
<https://www.christiancourier.ca/the-genesis-of-public-christian-schooling-in-Edmonton/>

Committee Name – Edmonton Southwest Constituency Association



6. Developing the world's best curriculum

Developing and Rolling Out a World Class Education Curriculum:

Sponsor – shadow cabinet

Vision - To return to providing world class education to the children in Alberta.

Context:

Whereas Alberta has been a world leader in K-12 education and maintaining Alberta's status as such requires a modern curriculum that prepares students for the future by striking a balance between knowledge, competencies, and attitudes.

Whereas the vast variety of cultural backgrounds (including various social, religious, and economic contexts) that students come from affect how they are made to feel seen and safe which affects how they learn and grow which and their development of knowledge and skill competencies. And that these things can be positively influenced and participated in by having a transparent process that includes the work of ministry staff, subject and pedagogical experts, teachers, and the input of indigenous people and those of cultural minorities.

Whereas the current Alberta curriculum reform and implementation has been undertaken without meaningful or representative input from the teaching profession, parents, and stake holder, and it has not been piloted on an adequate scale.

Whereas there is currently no policy or legislation that prescribes an ongoing process for curriculum development and implementation, leaving it up to the Minister of Education of the time to develop and evaluate curriculums, as well as set standards and assess outcomes.

Whereas creating a policy for curriculum development will provide comprehensive guidelines for all aspects of curriculum development including consultation, design, and implementation, to ensure that Alberta remains a strong leader in education.

Position:

Be it resolved that the Alberta government initiate a process to develop a new Alberta education curriculum within ten years of the rollout of a curriculum in use; and that the provincial government oversight be done by multi-partisan leadership through a standing committee of the Legislative Assembly.

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party would ensure that teachers, First Nations, Metis, Inuit educational partners, relevant industry leaders and future employers, and a wide sample of parental and student input is provided at every step of the process, and with ongoing evaluation of the current curriculum to identify strengths and challenges.



Be it resolved that teachers and subject matter experts will be included in working groups that will review the curriculum at multiple writing stages, so the document remains true to its intended outcomes.

Be it further resolved that when the curriculum documents are ready a pilot will be undertaken by a sufficient sample size to accurately review it. The curriculum documents will be finalized with teachers and provide the proper front matter to guide teachers in delivery and assessment.

Shadow Minister Education
Wayne Rufiange



Social

7. Accessibility Legislation

Whereas all residents of Alberta should be able to live a life of dignity, wellness and opportunities. Unique characteristics among people and the degree of difference compared to the influential cause inequities between people. These characteristics include but are not limited to physical, cognitive, sensory, and other various forms of disability, gender identity and race that affect the way that society is experienced and navigated. Mitigating inequities to dignity, wellness, opportunities and vitality, experienced by many people, requires a concerted effort to identify and minimize barriers. No person, business, or agency - whether public or private - should deny any person the right or opportunities to participate in and contribute to society.

Whereas all Albertans have the right to affordable housing, equitable access to education, equal opportunities for meaningful employment, opportunities to participate in leisure activities that interest them, and the transportation needed to accomplish those without barriers. To achieve these the government of Canada and numerous provinces have passed legislation that addresses barriers that many people experience in many sectors of society.

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party proposes and advocates for the Alberta government to create accessibility legislation that defines barriers to dignity, wellness and opportunities, and names relevant societal sectors.

Be it further resolved that the legislation include guidelines and targets for minimizing the barriers within Alberta.

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party propose and advocate that the process through which the Alberta government creates accessibility legislation includes consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders by accessible means who will assist in identifying the applicable sectors that need to have accessibility standards and define what conditions are barriers to

References:

Accessible Canada Act (ACA), SC 2019, c 10 <https://canlii.ca/t/53rfw>

Sponsor: Calgary-North West Constituency Association



8. Homelessness

Whereas, in order to ensure all Albertans have the opportunity to have a safe home base and refuge;

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party stand for government funding to mitigate homelessness as long-term, predictable, and aligned with a community plan to end homelessness.

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party stand for legislation, goals and initiatives being client-centered and community-driven.

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party stand for the planning process of programs and services to mitigate homeless being evidence-informed and demonstrate measurable outcomes.

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party stand for all essential services and supports for the homeless being fully funded and maintained during the transition to permanent housing.

Sponsor: Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (Karl Hauch)

Additional Comments:

Vision:

To ensure all Albertans have the opportunity to have a safe home base and refuge.

Preamble:

Community plans to end homelessness must be supported with predictable yearly funding that enables partnerships between municipalities and community-based organizations to implement outcome-driven programs, services and initiatives, with the intent to prevent and end homelessness and are aligned with necessary services that are needed for those who find themselves homeless in a way that must be nonjudgmental in order for it to achieve success to the persons afflicted.

As each community faces unique challenges, the programs must have flexibility to address those challenges that work best for that particular community and are most effective for its homeless and at-risk residents. Action on homelessness must be community-led. Effective programs and services prevent further homelessness from occurring and help those who are homeless return to housing stability.

Reliable information and research data about homelessness is critical to the delivery of programs and services to be efficient in their operation and effective at achieving their objectives. Staff of homeless serving agencies must have training and professional



development to build capacity to deliver on these objectives. This training must be delivered in such a way that the care offered will display the necessary care and flexibility to meet the needs of the homeless.

And finally, that all essential services and supports for the homeless are fully funded and maintained during the transition to permanent housing. All homeless Albertans that are re-housed must be provided with the opportunity to access services and supports that are contemporary, adequate, and effective in helping them achieve stability and maintain housing.

Given the recognition by the Alberta Party of the social needs in our province and the willingness to come up with a long-term plan, with secure and dependable funding, unlike the current model of a year over year funding plan, where the criteria to apply for funding pits municipalities against one another for the funds.

Background:

The reality is, that the present level of funding is woefully inadequate to meet the needs in our province. There is no, present provincial government funding plan that is integrated into a long-term strategic plan, with secure funding, that is designed for the longer-term commitment needed to address the needs. To successfully reduce and ultimately end homelessness, Alberta faces a growing challenge of homelessness. Alberta must take a fundamentally different approach. The reasons behind the increase in homelessness are many and complex, rooted in fiscal, social and government policy decisions and the reasons for homelessness are exasperated with lack of reliable, secure, long term provincial government funding support.

Testimonials:

Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN) in a recent CBC interview (Dec, 2021): Two Alberta municipalities are tackling rural homelessness “funding to tackle homelessness is hard to come by in rural Canada.” Story Continues "There's no ongoing core funding that we have access to,"

ARDN (2020): “began to notice people living in their pick-ups at a campground, or in makeshift trailers. After meeting many people in this situation, he felt compelled to advocate for them in the hours outside his full-time job at a pulp mill. He started a foundation, but found it difficult to convince government and business leaders to support his cause.”
“If I had a dollar for every time I heard that there wasn’t a problem...”

ARDN study continues: Changing the perception of rural homelessness



“The study has also challenged perceptions of homelessness—and the associated stigma. There’s a stereotype of homelessness as a person seeking emergency shelter. Many of the people we surveyed who fit the accepted definition of homelessness didn’t see themselves as homeless,”

ARDN Article May 2021 - Edmonton, AB: - A follow-up study estimates that almost half of all people requesting social services in rural Alberta are experiencing housing insecurity (907 out of 1,894). When family and friends living with them are included, the number more than doubles to 2,143, including 276 who are children under 18.

City of Edmonton report: In a (2017) current state of homelessness report. Indigenous peoples are over-represented in the homeless population, over 48% of the homeless in Edmonton are indigenous. As compared to 5% of the General Population.

Sponsor: Shadow Cabinet



9. Including Gender Expression

Whereas the Alberta Human Rights Amendment Act, 2017, was passed on November 14, 2017, and came into force on January 1, 2018. This proposed amendment will ensure that our policy aligns with the Alberta Human Rights Act.

Be it resolved that we amend our policy Equality and Human Rights [2015] – Upholding the Dignity and Rights of All Albertans, in our parties Book of Member-Based Policy (Valid as of October 20th, 2018), by adding both gender identity and gender expression to the other protected grounds that are already listed.

Additional Comments:

Background

When the Alberta Human Rights Amendment Act, 2017 was passed by the legislature, s. 3 (1)(b) was amended to include gender identity and gender expression as protected grounds. This was unfortunately not identified and captured in the Equality and Human Rights [2015] – Upholding the Dignity and Rights of All Albertans when the Book of Member-Based Policy was updated at the last AGM and became valid as of October 20, 2018. This proposed amendment will ensure that our policy aligns with the Alberta Human Rights Act, by adding gender identity and gender expression into our party policy.

This amendment would continue to set our party apart from other provincial political parties as we explicated state what we will do to defend the rights of “ALL” Albertans. It is unfortunate that this was not amended at the last AGM but we can make a positive step forward by ensuring that it is updated now.

https://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=A25P5.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779744060

Shadow Cabinet, Shadow Minister, Health



10. Securing Albertan's Wellbeing

Whereas, every Albertan should have the ability to achieve financial well-being; and
Whereas, the benefits derived from achieving financial well-being are shared amongst individuals and society; and

Whereas, current financial support systems are a patchwork of barrier-filled programs burdened with heavy administration costs; And

Whereas, the Alberta Party believes in a pragmatic and efficient government supporting all citizens

Be It Resolved: That the Alberta Party:

Will explore a single-source income support program for Albertans that will be managed by the province and co-funded by the federal government.

Additional Comments:

Introduction:

This policy originated around the subject of Basic Income and because of the intertwined economic, social and operational impacts, we purposely chose to focus the discussion around the broader financial well-being. The concept of Basic Income has often been touted as a catch-all to society's social challenges whereas the evidence suggests this is not necessarily the case. While this policy is not a Basic Income policy, it may contain elements of it that should be explored. Due to the depth and complexity of this topic, and the draft that came out of it, we intentionally chose to make this proposal more concise and to allow for broader policy integration.

References

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**Submitted by Calgary SW (Edgemont) Kieth Carlson
Wayne Jackson, Mark Nikota
and Edmonton Glenora - Ryan Young**

Sponsoring Constituency Association(s):

Edmonton - Glenora
Calgary – Edgemont



Energy/Environment

11. Curtailing Vehicle Emissions

Whereas Alberta's ZEV policy is fundamentally dependent on its energy and power policy to provide clean electricity that is readily available from a grid that is robust enough to support ZEV power demand and, for cold and/or remote climates, new technologies are being developed to make possible the production of hydrogen directly from available natural gas and several companies are developing hydrogen internal combustion kits to convert diesel engines to hydrogen while other hydrogen storage and transportation technologies are also in development but, as a practical matter, we must acknowledge that ZEV's are ready for only limited applications in Alberta today;

Whereas the Alberta Party supports comprehensive, open competition to resolve ZEV power supply limitations with direct government support for research, development, and commercial demonstration;

Whereas the Alberta Party does not favour ZEV vehicle purchase incentives, it would consider encouraging the transition by deferring road taxes in appropriate cases such as to low-income households and commercial transport;

Whereas the Alberta Party considers that the current Federal goals (that at least 20 percent of all new passenger vehicles sold in Canada will be ZEVs by 2026, at least 60 per cent by 2030 and that we will be on the road to 100 per cent by 2035) are too aggressive for Alberta and we must let the technology race play out before focusing on putting particular ZEV's on the road where they are not practical so, for example, Alberta can focus on strong funding for technology development such as converting diesel to hydrogen combustion if that, rather than ZEV's, is most practical for us thereby also allowing Alberta to determine what works before it builds out a massive infrastructure;

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party will focus fiscal support for immediate development of ZEV technologies that may be appropriate for Alberta and will then encourage the development of the appropriate infrastructure to achieve meaningful and appropriate conversion to ZEV's by 2035.

Additional Comments:

Background:

Despite the extraordinary publicity around certain early successes with ZEV's, the race is not yet



won. It is certainly not clear for Alberta where there are vast areas and many worksites that are remote, have extremely cold climate and are virtually unpopulated. Even in densely populated areas there is only minimal impact for EV's powered by electricity from natural gas and coal. In remote areas replacing diesel is paramount. These remote areas (often populated by indigenous nations) are particularly disadvantaged in the energy transition.

Alberta's ZEV policy is fundamentally dependent on its Energy and Power policy. Where clean power is readily available and the grid can cope, it can be used to charge batteries but in cold climates, even this is problematic as vehicle heating also needs a lot of power. New technologies are being developed to make it possible to produce hydrogen without also making CO2 wherever natural gas is also available (pyrolysis). Several companies are developing hydrogen internal combustion kits to convert diesel engines to hydrogen. This would allow hydrogen to be distributed as natural gas; alleviating many problems in remote areas. Other hydrogen storage and transportation technologies are in development. Demonstrations of hydrogen technologies at work in Alberta abound. But, as a practical matter, ZEV's are ready for only limited applications in Alberta.

