



DAVE RODNFY, MLA (CALGARY LOUGHEED): "ONWARD & UPWARD!"

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Throne Speech: Rodney Family & Premier; "Project Porchlight" Environment Initiative Launch

*** Bad News...& GOOD NEWS!**

The economy continues to slow down around the world;

but no other jurisdiction is in a better position to ride out the storm than we are, since we have:

- \$6 Billion Capital Account, \$8 Billion Sustainability Fund; \$14.5 Billion Heritage Fund
- Zero Debt!--* \$23 billion in accumulated debt PAID IN FULL--freeing \$1.5 Billion/year for AB's priorities!
- #1 producer of wind power in the country
- World's 2nd largest proven oil reserves—which we are actively working on to develop responsibly

Calgary Herald Front Page Headline, Feb 11' 09:

"Throne speech contains promise & prudence; AB in best shape in North America to weather storm"

"Imitation can sometimes be the sincerest form of flattery," New Brunswick's Shawn Graham said after emerging from a meeting in Premier Ed Stelmach's legislature office. "We're working hard today on a self-sufficiency agenda in New Brunswick. We want to position New Brunswick as an energy hub for the eastern seaboard. We want to become the next Alberta of Canada." PEI Premier Robert Ghiz said "Alberta's economy does help drive the Canadian economy. When the Alberta economy does well, it's good for all economies. When the world economy does recover -- & it will recover, Alberta will be leading the way."

*** Onward--& Upward!:**

We can dwell on how bad the recession might be, but that takes our attention away from where AB needs to be. We must utilize our hard-won advantages—listed above--to ensure that our province emerges from these difficult days ahead of the pack, with our: skilled workforce intact, infrastructure in great shape, & economy

strong & competitive—via our 3-year plan:

- *being very careful with our spending;*
- *drawing on our sustainability & capital funds—*

to protect the programs & services that AB's rely on (& support the most vulnerable in our society);

- *building & investing in AB to support jobs & the economy...while promoting AB in the global market*

We need to be flexible enough to meet challenging times; & our plan gives us the flexibility to see AB through!

*** FYI: Taxes & Health:**

- If AB's & AB Businesses were in any other province, they would pay almost \$10 Billion More in Taxes!
- AB's & AB Businesses will save an additional \$1 Billion each year since Health Care Premiums were eliminated on Jan 1 (* this is equal to a 12% reduction in personal income taxes!)
- We have a low single rate system which includes the highest basic & spousal exemptions in Canada
- We enjoy: No Sales Tax, No Capital Tax, No Payroll Tax, & Low Corporate Income Tax Rates...
- Alberta's Gas Tax is the Lowest among all provinces; & it has not increased in more than 16 years!

(* 9 cents/L--* & the City of Calgary benefits through grants of 5 cents/L!

No--the gov't does *not* receive more revenue from fuel tax when pump prices are higher...)

- AB has the lowest personal taxes & business taxes in the country!

*** Help for Albertans & AB Industries Negatively Affected by Current Economic Realities:**

- Our Gov't offers a wide range of free career & employment services; income support & health benefit programs for AB's in need; help for people returning to school; & financial support for students

- We are building 11,000 new affordable housing units by 2012.

- New 3 Point Energy incentive program:

* \$30 million in a fund committed to abandoning & reclaiming old well sites

* A drilling royalty credit for new conventional oil & natural gas wells—to keep AB's working

* A new well incentive program, with a 5% royalty rate for the 1st year of production from new oil or gas wells.

- This one-year program is intended to help free up cash flow; &, in turn, provide access to the capital necessary for reinvestment by Alberta's oil & gas industry.

*** For the "LATEST & GREATEST" on CALGARY-LOUGHEED issues:**

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(call, visit, fax, e-mail, or drop by!), or visit: www.daverodney.ca

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