The Alberta Party supports comprehensive, open competition to resolve these problems with direct government support for R & D and demonstration. The Alberta Party does not favour purchase incentives but would defer road taxes in appropriate cases (low income, commercial transport, etc.).

The federal government has targeted that at least 20 per cent of all new passenger vehicles sold in Canada will be ZEVs by 2026, and at least 60 per cent by 2030, on the road to 100 per cent by 2035.

The Alberta Party considers that the current Federal goals are too aggressive for Alberta. Instead of focusing on putting ZEV's on the road where they are not practical, Alberta must focus on strong funding for technology development (for example it is entirely possible that hydrogen converted diesels will be most practical in Alberta, rather than BEV's). Alberta must know what works before it builds out a massive infrastructure. At the very least, we need to let the technology race play out before we commit.

Reference:

Detailed on page 61 of the "2030 Emissions Reduction Plan":

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/climate-change/erp/Canada-2030-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-eng.pdf>

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/eccc/documents/pdf/cesindicators/ghg-emissions/2019/national-GHG-emissions-en.pdf>, page 9

Sponsor: Calgary-Bow



12. Alberta's Electrical Grid

Whereas renewable energy sources such as wind and solar are becoming the lowest-cost options for additional power, with opportunities for expansion within Alberta and decarbonization of Alberta's electric power generation; and, due to their interruptible nature, additional reliance on these energy sources threatens both the reliability and average cost of Albertan electricity due to variable over- and under-supply,

Be it Resolved that the Alberta Party will:

- work with the province's electrical power distributors to establish a deadline for installing bi-directional smart meters for all connections to the power grid. Once these meters become part of Alberta's energy infrastructure all utilities will have an incentive to explore more creative pricing solutions to take advantage of opportunities for co-generation, off-line storage, and reduction of demand at times of minimum availability or peak usage, and
- Improve the interconnectedness of Alberta's power grid, which has one of the least interconnected electric networks in Canada. Texas, which is similar to Alberta in wind supplying a significant share of its electric power and has the lowest interconnectivity of any of the continental states, recently suffered a statewide outage of several days that was deemed responsible for 82 deaths. Improved interconnectivity is a critical prerequisite of Alberta's ability to take full advantage of its large potential for low-carbon electrical generation, while avoiding the risk of a grid failure similar to what happened in Texas.

Sponsoring Constituency Association - Edmonton - Glenora
Ryan Young Edmonton Glenora ryan.young@albertaparty.ca



13. Energy and Power

Whereas the world, and Alberta with it, acknowledges that discarding waste into our environment is not acceptable and therefore Alberta's energy development, use, and sale must consider the sustainable management of water, land, and air within Alberta as well as outside the province, both nationally and globally, and it is imperative that we mitigate the emissions and contamination caused by greenhouse gases (GHG's) such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and water vapor (all of which also occur naturally), as well as synthetic fluorinated gases;

Whereas the energy transition will provide Alberta with clean power and net zero products for use and export, clean energy, air, land, and water remain the foundation for Albertans to continue to thrive and diversify and Alberta's new energy system must therefore include the lowest impact oil and gas production, net zero manufacturing of hydrogen, fertilizers, and petrochemicals, and widespread adoption of net zero emission transportation;

Whereas the Alberta government supports initiatives to reduce waste considering the energy life cycle of all energy resources, the government's efforts must include a careful analysis of the province's power grid and related regulations to make it effective for all net zero technologies and, within that assessment, there must be an expectation for 'smart' technology that allows producers and customers to share responsibility for production and distribution;

Whereas Alberta's power grid needs to be designed and updated with every available technology 'on the table' and wherein the contending technologies may include wind, solar, geothermal, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS), pyrolysis, small modular reactors (SMR's), power storage, etc., the Alberta Party understands this complexity and will clearly state Alberta's long-term goals to ensure that this renewed power grid, and the fiscal regime are in place; allowing the market to determine which technologies are best;

Whereas the new hydrogen economy will be a guiding principle for clean energy while developing Alberta's sustainable energy system for generations to follow and wherein both water (in the far north) and natural gas (in southern Alberta) will become sources of hydrogen for a profoundly changed Alberta energy system;

Whereas the Alberta Party accepts the Federal Government target for net zero CO₂e impacts for power by 2035 but notes that Alberta is at a major disadvantage to other provinces and territories, the Alberta Party will therefore strongly advocate for Federal expectations to be a



proportionally “shared responsibilities” among the Federal Government itself and all provinces and territories, treaty lands, and regions;

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party will ensure that Alberta is a recognized leader in the energy transition and that Alberta is appropriately compensated for its achievements in the Canadian Federation.

Additional Comments:

Vision: Embracing the reality of climate change while recognizing that profound change creates inequities and disruption that must be mitigated, the Alberta Party will, on a comparative world scale, strive to put Alberta in the top 10% of jurisdictions that transform their energy systems while ensuring that Alberta’s vast energy resources continue to its advantage.

Background:

(Current situation and legislation and why this vision is needed.)

The world, and Alberta with it, is finally realizing that no waste can be morally discarded into the environment. Greenhouse gases (GHG’s) such as carbon dioxide, methane, etc. are no exception.

Embracing the energy transition will provide Alberta with net zero assets and clean power. Clean energy will be the foundation for Albertans to continue to thrive and diversify. Alberta’s new energy system will include lowest impact oil and gas production, net zero manufacturing of hydrogen, fertilizers, and petrochemicals and widespread adoption of zero emission transportation.

Many challenges confront us. Hydrocarbon producers have committed to ‘net zero’ by 2050. New industries are ‘on the cusp’ if clean energy is available. The Alberta government needs to support those initiatives. The most important way to assist is for Alberta to undertake a careful revamp of the province’s power grid and related regulations to make it effective for all net zero technologies and ‘smart’ insofar as producers and customers can share responsibility for production and distribution.

Alberta’s power grid must be understood and re-designed with every available technology ‘on the table’. The contending technologies may include wind, solar, geothermal, Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage, (CCUS), pyrolysis, small modular reactors (SMR’s), power storage, etc. Understanding this complexity, the Alberta Party will clearly state Alberta’s long-term goals and ensure that this renewed power grid and fiscal regime are in place; allowing the market to determine which technologies are best.



Ultimately, striving for clean power is developing Alberta's sustainable energy system for generations to follow. The new hydrogen economy will be a significant part of that, wherein both water (in the far north) and natural gas (in southern Alberta) will become sources of hydrogen for a profoundly changed Alberta energy system.

The federal government has, essentially, set a target for net zero CO₂e impacts by 2035 for power production. The Alberta Party accepts this challenge but notes that Alberta is at a major disadvantage to other provinces and territories. (Imagine the obverse if B.C. and Quebec were asked to completely revamp hydro production for mercury and methane emissions). The Alberta Party will therefore strongly advocate for direct Federal compensation commensurate with its proportional challenges in the energy transition.

Reference:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/canadian-environmental-protection-act-registry/achieving-net-zero-emissions-electricity-generation-discussion-paper.html>

Sponsor: Calgary-Bow



Economic Development

14. Innovation and Diversification

Title: Scientific Innovation and Technology Commercialization Policy

Preamble:

Whereas economic diversification of Alberta’s economy is essential to remain globally competitive and creating science and innovation policy can accelerate both the production of knowledge and the use of that knowledge to advance society and the economy.¹ Innovation can have positive economic, social, and environmental impacts. Alberta-based scientific innovation in platform technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology, Virology, Smart Agriculture, and Clean Energy, is world class. The commercialization and economic potential of these technologies lags behind other regions due to lack of translation of research to the real world, fiscal policy, industrial commercialization partners, and investment attraction. Science and innovation policy must address these hurdles.

The Alberta Party approach to innovation, STEAM, encompasses five basic tenants: Support and investment, Talent and Training, Ecosystem and community, government as an Asset and a market, and Modernization and harmonization. Investing and supporting innovation from the basic sciences to the development stage is an important role of the government but preparing Albertans to be leaders in innovation is essential. Enhancing the Talent and Training of Albertans required expanding access to postsecondary institutions. This includes increasing capacity, access for rural students, and opportunities for retraining to allow the workforce to keep up with Modernization and ensure Harmonization. Economic diversification through science and innovation should be equitable and respectful of the environment to protect the Ecosystem and community.

Be It Resolved: That the Alberta Party will:

- Establish an Innovation Business Advisory Council comprised of multidisciplinary business leaders and academics from innovation sectors to
 - Advice holistic policy development to benefit innovation across all sectors of the Alberta economy where Alberta has a competitive advantage to benefit all innovators,
 - Involve local governments/communities/groups to ensure policies are inclusive and beneficial to Alberta’s society
 - Involve environmental academics to ensure policies will not lead to damage to the environment
- Develop fiscal policy to attract private capital into innovation sectors. Corporate R&D (Research and Development) Based-In Alberta tax incentives, SRED (Scientific Research and Experimental Development) tax credits, investor tax credits, and additional



investment in indirect investment vehicles such as the Accelerate Fund and Alberta Enterprise Corporation,

- Expand access to postsecondary institutions for rural students through satellite campuses and distance learning
- Expand investment in world class research institutes housed at Alberta post secondaries through project-specific grants for projects with specific goals, timelines, and specifications for how the research will be translated into Alberta’s society and economy,
- Expand investment in accelerator programs such as Creative Destruction Labs, Health City Accelerator, Alberta Innovates, and Startup TNT supported accelerator programs,
- Implement an Alberta “Buy First” procurement program and competitions for commercial innovations within the public sector (provincial government) and encourage municipal adoption of similar programs
 - Work with the federal government to establish a Canada “Buy First” procurement program

Sponsoring Constituency Association:

Edmonton - Glenora



Government/Justice

15. Proportional Representation

Whereas ‘first past the post’ encourages people to vote for parties which they do not fully support for fear of ‘vote splitting’ and it produces legislatures which do not conform to the democratic will of Albertans while also leaving vast swathes of people underrepresented, and

Whereas Alberta’s electoral system needs to produce legislatures proportional to the overall popular vote while at the same time ensuring robust local representation and maintaining the bond of accountability between constituent and representative.

Be it resolved that an Alberta Party government would amend the *Election Act* to implement a fair and proportional voting system to replace our current ‘first past the post’ method for electing members of the Legislative Assembly. It would do this by consulting a Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform composed of a representative group of Albertans in order to determine the details of Alberta’s new electoral system without undue partisan influence.

Co-Sponsors: Calgary-Elbow Constituency Association & Alberta Party Youth Association



16. Access To Justice

Whereas Sections 7 and 10 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees that all Canadians have the right to be fairly represented in our Justice system, and

Whereas the Provinces are responsible, under the Canadian Constitution of 1982, for the administration and funding of the Provincial systems of Justice, and

Whereas a great many people are denied access to the Justice system due to the inability to pay the costs of legal representation within the system,

Therefore, be it resolved that an Alberta Party government would instruct the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General to undertake an initiative in consort with the Law Society of Alberta, the Provincial Court Judges Association and other interested stakeholders to examine the current state of “Access to Justice” by all, including the poor, indigenous, immigrant and other disadvantaged segments, and provide recommendations to improve the overall situation. This may include such initiatives as “legal insurance”, alternate dispute resolution, methods of restorative justice and the like.

Submitted by April Friesen



17. Lowering Voting Age

Whereas currently, the right to vote is denied to Albertans younger than eighteen, and

Whereas in Alberta, sixteen and seventeen-year-olds are allowed to drive, marry, pay taxes, join the military, work without restrictions on hours, and do nearly everything other adults can do with the exceptions of using controlled substances and voting in elections.

Therefore, be it resolved that an Alberta Party government would amend section 16 of the *Election Act* and section 47(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* so that all Canadian citizens residing in Alberta over the age of sixteen become entitled to vote in all provincial and municipal elections.

Additional Comments:

Policy Proposal

An Alberta Party government would amend section 16 of the *Election Act* and section 47(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act* so that all Canadian citizens residing in Alberta over the age of sixteen become entitled to vote in all provincial and municipal elections.

Background

Currently, the right to vote is denied to Albertans younger than eighteen.

In Alberta, sixteen and seventeen-year-olds are allowed to drive, marry, pay taxes, join the military, work without restrictions on hours, and do nearly everything other adults can do with the exceptions of using controlled substances and voting in elections.

In a modern democratic society, everyone who is affected by the decisions of a government deserves the right to influence what that government looks like.

Academic analysis has shown that sixteen and seventeen-year-olds “...are more knowledgeable about political institutions and are as politically interested as eighteen to twenty-year-olds (Mahéo & Bélanger, 2020),” and that the younger a person is when they cast their first ballot, the more likely it is that they become a lifelong participant in the democratic process (Bhatti & Hansen, 2012).

. [Lowering the Voting Age to 16? A Comparative Study on the Political Competence and Engagement of Underage and Adult Youth](#)

a. [Leaving the Nest and the Social Act of Voting: Turnout among First-Time Voters](#)

Lowering the voting age to sixteen has already been tried and tested in elections around the world – including in Austria, Brazil, Argentina, and Scotland.

Given its ideological position in the centre of Alberta’s political spectrum, the Alberta Party is uniquely situated to advocate for the enfranchisement of Alberta’s youth without claims that such a reform would be for partisan advantage.



Lowering the voting age would continue the legacy of expanding the right to vote that Canada has followed for two centuries and make Alberta a world leader in enfranchising and empowering its young people.

Co-Sponsors: Alberta Party Youth Association & Calgary-Elbow Constituency Association



18. Upgrading our Democracy – Ease of Voting

Whereas a goal of the Alberta Party is to increase the number of people taking part in our democratic process, making our democracy stronger, and

Whereas there are many people who do not vote due to a variety of barriers including time and mobility, and

Whereas in today's world, we do most of our business on-line in a generally safe and secure manner,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alberta Party, in conjunction with Elections Alberta, would explore the potential of Online Voting option, by qualified voters through a secure website.

Additional Comments:

Part of our collective goal is to increase the number of people taking part in our democratic process, making our democracy stronger. Paper ballot voting is clunky and most people detest doing it but do it because we want to be part of the democratic process as a result there are a lot of people who would vote that don't because of the barriers. Standing in line, finding parking and walking, having to show ID or a bill with your name on it, PoC have expressed many concerns as have LGBTQ2i people.

Time is a huge issue for a whole lot of people who just don't have it can't make it. There are many more barriers than listed here. The mail in ballot is a solution for the above problems but that is not without its problems and it's clunky and dated.

We can fix this. We do all of our banking guaranteed secure online. We do almost all of our business online. We shop, make major purchases, make mortgage and rental payments, book appointments, get educated and everything else with the massive exception of online voting all of a sudden, the internet can't be trusted. We have the technology to roll this out in a safe and secure manner knowing there are many enemies of our democracy, and they will as always try to mess with our elections, that will never end but that should not be the be all end all for our advancement. Online voting will bring a larger proportion of voters out to vote and make having more plebiscite votes more palatable, engaging, accessible and meaningful.

How it works. One way could be on election day every eligible voter receives an emailed link from Elections Alberta that takes them directly to the ballot (the ballots reside on Election Alberta's secure servers) every ballot has a unique identification code that can be kept for future reference. Once someone cast their vote an email receipt is generated by Elections



Alberta as well a paper receipt could also be mailed to the voter. Another way could be, It operates through existing infrastructure. Federally we have access to a personal launch page where once logged in we can administer a number of government services and programs as well as manage our Taxes. This would be the perfect infrastructure for online voting. Provincially we have "my page" which is a portal for medical things. Maybe we implement a personal page for all things Alberta including online voting. It could work both ways too, by logging onto their personal page to access voting or have a link emailed on election day from Elections Alberta. Something like this would go a long way toward making the plebiscite far more accessible and used.

One way to introduce this would be make Online Voting an option that people can go to Elections Alberta's website and choose how they want to vote another would be a question at tax time. This way we can monitor and respond to the changing needs.

Submitted by April Friesen



Finance/Budget

19. Alberta Party Fiscal Policy – Revenues

Summary

This policy is a step in a larger process. The process started with the development of the 2022 Shadow Budget (A Path Forward) and took the feedback received to help shape this policy, which will then be debated at the policy convention, to form part of the next election platform.

This policy is part of a larger discussion and even though it has been submitted independently; it should be viewed as one piece of the greater solution to our fiscal problem.

Preamble

Whereas the Alberta Party values Fiscal AND Social Responsibility and

Whereas we believe Alberta should address both sides of the fiscal situation in the province, including revenue sources and expenditures, by implementing a fiscal strategy that uses the most efficient taxation methodologies to minimize the impact on all Albertans and

Whereas we believe Alberta should perform long term, evidence based, fiscal planning to achieve a sustainable and prosperous future and

Whereas we believe Alberta should be proactive rather than reactive in returning the province to balanced budgets as soon as economically feasible and

Whereas we believe Alberta should be prudent while respecting, and receiving value for, taxpayer dollars while also respecting public sector employees and the essential work they do and

Whereas we believe Alberta should not continue to rely on volatile, resource-based royalties to fund core services and that resource revenue windfalls should be used for debt repayment and savings and

Whereas we believe that business, especially small business, should be the economic driver of future prosperity and

Whereas we believe Alberta should support efforts to counteract the effects of climate change and that tax revenues collected for this purpose will be utilized in the province, by Albertans, to combat our own carbon footprint as a made in Alberta solution and

Whereas we believe Alberta should not fund programs through the use of budget deficits, and



Whereas we believe Alberta should reduce the debt burden on future generations and save for the future.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party will reduce personal income taxes on low- and medium-income earners by increasing the basic personal exemption;

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party will increase the marginal tax rate of the highest income earners;

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party will support Small Businesses in Alberta by increasing the income tax deduction limit;

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party will keep the Corporate Tax Rate at the current %;

Rationale:

- Corporations need fiscal certainty for future planning and investment decisions
- Corporate income taxes are the least effective form of taxation compared to personal income and consumption taxes

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party will investigate the introduction of a combined Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) with the federal GST. Further, that this HST will have a rebate for low-income individuals similar to that of the current GST. Further, that of the provincial part of the sales tax, a portion will be directed towards debt repayment and the remaining part will be added to general revenues to fund program expenditures;

Rationale:

- Consumption taxes are the most efficient form of tax when compared to personal and corporate income taxes
- A consumption tax will generate revenue from non-Albertans (visitors and workers from other tax jurisdictions)
- A consumption tax will help smooth out revenues, transitioning the province away from volatile resource revenues and provide future expense stability
- A Harmonized Sales Tax has less administration expense than a Provincial Sales Tax ○ A sales tax brings Alberta's tax strategy in line with other provinces but keeps taxes lower than anywhere else in Canada

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party will re-introduce a made-in-Alberta, provincial carbon tax with the same emission reduction targets as the federal program. Further that this carbon tax will include a rebate for low-income Albertans, municipalities, school boards, non-profit entities and rural, remote residents including a farm fuel exemption;



Rationale:

- A made in Alberta carbon levy will keep funds in the province and in our control to be used exclusively for green energy programs, projects that will reduce carbon emissions and energy efficient programs in our province

Sources and References

“A Path Forward – Alberta Party Shadow Budget 2022” Alberta Party Shadow Ministry, Treasury Board and Finance; February 23, 2022.

“Enhancing the Alberta Tax Advantage with a Harmonized Sales Tax” The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Philip Bazel and Jack M. Mintz; September 2013.

“Alberta’s Long-Term Fiscal Future” The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Trevor Tombe; November 2018.

“Altering the Tax Mix in Alberta” The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Kenneth McKenzie; September 2019.

“Alberta’s Economic and Fiscal Future” Common Ground, University of Alberta, Haizhen Mou, Johnson Shoyama, and Jared Wesley; January 2021.

“Towards a Fiscally Sustainable Alberta: A Review of Provincial Government Finances” Business Council of Alberta Policy Paper; February 2021.

Sponsored by Shadow Ministry – Treasury Board and Finance



20. Fiscal Policy – Expenses, Debt, Savings

Summary

This policy is a step in a larger process. The process started with the development of the 2022 Shadow Budget (A Path Forward) and took the feedback received to help shape this policy, which will then be debated at the policy convention, to form part of the next election platform.

This policy is part of a larger discussion and even though it has been submitted independently; it should be viewed as one piece of the greater solution to our fiscal problem.

Preamble

Whereas the Alberta Party values Fiscal AND Social Responsibility and

Whereas we believe Alberta should address both sides of the fiscal situation in the province, including revenue sources and expenditures, by implementing a fiscal strategy that uses the most efficient taxation methodologies to minimize the impact on all Albertans and

Whereas we believe Alberta should perform long term, evidence based, fiscal planning to achieve a sustainable and prosperous future and

Whereas we believe Alberta should be proactive rather than reactive in returning the province to balanced budgets as soon as economically feasible and

Whereas we believe Alberta should be prudent while respecting, and receiving value for, taxpayer dollars while also respecting public sector employees and the essential work they do and

Whereas we believe Alberta should not continue to rely on volatile, resource-based royalties to fund core services and that resource revenue windfalls should be used for debt repayment and savings and

Whereas we believe Alberta should not fund programs through the use of budget deficits, and

Whereas we believe Alberta should reduce the debt burden on future generations and save for the future.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party will reduce the cost of administration, including but not limited to the number of middle managers across the public sector, by attrition and by empowering employees in all departments;



Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party will investigate other processes such as priority-based budgeting, that will identify key expenses and areas for savings;

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party will apply excess resource revenues (over and above budgeted amounts) as follows: 50% to the reduction of provincial debt and 50% to savings as a contribution to the Heritage Trust Fund.

Sources and References

“A Path Forward – Alberta Party Shadow Budget 2022” Alberta Party Shadow Ministry, Treasury Board and Finance; February 23, 2022.

“Enhancing the Alberta Tax Advantage with a Harmonized Sales Tax” The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Philip Bazel and Jack M. Mintz; September 2013.

“Alberta’s Long-Term Fiscal Future” The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Trevor Tombe; November 2018.

“Altering the Tax Mix in Alberta” The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary, Kenneth McKenzie; September 2019.

“Alberta’s Economic and Fiscal Future” Common Ground, University of Alberta, Haizhen Mou, Johnson Shoyama, and Jared Wesley; January 2021.

“Towards a Fiscally Sustainable Alberta: A Review of Provincial Government Finances” Business Council of Alberta Policy Paper; February 2021.

Sponsored by Shadow Ministry – Treasury Board and Finance



21. Financial Transparency and Consultation

Vision

The Alberta Party envisions a province where financial and budget information is clearly accessible to everyone, and public engagement in budgetary proposals and options is absolutely encouraged.

Background

The Alberta Party believes in an open, transparent and consultative approach to Alberta's finances, and particularly to the preparation of the annual budget for Alberta. The mechanics of how to achieve the desired transparency would be mandated in the proposed legislation. The legislation would include the following parameters:

- Each September the Minister of Finance would be mandated to provide a budget consultation paper and start the process of budget consultations through an all-party Legislative Committee
- There would be required fiscal reports, and government strategic plans must be released to the Legislative Committee. These reports would have strict reporting requirements and be completely accessible
- There would also be an annual report from the Legislative Budget Officer
- The Committee would encourage public interaction from around the province
- There would be fixed dates for the actual budget to be delivered
- Over the course of the year, the Legislative Budget Officer would interact regularly with the Legislative Committee to prepare for the next year's budget consultations

The ongoing current financial information in Alberta must be clearly accessible, and user friendly to find, read and understand through the Alberta Finance and Treasury Board webpage. The webpage must be updated regularly like a news channel webpage.

The webpage would be broken down minimally into categories such as revenue, spending, liabilities, reserve funds, capital assets and amortization, business operations (ATB etc.) and debt.

The webpage would have news and contact information of the Legislative Committee should members of the public have follow-up questions to any of the specific information contained in the financial information.

As well, the webpage would have a specific page for a contest to facilitate any suggestions to improve finances, and the government would award an annual prize for the individual and the organization who submits the idea judged to be the most effective in improving Alberta finances. The ideas submitted would be publicly accessible regularly.



The relationship between good governance with financial transparency and better economic and social outcomes is well established. Many academic publications state that transparency with government finances provides trust among citizens and can act as a disincentive for public officials to abuse public monies.

In fact, in African countries, and in various parts of Asia, countries where corruption has been a problem, openness has provided a deterrent to such corruption. Compare Somalia which has a huge corruption problem with Senegal, which drastically improved since the government there has introduced a series of anti-corruption measures (Corruption Perceptions Index 2015).

Malaysia is another example of poor government transparency being aligned with corruption. Most recently Prime Minister Najib Razak's inability to answer questions about the \$681 million dollars that came into his personal bank account certainly does not provide confidence among citizens there.

The best model for budgetary transparency for a government in the United Kingdom is in British Columbia, which has had the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act since 2000. This Act has been tweaked numerous times but continues to be the framework for the most advanced province with transparency in Canada.

In addition, B.C. has a very significant role for their Auditor General, who is considered to be an appointed Officer of the B.C. Legislature. The Auditor General in B.C. has a very thorough office.

B.C. is very polarized politically, yet there is virtually no opposition whatsoever to the transparency model currently in place.

The Manitoba Government has modestly become more open and transparent, with the "Proactive Disclosure" part of their webpage.

Another jurisdiction in Canada with some level of transparency has been the 581 First Nations. This group of Indian Bands has been subject to the First Nations Financial Transparency Act since March 2013. This Act requires the specific Nations to comply with strict financial reporting requirements in order to receive federal government funding.

While the First Nations Financial Transparency Act has been controversial lately, since Minister Carolyn Bennett recently suspended some of the reporting requirements for some bands to receive the funding, (December 2015) there is still a framework for transparency. Probably some adjustments to this Act are forthcoming.



Within Alberta at this time, there is no actual requirement for financial transparency, and our Freedom of Information Act is one of the toughest privacy and information Acts in North America. Such restriction on public information is simply not in the public interest.

Policy Position

Be it resolved that the Alberta Party would introduce legislation requiring the Minister of Finance to prepare a consultation paper each September through a Legislative Committee which consults with the public and interested parties on financial priorities.

Be it further resolved that the Alberta Party would provide a user-friendly information source of Alberta Finances which is clear, and interactive.

Research and Opportunities for Albertans

The following sources were invaluable for their insights and research on the Financial Transparency:

1. BC Budget Transparency and Accountability Act, B.C. Queen's Printer
2. Budget Day Traditions in British Columbia, Byron Plant and Jennifer Bancroft, Legislative Library of B.C.
3. Auditor General of B.C. <http://www.bcauditor.com/>
4. Manitoba Government "Proactive Disclosure" http://www.gov.mb.ca/government/proactive_disclosure.html
5. First Nations Financial Transparency Act, Justice Laws Canada website <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-11.66/page-1.html>
6. CBC News December 18th, 2015 "Carolyn Bennett Reinstates Funds Frozen Under First Nations Transparency Act", <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/bennett-first-nations-transparency-1.3371591>
7. Trudeau Private Members Bill, C-613 2015 "An Act to Amend the Access To Information", Parliament of Canada
8. OECD Best practices for Budget Transparency, <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/best-practices-budget-transparency.htm>
9. Cameroon Budget Inquirer - Open Knowledge Foundation and World Bank, <http://cameroon.openspending.org/en/>
10. The Financial Transparency Coalition, <https://financialtransparency.org/>
11. The Corruption Perceptions Index 2015, <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2015>
12. Opengov.com of Redwater, California, <http://opengov.com/>



13. The Sydney Morning Herald, Australia, January 26th, 2016 “Malaysian Prime Minister Cleared”

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/malaysian-ags-decision-to-clear-pm-najib-razak-over-1b-gift-could-be-reviewed-20160127-gmfio3.html>

14. The Budget Process (B.C.) [The-Budget-Process-Fact-Sheet-English.pdf \(leg.bc.ca\)](#)

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22. Alberta's Defence Support Policy

Preamble:

Due to recent developments, the deployment of Russian forces into Ukraine and other geo-political concerns regarding escalating conflict, Alberta can provide a more meaningful contribution to support Canada's NATO and EU partners.

Alberta does not have a direct role or mandate in Canada's national defence, but Alberta can lay the groundwork to strengthen Canada's defence industry, as well as becoming a larger source of supply for our NATO and EU partners.

There is a lead time to develop the required manufacturing and infrastructure and having this capacity in place will demonstrate that Alberta can anticipate potential supply chain needs.

This policy outlines what Alberta **needs** as described by the "Whereas" and **how** the Alberta party will solve the need as described by the "Be it resolved that". Rational is provided to back up both the "needs" and "how".

Strategic Energy Supply

Whereas Alberta should be able to supply energy products to NATO and EU partners to mitigate the economic impacts of sanctions imposed on a belligerent and aggressive nation as a result of a military conflict.

Rationale:

- Russia has just been sanctioned due to its invasion of Ukraine. As a result, the US and UK are banning oil and gas imports from Russia.
- The EU will be slower to accommodate this initiative as the EU imports 40% of its gas and 25% of its oil from Russia.
- There is a risk that a EU energy crisis will occur if these imports cannot be replaced from other sources.

Defence Industrial Base

Whereas Alberta should expand its defensive industrial base to mitigate the lead times associated with defence procurement cycles and be able to meet the demand required of increased military spending.

Rationale:

- Alberta currently has a small defence industry footprint.

- 
- Alberta currently has technical talent and resources that can be supplied to the defence industry.
 - An expanded defence industrial base will help in diversifying Alberta's economy.
 - Alberta is strategically located in a position that makes it difficult to attack and therefore has an increased natural security.
 - Alberta's resources have served as strategic reserves in past global conflicts.

Defending Alberta's Economy

Whereas Alberta should be able to defend itself from cyber-threats on its economy.

Rationale:

- Alberta will need to be able to defend its industry and economy from malicious cyber activity.

Strategic Energy Supply

Be It Resolved that:

- The Alberta Party will support Four Points Energy Corridors (ie. east-west and north-south) in order to supply strategic resources to Canada's global partners for delivery to the NATO and EU partners.

Rational:

- It is the right time to strengthen energy security as the political reasons for implementing a program to support Canada's NATO and EU partners are paramount and far outweigh the concerns held by those in opposition.
- The federal government should champion and support this initiative due to our commitments in assisting our NATO and EU partners.
- This resolution marries well with our support for net-zero strategy, as energy can include hydrocarbon (including carbon sequestration infrastructure), hydrogen or electricity (from brown, blue, green and nuclear sources).

Defence Industrial Base

Be It Resolved that:

- The Alberta Party will partner with industry to increase our dual use (commercial and military) manufacturing capacity.



Rational:

- Defence manufacturing could start with supplying advanced military aircraft material such as carbon-fibre composite, Carbon-Carbon composite, carbotanium (carbon-titanium) composite materials. This would represent a value-added vertical market evolution of the current oil & gas product supply chain.
- Defence manufacturing could evolve to partnering with aircraft manufacturers to invest in composite bonding autoclaves which could serve in supplying commercial aircraft as well as military aircraft. Large scale composite bonding is a new industry and currently does not have a footprint in Canada.
- Development of a graphene resource from coal production would provide a value-added vertical market evolution of the current coal product supply chain leading to supplying the materials for graphene battery technology and other graphene material advancements.
- Development of manufacturing for advanced agricultural fibre materials for uses such as bio composites, lightweight reinforced armor and bioplastics etc. would provide a value-added vertical market evolution for the current agricultural product supply chain.
- Alberta would be best served with developing a more integrated vertical market economic strategy rather than a piecemeal economic diversity strategy.

Defending Alberta's Economy

Be It Resolved that:

- The Alberta Party will improve Alberta's cyber-defence capabilities to mitigate the potential escalation of cyber threats as a result of our increased involvement with NATO and EU partners.

Rational:

- There is a need to accelerate Alberta's cyber-defence infrastructure to prevent malicious disruption of Alberta's economy.

Sponsoring Constituency Association(s):

Calgary – Edgemont



**ALBERTA PARTY
POLICY BOOK
APPENDIX “A”**

POLICY DISCUSSION PAPERS



1. Zero Emissions

Alberta Party

Draft Policy March 7, 2022

Title:

Alberta's Zero Emission Strategy

Preamble:

One of the key threats to Alberta's well-being is the Zero Emission targets set for 2035 and 2050. If Alberta leadership does not lead the Zero Emission mandate for Albertans, then it will fall to external leadership such as the federal plans to direct a zero-emission solution for Alberta.

Alberta needs to have provincial leadership that will support the climate change initiatives that will help mitigate the root causes of climate change. There is a lead time to develop this infrastructure and by providing a clear and understandable emission strategy roadmap will demonstrate that Alberta can lead by example.

This policy outlines what Alberta **needs** as described by the "Whereas" and the **how** the Alberta party will solve the need as described by the "Be it resolved that". Rational is provided to back up the both the "needs" and "how".

Zero Emission Technology-Agnostic

Whereas Alberta should be technology-agnostic to the solutions and implementations to achieving a zero-emission solution.

Rationale:

- Alberta should not favour any specific technological solution over another.
- Solutions will rely on industry to build the business case for "Electrification" vs "Alternate Fuel" based on factors such as "well-to-wheel" efficiencies, costs, compliance, etc.
- Alberta should not be involved in the technical/philosophical discussion of "Electrification" vs "Alternate Fuel" as this would be equivalent to meriting a "Beta vs VHS" conclusion.
- The federal government can be seen as favouring an "Electrification" solution as shown by the provided guidance on a zero-emission solution. Current federal government guidance is focused on "electrification" as shown by comments from government website:

- 
- "... investments in zero-emission **charging infrastructure**, to partnerships with auto manufacturers which are helping them re-tool and produce zero-emission vehicles. "
 - "We're investing in consumer rebates, **charging stations**, business tax breaks and industry transition costs to make the shift to zero-emission vehicles as seamless as possible for drivers, workers and entrepreneurs. "
 - "Achieving this target will require all Canadians, and businesses big and small, to embrace the change and **go electric**. "
 - "Public Services and Procurement Canada is proud to advance the procurement and **installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations infrastructure** at federal buildings and we will continue to support the conversion of our government's fleets to zero-emission vehicles. "
 - "The auto industry is investing hundreds of billions of dollars to accelerate their **vehicle electrification plans**, including recent commitments to re-tool several Canadian factories to build zero-emission vehicles. "
 - "The Government of Canada is making investments to support the transformation towards **electrification**, including \$295 million to the Ford Motor Company of Canada's \$1.8 billion project to build electric vehicles at its Oakville Assembly Complex. "
 - "Clean Energy Canada found that with measures in Canada's A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy plan, jobs in the **EV industry** are expected to increase twenty-six-fold by the end of this decade. "

Zero Emission Electrification

Whereas Alberta should improve electricity infrastructure to meet increased usage due to anticipated additional clean tech and residential energy loads.

Rationale:

- Current electricity distribution infrastructure may need to be improved to accommodate clean tech by 2031.

Residential Energy

Whereas Alberta should be supplied with residential heating that achieve zero emission standards.

Rationale:

- With the federal government investing in "electrification" as the solution, it would be natural to assume that Alberta residents would be asked to replace natural gas heating with zero-emission heating likely requiring the provinces to fund the transition.

Clean Energy Sources



Whereas Alberta should develop a clean “Well-to-Wheel” energy infrastructure to be compliant with a zero-emission strategy.

Rationale:

- Alberta should not export clean energy demands to burden other provinces with carrying Alberta’s energy problem.
- Alberta should not introduce additional demand for external sources of clean sources of energy.
- For a clean “Well-to-Wheel” electric infrastructure, Alberta will require clean sources of energy to be compliant with a zero-emission strategy.

Alternative Fuels

Whereas Alberta should supply alternate de-carbonized fuels for domestic and export consumption.

Rationale:

- Remote sites will require clean energy sources where building infrastructure out to those locations would be cost prohibitive. These sites can be supplied using alternative fuels.
- Oil and Gas infrastructure currently in place can be converted to supply alternative fuels. This technology exists and does not require a lead time to research for it to be available.
- Development of alternative fuel supply will quickly be demanded for exports.

Energy Exports

Whereas Alberta should maximize its potential of energy exports while maintaining compliance to the zero emissions goal of 2035 and 2050.

Rationale:

- The US plans for a carbon-free electricity goal for 2035. Alberta should be ready for alternatives energy exports within this window of opportunity.
- Countries such as Japan have declared their intention to invest in hydrogen as their strategy for a carbon-free future. Japan does not have a sedimentary basin like Alberta to perform CCUS, thus positioning Alberta to be a legitimate source of supply for de-carbonized fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia for Pacific region customers.
- Alberta’s sedimentary basin granted for CCUS to be referred to as CCUS real-estate. Alberta's CCUS real-estate is uniquely positioned for enabling the production of alternative energy exports.

Whereas Alberta should be able to assist industry in marketing and exporting alternative fuels and zero emission energy products.



Rationale:

- Need to transition to market demand rather than supply push as provided under current government practice.
- New markets may be a barrier of entry for some companies.

Energy Dependent Processes

Whereas Alberta should host opportunities that arise as a result of Alberta's CCUS real-estate.

Rationale:

- Alberta's CCUS real-estate is uniquely positioned for enabling the hosting of energy dependent industry processes such as "green steel" and pyrometallurgical.

Early Adoption

Whereas Alberta should incentivize early adopters as well as industry to develop products that will demand Alberta's zero emission alternative fuel products.

Rationale:

- Domestic demand will require incentives to switch from carbon-based fuels to alternative fuels.
- Federal money should flow through to industry that develops products for electrical or alternative fuel use.
- Carbon tax is actually a CO₂ disposal tax. Disposal of CO₂ is no longer free.
- Alternative fuels have no carbon to dispose, thus no tax.

Rewarding Innovation

Whereas Alberta should reward innovators to develop technologies that demand zero emission products.

Rationale:

- Innovation rewards would be equivalent to "open-source" bounties for desired technology.
- Auto racing industry is shown to boost domestic economy.

Oil and Gas worker Retention

Whereas Alberta should retain oil and gas workers as much as possible for zero emission capital projects.

Rationale:

- The federal government is looking to diversify oil and gas workers as shown by the following quote:

- 
- “The federal government is launching a long-awaited process to come up with a plan to support oil and gas workers as economies around the world move away from fossil fuels.”

Reduce Zero Emission Impacts

Whereas Alberta should reduce environmental impacts imposed by zero emission strategy.

Rationale:

- While introducing Li batteries as a solution to combat GHG emissions, currently Li battery recycling at best recovers 5% of the Li produced from fossil fuels.

Nuclear Energy Sources

Whereas Alberta should adopt nuclear sources of energy as a clean energy source.

Rationale:

- Nuclear energy option provides best energy density zero-emission solution.

Whereas Alberta should reduce environmental impacts imposed by nuclear options.

Rationale:

- Current nuclear reprocessing and waste storage handling would impose additional environmental risks and impacts.

Be It Resolved that:

Zero Emission Technology-Agnostic

- Alberta Party will be impartial to the technological solutions that industry will derive in achieving zero-emission standards.

Rational:

- Alberta may be able to provide zero-emission solutions that involve alternative fuels. This should not be discounted as a solution.
- Alberta’s energy exports need to evolve from the traditional “oil and gas for energy” to future “alternative fuels for energy”.

Zero Emission Electrification

- Alberta Party will seek federal government funding to accommodate the federal government’s acceleration and transformation towards “Electrification”.

Rational:

- The federal government is already committed to "Electrification" and is offering funding.



Residential Energy

- Alberta Party will require residential heating to be sourced from:
 - Electrical Grid
 - De-carbonized alternative fuels
- Alberta Party will partner with industry to repurpose existing residential natural gas pipelines for the distribution of alternative fuels for residential heating.
- Alberta Party will incentivize the conversion to zero-emission appliances.
- Alberta Party will seek federal government funding for tax payers to transition to zero-emission appliances

Rational:

- Expected target for 2035 is to be 25% converted
- Expected target for 2050 is to be 100% converted

Clean Energy Sources

- Alberta Party will require clean energy sources to be sourced from Alberta such as:
 - Solar
 - Wind
 - Nuclear
 - Hydro-Electric
 - Geothermal
 - Net Zero Gas Plants
 - Alternative Fuels

Rational:

- Alberta's list of potential clean energy sources.

Alternative Fuels

- Alberta Party will partner with industry to develop a supply chain for de-carbonized alternative fuels such as:
 - H₂ (Hydrogen)
 - NH₃ (Ammonia)
- Alberta Party will partner with industry to develop alternative fuel product infrastructure to distribute alternative fuel choices.
- Alberta Party will seek funding for alternative fuel product infrastructure from the federal government's zero emission initiative.

Rational:

- Industry is already investing in "Blue Hydrogen" projects.
- Infrastructure/supply chain will need to be put in place to distribute the alternative fuels.

- 
- There will be a need to champion funding from the federal government for alternative fuel infrastructure.

Energy Exports

- Alberta Party will partner with industry for the development of net zero plants that produce the following benefits where economically viable:
 - H₂ (Hydrogen) production
 - NH₃ (Ammonia) production
 - GHG captured process of CH₄ (Methane) production
 - GHG captured process of C_xH_x (Oil and Gas)
 - GHG captured process of Electricity (Co-Generation) production
 - Captured/Sequestered CO₂

Rational:

- Captured CO₂ could be used for power plant generators that use super-critical CO₂. Super-critical CO₂ is seen as a better alternative to H₂O steam power generators.
 - Captured CO₂ could stabilize CO₂ markets.
 - Sequestering CO₂ could be monetized given the real-estate granted to perform the CCUS.
 - A net zero plant with centralized CCUS infrastructure assists in creating an economy of scale cost benefit for our current export markets.
- Alberta Party will partner with industry for the export of any excess clean energy from sources such as:
 - Solar
 - Wind
 - Nuclear
 - Geothermal
 - Hydro-Electric
 - Alberta Party will establish a “Green Energy Marketing Centre” to assist companies in marketing alternative fuels and zero emission energy products.

Rational:

- Alberta Party will repurpose the SAIT “Energy War Room” to assist companies in marketing alternative fuels and zero emission energy products.



Energy Dependent Processes

- Alberta Party will partner with industry to co-locate energy dependent processes closer to Hydrogen production.
- Alberta Party will partner with industry to co-locate CO₂ emitting processes closer to CCUS infrastructure.

Rational:

- The climate change initiatives that lead to the reduction of the use of coal for coking introduces the need for current steel manufacturing to convert to a “green steel” process that uses hydrogen. It would be more economically viable to have the “green steel” industry build co-located “green steel” manufacturing near the source of the hydrogen to reduce pipelining of hydrogen.
- Co-located pyrometallurgical CO₂ emitting processes reduces the CCUS pipelining infrastructure.

Early Adoption

- Alberta Party will incur a CO₂ disposal tax for the consumption of carbonized fuels.
- Alberta Party will not incur sales tax on de-carbonized alternative fuels.
- Alberta Party will not incur sales tax on zero emission vehicles.
- Alberta Party will flow through federal incentives to industry for developing infrastructure and products for alternative fuel use.

Rational:

- Let’s call Carbon Tax a CO₂ disposal tax, since that is what it is.
- Incentivize early adoption by minimizing taxation.
- Make available any other incentives to industry to accelerate adoption.

Rewarding Innovation

- Alberta Party will encourage innovation through prize money plans for technology competitions.

Rational:

- Innovation prize plans such as auto racing in Alberta would assist with setting criteria and standards for zero emission vehicles .

Oil and Gas worker Retention

- Alberta Party will retain oil and gas workers for construction and upgrade of oil and gas plants to net zero plants.
- Alberta Party will flow through federal job transition initiatives to subsidize zero emission capital projects for oil and gas workers.

- 
- Alberta Party will support the transition of oil and gas workers to the ongoing operations of the zero emission projects.

Reduce Zero Emission Impacts

- Alberta Party will partner with industry to develop Li battery recycling facilities to minimize the current single use of the Li metal.

Rational:

- The best recovery method for Li that scales with minimal infrastructure cost is the pyrometallurgical extraction method. This is done with high heat smelting that can currently only be achieved using coal or oil and gas.
- Combining O&G powered Li smelting solution with CO₂ sequestration positions Alberta to be best able to perform this capability.

Nuclear Energy Sources

- Alberta Party will partner with industry to develop nuclear energy infrastructure as a clean energy source.
- Alberta Party will establish a Uranium strategic reserve to minimize the exposure to U₂₃₈ market volatility and inflation.

Rational:

- Initially the installation of fast reactors in the form of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to mitigate the lead time to acquire the infrastructure.
 - U₂₃₈ prices are set to increase due to low reserves of mined materials.
 - U₂₃₈ as a commodity is subject to price increases due to inflation.
-
- Alberta Party will adopt the deployment of Lithium Fluoride Thorium Reactors (LFTRs) in Alberta to minimize the nuclear waste handling and storage that impacts the environment.

Rational:

- Lithium Fluoride Thorium Reactors are seen to minimize the nuclear waste storage issues produced from SMRs.
- LFTRs operate at a higher heat where they could be potentially used for pyrometallurgical purposes.
- LFTRs do not require the water that an SMR or nuclear plant would require.
- LFTRs do not require the fuel reprocessing that an SMR would require.
- This should be our longer-term roadmap.



Sponsoring Constituency Association(s):

Calgary – Edgemont

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2. Energy Policy White Paper

Energy Policy White Paper, March 22, 2022

Les Kende, P.Eng., MBA

Preamble

Energy production from hydrocarbons, hydro, wind and solar power in Alberta is fundamental to the province's economy, contributing employment, royalty revenue, income tax, municipal taxes and lowering consumer energy costs.

Over the last several years governments, banks and major shareholders have broadly responded to the will of the electorate and consumers to substantially reduce investment in oil, natural gas, and coal to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in favour of renewables, especially solar and wind power. Recent events have surfaced major economic, reliability and geopolitical concerns with that draw attention to the significant limitations of a short-cycle transition to predominantly renewable energy.

The onset of COVID-19 and the ensuing responses of governments to curtail or lock down mobility, commerce and industry initially resulted in an economy-wide recession with mandates to work-from-home and restrictions to gatherings and gathering spaces. Curtailments to public, personal and air transportation were profound with land and sea transshipment suddenly slashed. In the second quarter of 2020, worldwide oil consumption fell from approximately 100 million barrels per day to approximately 85 million barrels per day. Nevertheless, as vaccines became available in late 2021, consumption returned to pre-pandemic levels, still rising steadily as the economy recovers even though employees have not yet fully returned to in-person work.

The summer of 2021 was characterized by widespread smoke from extensive wildfires and stagnant, relatively windless weather. Solar power generation was compromised by smoke that reduced the radiant energy available for conversion to electricity. Wind farms performed far below their installed capacities. To make up shortfalls, power utilities were obligated to supplement power demand from hydrocarbon driven electrical generation, typically natural gas. The situation highlighted that solar and wind are prone to wide intermittency, significantly impinging on reliability.

The oil and natural gas commodity price complex began to escalate rapidly starting in late 2020, putting immense pressure on worldwide inflation across a broad spectrum of staple products and services, threatening to otherwise impoverish whole nations and socio-economic groups.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine highlights the interdependencies of countries, even adversaries, for energy supply as Europe's dependence on Russian natural gas moderated the international response to the Russian buildup and subsequent invasion. Russia then weaponized the availability of its natural gas and the West, in turn, has largely embargoed the receipt of Russian oil. Security of energy supply has become an emergent issue, causing



uncomfortable compromises and further spiking energy prices, adding to inflation while heightening risks of stagflation.

The experiences of pandemic, reliability challenges, energy-price induced inflation, and core energy sourced from geopolitically aggressive countries have been instructive. It is the responsibility of the Alberta government to chart a just transition in the context of our province, country and internationally. Decarbonization is the ultimate goal, in the transition Alberta can simultaneously increase its leadership role in the provision of ethical oil and gas energy while continuing to lead in implementing of wind and solar power generation.

Energy Policy Conclusions and Priorities

Recent geopolitical, economic, and weather events all underscore the importance of Alberta's ethically produced oil and natural gas to support and complement the worldwide transition to green energy sources, while averting energy poverty. Out of the principles of ESG, Canadian oil ranks at or near the top with respect to Social and Governance, Environmental impacts will continue to improve over time through intent, focus, and innovation. The Province has key, catalytic roles to play.

- **Improve the pathways to CCS while ensuring that projects are robust in permanently storing CO₂**
- **Create a bona fide plan around the retirement of oilfield reclamation obligations in terms of user-pay for the lifecycle of the oil and gas production industry and the return of lands to agriculture, biosphere, and urban use**
- **Moderate the municipal tax dialogue between the municipalities and producers**
- **Front-end load Provincial investment in environmental technologies to accelerate their development and implementation**
- **Invest in the IoT (Internet of Things) enabled electrical smart grid including support for high-speed internet.**
- **Prioritize the resiliency of the grid to respond to rising demand loads; the balance between intermittent and base capacities; distributed generation; seasonal and daily variations; and, costs**
- **The electrical charging grid for electrical vehicles, mindful of the electrical grid and transportation infrastructure**
- **Establish a small modular reactor (SMR) centre for excellence in Alberta**
- **Support the development of the hydrogen industry in Alberta, with investment in the demand/supply/distribution complex and ensure sufficient infrastructure for hydrogen production and export**

- 
- **Develop lithium strategies thoughtfully while respecting land and electrical loads**
 - **Continue the ban on new coal projects and critically analyze proposed projects, protecting Alberta from marginally economic projects unable to fulfill full-cycle environmental obligations emissions and reduces electrical loads**

Discussion

Oil and Natural Gas

Alberta is blessed with the #3 oil reserves in the world and natural gas resources that are soon to be connected to offshore markets via LNG. In the past the provincial government has greatly benefitted from the privilege of this non-renewable resource contributing to the public coffers and public savings directly via royalties and through the multiplier effects of industry and taxes.

The wealth effect from oil and gas production has contributed greatly to a young, highly skilled, well-educated, entrepreneurial, and innovative populace.

Producing companies have been generous benefactors to the communities in which they operate by investing in community building from sports facilities to charities. Producers have a broad footprint in terms of areal extent and land use, affecting a great many Alberta communities.

Several municipalities have come to rely on producer municipal taxes for their operating and capital budgets. With the volatility and downturn in energy prices, especially from 2014 to 2021, producers' operations suffered from reduction of activities in certain regions or extremely low cash flows. The downturn added to the unpaid and / or disputed municipal tax levies common in many areas.

Industry inventories of Abandonment and Reclamation Obligations (ARO) have grown to an unacceptable risk level. ARO is the remaining obligation to abandon wells, pipelines and facilities; including the full remediation of disturbed lands. There are tens of thousands (10,000's) of sites with an unfunded liability valued in the tens of billions of dollars (\$10's billion) representing an existential environmental and financial risk to Alberta stakeholders.

Recently, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has slowly begun to strengthen the regulatory framework directing producers to actively begin to retire their ARO while they are still producing. ARO has built up over several generations and must be retired by the energy industry over its remaining 30 – 40 years of economic viability. Current regulatory ARO spending targets fall well short of full-scale cleanup concurrent with the remaining life of production.

The Alberta government has been an active investor in environmental and climate change mitigation technologies for more than ten years. Investment plans in innovation, industrial



energy efficiency, bioenergy, green loans and oilsands innovations amounts to \$1.4 Bn over the seven (7) years 2019 – 2026.

Since mid-2021, Alberta Energy has formalized the process of acquiring the rights to geology for the purposes of permanent underground carbon storage. Taken as a whole, the process of extracting CO₂ from industrial processes (such as electrical generation, manufacturing, or petroleum refining) and safely permanently storing it in the subsurface is called carbon capture and sequestration (CCS). CCS design, regulatory approval and implementation is a complex, lengthy and very expensive process that is regulated by the Alberta Environment and Alberta Energy ministries.

The most recent CCS project to come on stream (which includes the Alberta Carbon Trunk Line) was first proposed in 2008 with first CO₂ injection commencing in 2020. The Province has an active responsibility ensure that projects are safe, viable and timely by making sure that the regulatory process is equally as robust and efficient as possible.

Oil and natural gas production practices in Alberta are the most ethical and environmentally robust in the world; however, there is room for improvement to manage the long-term risks of historical, current and future production.

- **The existing taxation disconnect between the municipalities and the producers requires active mediation. Future issues may be avoided if the Province offers ongoing consultation and forecasting between the municipalities and industry**
- **A true plan is required to retire ARO coincident with the remaining life of the oil and gas industry**
- **The Province invests in environmental and climate change technologies already. Given the requirement for rapid innovation and adoption, front-end loading this effort would accelerate the pace of development**
- **CCS is an important technology to de-carbonize Alberta's oil and gas production and other heavy industries, the Province must make the approval process as efficient and timely as possible while maintaining the integrity of approval requirements**

Electricity

Over the last 5-10 years, Alberta has rapidly improved the carbon intensity of its electrical grid, leading Canada in 2020 and 2021 in wind and solar capacity installations by a wide margin, as well as actively converting coal-fired generation to natural gas-fired generation. Coal-fired generation will be virtually eliminated by year end 2030.

Taken as a whole, the 'grid' comprises power generation, gathering, transmission, distribution, and all the connected loads. A complicated interconnection of geographical, climate, weather, demographic, and economic factors.



Reliable electrical power delivery is complex, requiring baseload and intermittent capacities that are prone to wide variation from season to season and hourly over the course of a given day.

Because of their service reliability in fluctuating conditions and ability to be turned down when intermittent sources are available, baseload requirements are fulfilled by coal- and gas-fired generation with some hydrogeneration. Renewables are utilized for intermittent generation because their availability is affected greatly by weather, daylight, season, and precipitation. Energy storage solutions at a grid-scale are not yet viable to compensate for the intermittency of renewables.

The loads on the electrical transmission and distribution networks also vary greatly by season, time-of-day, and prevailing weather conditions. As industrial and personal plug-in electric vehicle use increases, their load demands on the grid for recharge will increase dramatically, steepening the ramps up in demand coincident with peak load times for residential electricity use.

Extreme cold, as experienced in December 2021 – January 2022 in Alberta, often results in periods of simultaneously higher load demands and lower generation efficiencies, including higher demand in local areas of lower supply. It would be imprudent to build out the grid with redundancy to cover off every extreme as consumers would be forced to constantly pay tolls for extremes. Nevertheless, one of the contributing factors to extraordinarily higher consumer power bills in early 2022 was because the grid was stretched to its limits, resulting in high spot power prices as electrical power dispatch struggled to meet demands.

Recently, there has been substantial growth in distributed energy generation for so-called ‘inside the fence’ use, a mix of renewable energy and natural gas fired generation. Distributed energy may take several forms including residential rooftop solar to renewables or stranded gas generation at industrial and commercial facilities. Little, if any, of the distributed energy enters the grid, however demand from residences or commercial users may substantially amplify variability depending on the intermittency of generation versus the connected demand.

All of this is to suggest that the grid must become ever ‘smarter’. ‘Smart grids’ are called upon to optimize supply; demand; congestion; dispatch; and reliability. Technology is advancing rapidly, incorporating devices on the internet-of-things (IoT). In turn, high-speed internet connectivity throughout the province is required to support an IoT enabled smart grid.

- **Provincial support for the ‘smart grid’ and its continuous improvement will contribute to optimal reliability and the required evolution to growing in load from electric vehicles**
- **The IoT enabled smart grid requires universal high-speed internet connectivity across all areas of the province**

- 
- **Alberta leads Canada in the installation of wind and solar. The conversion of the seasonal and weather intermittency of renewable sources to base load will require reliable, large-scale storage solutions.**
 - **An extensive and efficient electrical vehicle recharging network, fully integrated with the smart grid, will require thoughtful provincial government support including load management technologies to mitigate reliability risks of peak loads at peak times**

Small Modular Reactor (SMR) – Nuclear Power

SMRs, Small Modular Reactors, offer a zero-emission alternative for the generation of electricity scaled for local or regional demands. The opportunity is to optimally insert a, scalable, clean and efficient power source into the grid.

In 2018, the federal government through Natural Resources Canada, laid out its “SMR Action Plan” to consult with all provinces, indigenous groups and other stakeholders over a period of 10 months. The government of Alberta delegated its participation to Alberta Innovates. By comparison, the province of New Brunswick pledged \$10 MM to the University of New Brunswick, matched by \$10 MM from the federal government, to set up a centre of excellence focused on SMRs. The scope of the SMR Action Plan runs from SMR design to permanent and safe spent fuel disposal.

Alberta industrial energy baseload demands are distributed across the province, resulting in many highly concentrated loads. SMRs may prove to be a safe, GHG-friendly, and efficient alternative to the combustion of natural gas for heat and / or power.

- **For what appears to be a relatively modest cost, Alberta can sponsor an SMR centre of excellence to advance a full cycle SMR solution in-province, positioning Alberta to further leverage the University of New Brunswick research for made-in-Canada solutions**

Hydrogen

Hydrogen is a fuel that can be used in combustion or in fuel cells to generate electrical power. There are generally two main sources of hydrogen. The first is to use electrical power to split off hydrogen from water atoms, hydrolysis. The second is by using steam to liberate hydrogen from methane in natural gas, steam methane reform.

When hydrogen is burned or used in a fuel cell the by-product is water vapour. ‘Green’ hydrogen is manufactured using renewable or nuclear electricity powered hydrolysis. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is used to prevent greenhouse gas emissions for the fuels used to generate steam for ‘blue’ hydrogen, where electrical power may be fossil fuel sourced or fossil fuels are combusted. ‘Grey’ hydrogen uses non-renewable non-CCS mitigated fuels.



There are several hydrogen initiatives underway in Alberta. One is for blending hydrogen with conventional natural gas in local distribution to reduce post-combustion emissions. There is also a private / provincial / federal pilot project that will run hydrogen powered long-haul trucks with its primary fuelling station in the Edmonton region (AZETEC). Other projects include pilots for fuelling buses and dual fuel, diesel-hydrogen, engines for industrial applications.

Launching a hydrogen as a viable fuel source relies on simultaneous and balanced development between demand, production / supply, and infrastructure. Consumers cannot be stranded by lack of volume or inaccessible sources, conversely supply cannot be sustained without off-takers.

Alberta is rich in natural gas and, as discussed, there is a concerted effort to develop extensive CCS. CCS-supported natural gas is both a fuel and a feedstock for 'blue' hydrogen.

As a fuel of the future, there exists a huge export opportunity for Alberta hydrogen. The safest form for export is as ammonia, putting additional demands on rail infrastructure. Still, Alberta is very well positioned to be an international hydrogen leader.

- **A smart, low-carbon grid will contribute greatly to both 'green' and 'blue' hydrogen production**
- **Provincial support will be required to roll out an Alberta hydrogen source-supply network, while supporting and developing demand**
- **Foresight and forecasting are required to support hydrogen export infrastructure, including rail**

Strategic Minerals

Lithium potential in Alberta has recently come to the forefront. Lithium is a key mineral in the manufacturing of electrical battery storage, especially for electric vehicle battery packs.

The large oil and gas bearing reservoirs in Alberta often occur above or adjacent to vast reservoirs containing non-potable water that may contain dissolved lithium ions. While lithium resources are still being mapped out and tested, it is likely that lithium production at scale will require the pumping and disposal of huge amounts of saline water.

Pumping and the winnowing required to extract lithium will be electrical power intensive.

The exploration and quantification of other industrial and energy minerals in Alberta is in various stages.

- **Lithium production in Alberta must fit into the smart grid, while greenhouse gas emissions and land use must be considered within the entirety of lithium's carbon footprint**



Coal

As discussed in the electrical power section, electrical producers are rapidly reducing coal use by converting or retiring coal-fired capacity by the end of 2030, representing bulk of in-province demand for thermal coal. A fraction of thermal coal production in Alberta is produced for export. Current metallurgical coal production (metallurgical coal is used for the smelting of iron and other metals) is minimal.

Worldwide commodity prices for thermal coal and metallurgical coal are quite stable and relatively flat (other than during periods of geopolitical uncertainty) suggesting that global supply and demand are quite balanced.

- **With in-province demand falling and a well-supplied global market, there is little impetus for new coal projects in Alberta, supporting an ongoing ban on new coal mining projects and a critical review of currently proposed projects.**

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3. Mobility and Climate Change

The summary of the 2022-23 Alberta Budget does not discuss alternative inter-city and regional mobility options. In fact, there is no mention to improve hospital infrastructure and equipment outside the Calgary to Edmonton corridor. 100% of the budget increases went to the EXPANSION of land developments & hospital developments in major centers excluding most rural and municipalities under 70,000 in population!

Alberta Transportation facilitated land development expansion in Calgary but did not budget \$1 to provide all communities of the province Inter-City alternatives to passenger vehicle mobility and the economic impacts of salt caused by snow removal in the province. Of the \$5.8 billion infrastructure maintenance spending – what % is assigned to inter-city transportation?

Strategic Transportation Infrastructure Program (STIP) has replaced the Green Trips Infrastructure program that ended in 2016. municipalities must APPLY for funding for projects in the following areas:

Community Airport Program (Red Deer Regional Airport received financing for expansion of its terminal facilities in 2022-23 fiscal year.

Local Road Bridge Program – with the emphasis on ROAD

The Resource Road Program – supporting INDUSTRIES – with the emphasis on ROADS

Local Municipal Initiatives Program - It provides funding to municipalities for local priority transportation infrastructure projects that are not eligible for support under STIP's other streams... NO investment in regional rail allowed

Examples Include:

- highway de-designations where ownership/maintenance/responsibility of a provincial **highway** is transferred from the Government of Alberta to a municipal government
- park access road paving
- emergent, special-need municipal transportation projects that address significant local or regional pressures

Ineligible costs

This grant will not cover the following costs:

- operating costs or normal maintenance
- equipment
- administrative activities

- 
- GST
 - financing expenses
 - land acquisition
 - fencing
 - legal fees

Municipalities can apply for funding for projects to develop and maintain local transportation infrastructure.

Overview. Under the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Alberta is receiving \$2.1 billion for public transit **over the next 10 years** (2018-28). Eligible communities with existing transit authorities can apply for funding to improve or expand public transportation. At \$210 million ONLY – this provides – per-capita only \$47.50 annually – not enough \$ to fill up 1 tank of gas for a year.

It appears the Province is doubling down on a centralized public hospital infrastructure plan. However, by not improving access for the rest of the province to this care via regional passenger rail or daily bus service – Alberta is continuing to go down a road that has not been a success over the past 4 decades.

Alberta has the most expensive health Care in the G7 and comes up short regarding wait times and quality of service.

Unfortunately, Ministerial Silos do not see the forest from the trees. Decentralization brings services closer to the people. Centralized services force the people to travel into larger centers for education, health services, etcetera. 1 million Albertans do not drive and or have access to a personal vehicle and rely on taxis, transit, or friends to drive them to see a specialist.

City sprawl is brought on by inefficient land use planning as well as unbalanced delivery of services to Albertans.

Background – Health Infrastructure comparison to BC Interior Health Region

Interior Health in BC supports 835,000 patients over 215,422 Sq. Km. With population density of 4 residents per Sq Km. 21 hospitals support the care. All with 24x7 Emergency Care which offers an operating room, imaging facility, pharmacy, and recovery room.

Alberta's Urgent Care facilities do not meet this minimum of due care. The population of the municipalities from Airdrie to Leduc is 450,000 equivalent to the Okanagan and Caribou areas of the BC Interior Health Region. Based on the regional as well as Level 2 Hospital care offered in BC – the following municipalities should have an operating room:



Airdrie, Beaumont, Lacombe, Olds, Camrose. Chestermere, Cochrane, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Morinville, Spruce Grove, and St Albert, Strathmore, Sylvan Lake, Okotoks, High River

Do these communities offer 24x7 emergency care? Or are they funneled into Tertiary units in Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary? How does loss of service affect tax bases in these communities?

BC Interior Community Level 1 Hospital

Level 1 hospitals must have, at the minimum, an operating room, a recovery room, maternity facilities, isolation facilities, a clinical laboratory, an imaging facility and a pharmacy, all of which should be licensed by the Department of Health (DOH).

100 Mile House, Lillooet, Merritt, Oliver, Princeton, Revelstoke, Golden, Invermere, Sparwood, Creston, Grand Forks, Nelson, Nakusp

BC Interior Community Level 2 Hospital

A Level II Trauma Center is able to initiate definitive care for all injured patients. Elements of Level II Trauma Centers Include: 24-hour immediate coverage by general surgeons, as well as coverage by the specialties of orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, anesthesiology, emergency medicine, radiology, and critical care.

Williams Lake, Salmon Arm

BC Interior Service Area (Regional) Hospital

Level III. A Level III Trauma Center has demonstrated an ability to provide prompt assessment, resuscitation, surgery, intensive care and stabilization of injured patients and emergency operations.

Vernon, Penticton, Trail, Cranbrook,

BC Interior Tertiary Referral Hospital

A tertiary referral hospital (also called a tertiary hospital, tertiary referral center, tertiary care center, or tertiary center) is a hospital that provides tertiary care, which is a level of health care obtained from specialists in a large hospital after referral from the providers of primary care and secondary care ...



2 (Kamloops / Kelowna)

List of the hospitals in the Interior of BC

- 100 Mile District General Hospital
- Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital
- Lillooet District Hospital
- Nicola Valley Hospital and Health Centre
- Queen Victoria Hospital
- Royal Inland Hospital
- Shuswap Lake General Hospital
- Cranbrook LHA
- Creston LHA
- East Kootenay HSDA
- Fernie LHA
- Golden LHA
- Kimberley LHA
- Windermere LHA
- Arrow Lakes LHA
- Castlegar LHA
- Grand Forks LHA
- Kettle Valley LHA
- Kootenay Boundary HSDA
- Kootenay Lake LHA
- Nelson LHA
- Trail LHA
- Armstrong-Spallumcheen LHA
- Central Okanagan LHA
- Enderby LHA
- Keremeos LHA
- Okanagan HSDA
- Penticton LHA
- Princeton LHA
- Southern Okanagan LHA
- Summerland LHA
- Vernon LHA



Critical Incidents in Alberta at Railway Crossings – No Mention of \$ in Budget

[Airdrie RCMP investigate vehicle collision south bound on Highway 2 – UPDATED – Canada Police Report](#)

[Alberta RCMP warn of train crossings following two summer fatalities - DiscoverAirdrie.com - Local News, Weather, Sports, and Job Listings for Airdrie, Alberta, and the Rocky View County region.](#)

[Hazard Alert: Collision at unprotected railway crossing | Workplace Safety North](#) [Woman dies after van and train collide in southern Alberta: RCMP - Calgary | Globalnews.ca](#) [3 semis involved in fatal crash on icy Alberta highway | CTV News](#)

[Driver in critical condition after train strikes car north of Innisfail - Hwy-2a Alberta EzeRoad](#) [Driver in critical condition after train strikes car north of Innisfail | CTV News](#) [UPDATE: Railway signals were working when man hit in Innisfail – Red Deer Advocate](#) [Motorist in serious condition after crash with train in Innisfail - MountainviewToday.ca](#) [26-year-old woman killed after collision with train in central Alberta | CTV News](#) [RCMP investigating 2 fatal train collisions in central Alberta | CBC News](#)

<https://www.reddeeradvocate.com/news/memorials-set-up-for-victims-of-railway-crashes-in-central-alberta/>

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/pedestrian-dead-after-collision-with-train-in-blackfalds>

<https://www.todayville.com/beiseker-rcmp-semi-collision-with-train-highway-575-impassable/>

<https://regina.ctvnews.ca/mobile/carnduff-sask-man-killed-in-collision-with-train-1.5810943>

<https://regina.ctvnews.ca/man-killed-3-youths-injured-in-collision-with-train-near-melville-rcmp-1.5808934>

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/31-year-old-woman-dies-after-being-hit-by-train-at-unofficial-crossing-near-mile-end-1.5767018>



Ministry of Transportation

Minister Ric McIver

Overall Funding

The total budgeted operating expenses for 2021 have increased by just under \$200,000 while budgeted capital investment has also increased by nearly \$300,000. However, the actual costs of the year 2020 were much greater than what was budgeted by hundreds of thousands of dollars. The budgeted capital investment for 2021 remains \$150,000 less than actual forecasted costs of 2020.

Funding Highlights

- Spending on municipal transit and transportation grant programs has been doubled from \$59,228 to \$119,910, back to nearly the same amount of spending as the 2019 budget.
- Use of federal grant programs has increased from \$445,214 to \$656,829.
- The Alberta Transportation Safety Board no longer will be receiving funding as of 2021.

Statement of Operations

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(Thousands of dollars)

	Comparable			2021-22 Estimate	2022-23 Target	2023-24 Target
	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Forecast			
REVENUE						
Public Transit Infrastructure Fund	108,540	43,829	42,482	20,984	861	-
Clean Water Wastewater Fund	58,487	29,657	28,286	2,040	7,856	-
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	232	374,152	374,646	634,005	542,121	521,067
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	24,886	33,365	30,105	31,649	33,757	33,757
Premiums, Fees and Licenses	43,432	46,540	40,605	33,254	33,479	33,479
Refunds of Expense	3,218	2,575	2,575	2,575	2,575	2,575
Other Revenue	22,881	21,659	21,659	21,991	22,053	22,798
Ministry Total	261,596	551,867	540,458	746,498	642,702	613,676
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(92)	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidated Total	261,504	551,867	540,458	746,498	642,702	613,676
EXPENSE						
Ministry Support Services	10,612	9,962	9,814	9,490	9,390	9,350
Program Services and Support	35,727	41,744	41,492	39,186	39,199	39,199
Traffic Safety Programs	46,794	41,421	47,867	45,858	36,330	36,330
Alberta Transportation Safety Board	2,280	1,889	1,889	-	-	-
Provincial Highway Maintenance and Preservation	1,018,042	995,428	1,054,900	1,073,479	1,144,666	1,190,377
Municipal Transit and Transportation Grant Programs	118,894	74,778	59,229	119,910	148,300	697,610
Municipal Water Infrastructure Grant Programs	72,054	89,760	176,232	124,400	70,300	60,000
Federal Grant Programs	166,947	447,478	445,214	656,829	550,638	620,867
Water Management Projects	32,082	29,132	29,132	29,132	29,132	29,132
Ring Roads - Debt Servicing	90,145	94,540	94,540	102,668	103,447	100,613
Ministry Total	1,593,390	1,824,072	1,970,308	2,290,952	2,137,402	2,683,518
Inter-Ministry Consolidations	(39,896)	(29,132)	(26,132)	(29,132)	(29,132)	(29,132)
Consolidated Total	1,553,594	1,794,940	1,944,176	2,171,820	2,108,270	2,654,386
Net Operating Result	(1,292,077)	(1,243,073)	(1,403,718)	(1,425,322)	(1,465,568)	(2,040,710)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT						
Ministry Support Services	8	687	687	687	687	687
Ring Roads	528,940	655,815	760,833	514,345	273,150	123,461
Provincial Highway Construction Projects	202,259	190,707	220,985	368,623	403,827	477,369
Bridge Construction Projects	48,563	65,000	100,380	100,800	80,100	65,000
Provincial Highway Rehabilitation	572,526	352,484	548,432	492,808	384,614	450,488
Water Management Projects	23,867	57,545	104,443	108,400	104,300	95,934
Consolidated Total	1,175,263	1,312,618	1,735,760	1,584,764	1,246,680	1,222,437

Ministry Desired Outcomes

1. Stewardship of the Transportation Network: Alberta enhances and maintains sustainable transportation network and water management infrastructure.

- 1.1. Investigate alternative funding opportunities to support long-term sustainability of transportation infrastructure.
- 1.2. Develop and maintain critical infrastructure to enhance resilience such as Springbank Off-Stream Reservoir (SR1).
- 1.3. Implement capital maintenance investments, with a focus on prioritizing rehabilitation, using an asset management approach to support strategic decision-making.
- 1.4. Implement flexible, cost-effective approaches and energy-efficient technologies to ensure highway operations and maintenance programs achieve the best value for investment and the most effective results for Albertans.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Transportation allocated \$313.8 million for Provincial Highway Maintenance and Preservation in 2021-22.
- In 2021-22, the ministry invested \$570.8 for Capital Maintenance Renewal.
- Transportation allocated \$78.4 million in 2021-22 (estimated total \$432 million) for the SR1 project.
- Transportation allocated \$30 million for general water management infrastructure in 2021-22.

2. Safety and Security: Transportation enhances safety and security in Alberta through educational, regulatory, technological and infrastructure improvements to protect and save lives.

- 2.1. Enhance the province's driver examination system to ensure high standards for reliable and cost-effective services across Alberta, including improved road test wait times, safety and service delivery.
- 2.2. Continue to provide oversight and monitoring, including mandatory entry-level training for Class 1 and Class 2 driver's licence applicants and pre-entry requirements to support commercial carrier industry safety, to ensure Alberta's highway network remains one of the safest in the country.
- 2.3. Continue to implement transportation safety strategies and infrastructure enhancements to improve road safety, supporting Alberta and Indigenous communities to promote traffic safety and prevent transportation-related deaths and serious injuries on Alberta's roads.
- 2.4. Continue to update transportation-related legislation and regulations to align with best practices, including those for alternative vehicles such as e-scooters, to enhance the safety of transportation users.
- 2.5. Continue to implement SafeRoads, setting standards for timely reviews and enhancing future performance.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- In 2021-22, Transportation budgeted \$45.9 million for the Traffic Safety Program.

3.Strategic Direction and Innovation: Alberta supports economic growth and recovery by investing in strategic infrastructure, supporting an efficient transportation system and enabling opportunities for innovation.

3.1.Work with partners to support innovative, cost-effective transportation mobility options for Albertans.

3.2.Implement transportation initiatives across multiple modes to promote economic growth and recovery in Alberta and support opportunities in multiple sectors.

3.3.Investigate opportunities to enhance market access and mobility for transportation users, and support routes connecting major industrial, manufacturing and high-load corridors and hubs.

3.4.Focus Red Tape Reduction efforts on streamlining processes, enhancing harmonization and other measures that will provide time and cost savings to Albertans, commercial carriers and the construction industry, without compromising the safety of Alberta's transportation system, to support economic growth and job creation.

3.5.Support reliable access to clean and safe drinking water and water/wastewater treatment for communities, including encouraging adoption of capital replacement plans and investigation of new sustainable technology.

3.6.Promote critical municipal road and bridge infrastructure that contributes to the resilience of local economies.

3.7.Investigate and facilitate research and development of innovative approaches and technologies, such as alternative fuel technologies and automated vehicles, to improve mobility choices, create jobs and attract investment.

Initiatives Supporting Key Objectives

- Invested \$904.9 million for rings roads, new construction, and expansion of provincial highways in 2021-22.
- Transportation allocated \$73.4 million under GreenTRIP and STIP in 2021-22.
- The ministry budgeted \$25.0 million in provincial funding and \$459.6 million in federal ICIP funding for Light Rail Transit expansion in Calgary and Edmonton in 2021-22.
- In 2021-22, Transportation allocated \$126.4 million under the provincial Water for Life, AM-WWP and First Nations Water Tie-In programs, and the federal CWWF.



Policy Paper – Transportation & Infrastructure Budgetary Gaps

Key funding anticipated for the transportation:

- \$30 million over the next three years to support commercial driver training and address other training challenges

Alberta's Ministry of Transportation has a 2021-22 operating expense forecast of \$450 million, an increase of \$42 million from 2021.

“Budget 2022 includes increased funding for summer highway maintenance, repairs to park roads, water management infrastructure maintenance, and Commercial Driver Grants which supports Alberta at Work,” the document reads.

“It is estimated that by 2023 there will be a shortage of approximately 3,600 commercial drivers in Alberta. The ministry is continuing to focus on truck drivers as a key area of labour market demand leveraging proven success with the new Driving Back to Work program.”

The Alberta Government says Alberta's real GDP in 2022 is expected to increase by 5.4 per cent, and the provinces economy is expected to recover to 2014 levels.

To read the 2022-25 budget in full, [click here](#).

The Ministry of Transportation promotes economic vitality by managing a safe, efficient, and affordable multi-modal transportation system that connects Alberta communities, supports market access, and enables economic growth. The ministry's 2021-22 operating expense forecast is \$450 million, an increase of \$42 million from Budget 2021, primarily due to increases in environmental liabilities relating to salt contamination at highway maintenance yards, slide repairs, and road maintenance. Budget 2022 includes increased funding for summer highway maintenance, repairs to park roads, water management infrastructure maintenance, and Commercial Driver Grants which supports Alberta at Work. It is estimated that by 2023 there will be a shortage of approximately 3,600 commercial drivers in Alberta. The ministry is continuing to focus on truck drivers as a key area of labour market demand leveraging proven success with the new Driving Back to Work program

There is no mention of Railway Crossing Safety improvements in the budget.

Municipal Infrastructure Support Budget 2022 includes \$5.8 billion over three years to support Alberta communities' local projects that will provide for a range of services and



municipal infrastructure, including roads and bridges, clean water and wastewater infrastructure and public transit.

The province will continue to responsibly and sustainably invest in the infrastructure needs of communities. Total funding to municipalities, which includes both provincial and federal funding, is forecast to average over \$1.9 billion per year from 2022-23 through to 2024-25.

Funding under the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) and the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF) will total nearly \$1.7 billion over the next three years, with funding of \$485 million in 2022-23 and 2023-24 under MSI. MSI will be replaced by the LGFF in 2024-25 and \$722 million will be provided in the first year of the new framework. This builds on the commitment made in Budget 2021 to front-load MSI funding of \$1.2 billion in 2021-22 and the addition of \$500 million provided in 2020-21 under the Capital Plan | Fiscal Plan 2022– 25 157 Municipal Stimulus Program through Alberta's Recovery Plan.

Budget 2022 continues these commitments that provided municipalities with additional funding when they needed it most, while returning municipal infrastructure support to predictable and sustainable levels. **The LGFF is a new funding model under the Local Government Fiscal Framework Act that begins in 2024-25.** Alberta's Government will be engaging with municipalities in the months to come on the LGFF to ensure a smooth transition to this new framework. As part of Municipal Support, the Capital Plan provides \$7.5 million toward the Red Deer Regional Airport Expansion to bring low-cost passenger service to the airport, which is expected to bring significant future investments and jobs to Central Alberta. It also includes \$7.5 million for the Sundre Wastewater Treatment Plant to comply with updated environmental regulations for the quality of effluent discharged from Sundre's wastewater treatment lagoon

Protect Quality Health Care The COVID-19 pandemic has tested the limits of the provincial health care system. To protect quality health care and expand health system capacity, Alberta's Government is dedicating \$2.2 billion over the next three years. In addition, \$758 million in Alberta Health Services self-financed capital, \$474 million in CMR and \$87 million for IT projects and programs brings total health related capital funding to \$3.5 billion over three years.

Some of the key investments include:

- \$193 million over three years toward a \$1.8 billion investment for redevelopment and expansion of the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, which will increase critical services and add capacity at one of the busiest hospitals in the province. This redevelopment includes a new cardiac catheterization lab, three new



operating rooms (plus three shelled for future expansion), and 200 new inpatient beds when completed in 2030-31.

- \$46 million over three years toward a \$79 million total cost for the La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre, a purpose-built facility that fully integrates ambulatory care, primary care, maternal health care and diagnostic services to serve the La Crete catchment area.
- \$332 million over two years to complete the Calgary Cancer Centre, creating 160 new inpatient cancer care beds. When open in late 2023, the \$1.4 billion Calgary Cancer Centre will be one of the largest and most modern health facilities of its kind in the world. It will increase cancer care capacity in Calgary and southern Alberta, bringing together world-class cancer care and research.
- \$98.6 million over three years for the Peter Lougheed Centre Emergency Department, Mental Health Intensive Care Unit and Laboratory Redevelopment. This capital investment will add 30 treatment spaces in the emergency department and add 12 beds for a Mental Health Intensive Care Unit.

NOT \$1 for Rural Hospital Emergency Care?

- \$133.1 million over three years of continued investment in the Alberta Surgical Initiative Capital Program, which supports government's plan to increase surgical capacity and ensure all patients receive their required surgeries within clinically recommended timelines.
- \$49.6 million over three years to begin construction of the University of Alberta Hospital Brain Centre - Neurosciences Intensive Care Unit. The Neuro ICU project will redevelop and update clinical space and increase Neuro ICU capacity from 11 to 24 spaces. The project also constructs 18 new inpatient beds at the University of Alberta Hospital, while enhancing infection prevention and control.
- \$35.8 million for Stream 2 of the Recovery Communities project, which will include a new facility on the Blood Tribe reserve (75 spaces) and double the capacity at the Gunn site, mainly through refurbishment of existing facilities (50 additional spaces).
- \$204.1 million over three years to modernize continuing care facilities and generate new continuing care spaces to address growth in Alberta's aging population, higher demand in priority communities having greatest need, and provide culturally appropriate care for Indigenous residents located both on or off reserves and Métis settlements.

Roads and Bridges Roads and bridges are key infrastructure assets that are economic enablers that support jobs, improve the safe and efficient flow of industrial, commercial and commuter traffic, and also support private sector growth in multiple sectors.

Roads and bridges are the arteries that connect municipalities and communities throughout Alberta. Each year, hundreds of kilometres of roadways are paved and



built to allow for new and improved connections, increasing access to jobs, commerce, and tourism destinations.

The 2022 Capital Plan invests \$1 .8 billion over the next three years for key projects that expand and enhance Alberta's Road network.

This includes \$22 .3 million over the next three years towards the construction of a new interchange on the Northeast Stoney Trail and Airport Trail to accommodate a multi-use commercial development. This will drive economic growth in the Calgary and Rocky View County regions and help to create thousands of jobs.

The 2022 Capital Plan also provides \$1 .6 billion for CMR to maintain existing road and bridge infrastructure, including P3 Ring Road Rehabilitation, which is required to meet P3 contractual requirements for the Calgary and Edmonton ring roads

Renewing Educational Infrastructure Investing in schools facilities is crucial to ensuring all Alberta students have access to high quality education to develop skills and knowledge that lead to good jobs and drive economic growth.

The three-year Capital Plan supports funding of \$1 .5 billion for school projects, including 15 projects for the construction of new schools, modernization and design work to support school building priorities.

These projects will support enrolment growth in communities that continue to see population growth, preserve and modernize existing facilities and consolidate underutilized space, thereby reducing maintenance costs in those communities' experiencing enrollment or population decline. Alberta's school infrastructure supports a variety of programming that increases students' exposure to diverse skills and interests, providing opportunities to learn in environments that prepare them for- and connects them to- their future jobs.

Budget 2022 provides \$13 .7 million over three years towards the modernization and addition of Acme School, to support career and skills education with business and community partnerships.

Under the Alberta at Work initiative, a further \$46 .5 million over three years will be invested in vocational programs through the collegiate model and charter school infrastructure, including campuses that could house several charter schools in a single facility to support the shared use of specialized spaces for vocational programs, career and technology studies and science labs.

This funding will support choice in education through the creation of new charter schools and vocational programs including science, technology, engineering, and



mathematics (STEM), and trades programming, ensuring students have opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge they need to realize their full potential.

This budget highlights the importance of preserving existing assets.

The Capital Plan provides investment of \$209 million over three years for CMR projects to ensure safe and healthy schools. CMR funding extends the useful life of existing infrastructure ensuring that existing school facilities remain highly functional for longer.

In 2021-22, 15 school projects are planned to be completed with a cost of almost \$363 million and another 19 schools are planned to be completed through 2022-23 with a cost of approximately \$464 million

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4. Economic Diversification Initiatives

Food Production

Due to the recent world events Food security is a major issue. Relying on other countries or drought-stricken areas for food supply. Also knowing what is going into the foods ie. pesticides, trucking footprint, deliver issues.

Ideas to move forward;

- Become a world leader in food production. The Edmonton international airport has a commercial hub that can fly to Asia and North America airports with the largest capacity airplanes in the world.
- Utilizing the excess steam and co2 from existing factories and refineries we part them up with greenhouse situations to create food. The indoor growing season can be year-round with very good jobs for horticulturalists, millwrights, plant scientists etc.

Orphan wells

These wells have an ambient temperature down the well of between 120 – 160 F degrees. Orphan wells are all over the province and could be brought back into service as a heat source for greenhouses and geothermal for buildings. In rural areas this could bring a food source plus a business opportunity to indigenous and rural groups for food security.

Unused space

The downturn in the Alberta economy has brought unused space that used for manufacturing. These large warehouse plus office areas could be converted for food production.

The constant need for food never ceases. Alberta becoming a food major provider would help diversify the economy keeping the economic engine going to smooth out the ups and downs we constantly face.

Recycle Reuse Cash In

Presently we are creating major waste issues from plastics to electronic devices. Alberta can become a leader in reclaiming the valuable materials in what we discard. Electronic recycling would enable use to create an atmosphere in Alberta were we can help alleviate the mining of precious components used in electronics. As electric cars are increasing in numbers implement a battery recycle program. With plastic pollution an issue brings technologies and businesses to



help solve this issue. Incentives to universities and tech schools to come up with creative ways to make an Alberta a major resource for forward thinking and problem solving in these and other areas.

Creativity

Have a atmosphere in our universities and tech schools to invent develop new ideas plus create a system that allows royalties to flow back from these creations to help fund further research and development projects. Funding is a key issue for post secondary plus this type of incentive would attract more top talent and stop a brain drain. U of A is in the top 10 in the WORLD for AI development we need to keep building off that.

Wi-fi

Without wi-fi for all we are not moving forward. Having businesses that can provide and maintain the systems are key.

Solar power

With the increase in power demand solar will help. Putting solar panels on every south facing homes roof top would be a game changer. Allowing homeowners to sell more power back to the grid because as of now you can only sell back 10% above consumption. The only incentive as of the time of this writing is a federal program. We need a provincial long-term plan. The creation of a battery electric storage system is paramount. Alberta could be a power exporter.

Hydrogen

The continuation of getting hydrogen into the system is another priority. There is a semi-truck experiment going on in Alberta as we speak. Changing vehicles to hydrogen gives less waste at the end of use meaning no batteries to recycle that run the engine. Another challenge for post-secondary institutions to create and system to convert vehicles. We used to convert gas engines to run on propane why not hydrogen?

Conclusion

These are some of the economic diversification ideas that have come forth in my time as the Economic Diversification Shadow Cabinet Minister. Thank you for considering theses thoughts. I'm looking forward to the policy discussions.



It is an exciting time and new frontier for Alberta to pursue. Let's move forward and show true vision and leadership with the Alberta Party.

Submitted by Daryl Marler