



DAVE RODNEY, MLA Calgary Lougheed: “Onward & Upward”!

Woodbine, Woodlands, SW Canyon Meadows, Shaw-Neer Slopes, Evergreen, Millrise, Bridlewood
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**** MLA Dave Rodney welcomes Dr Robert Thirsk back from his historic expedition on the International Space Station***

Surgeries increased, wait times reduced

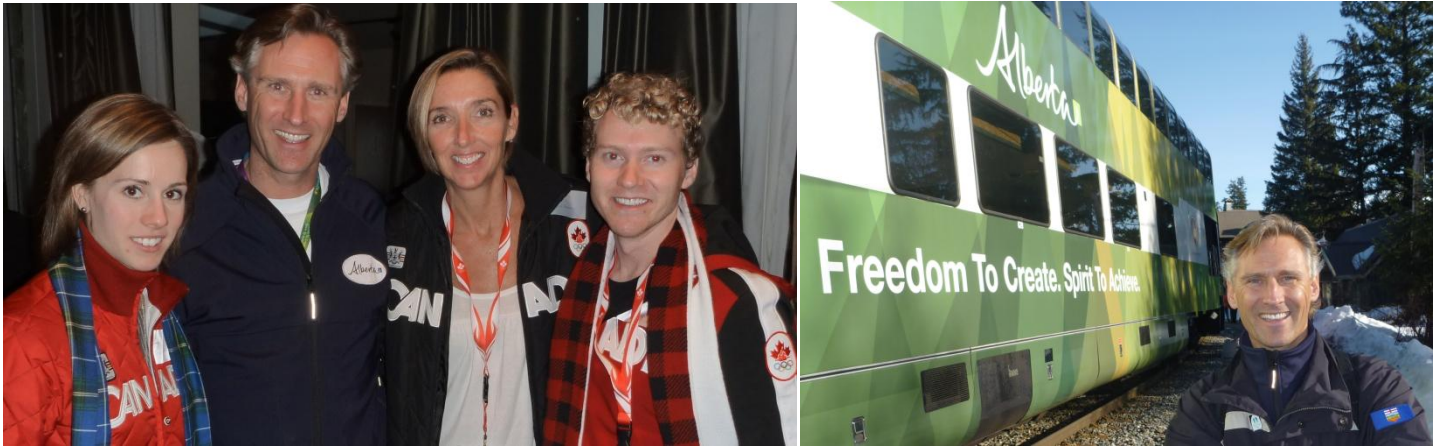
Our AB gov't recently announced a 6-week plan to immediately increase the number of surgeries in high-priority areas. More than 2200 surgeries & non-surgical procedures with long wait lists have been approved for the initial surge: cancer, orthopedics (including hip & knee replacements), neurosurgery, heart, & cataracts; & in addition 3,500 more MRI & CT scans will be added immediately. This will continue through the spring & summer.

Budget 2010 Strikes the Right Balance: Focus on AB's Priorities & Limit Spending

- Your AB Gov't will maintain the lowest tax regime in Canada--& be “back in the black” in 3 years—while increasing funding for health, basic education, & supports for seniors & vulnerable AB's. (This is thanks in large part to cost savings found across gov't that are being reinvested.)
- AB will have the best performing publicly funded health-care system in Canada. A predictable 5-year funding plan tied to performance measures is already in effect--which will provide greater transparency, more accountability for system performance, & more opportunities for input.
- A strengthened focus will result in more positive outcomes for vulnerable children & youth, & supports to help at-risk families—which will reduce costs in child intervention services. Similarly, AB's social housing benefits are targeted to those who are most in need of help, ensuring programs are sustainable & accountable to taxpayers. Additionally, protecting the vulnerable is one of the top government priorities; & that commitment is reflected in the Seniors & Community Services overall budget--& specifically the PDD program budget.



- Educational funding provides flexibility for locally elected school boards to allocate funding in the best ways for students while minimizing any impact on the classroom. Budget 2010 reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring to post-secondary students, who can expect larger loan disbursements, higher lifetime loan limits, increased living allowances for couples & single parents, more generous spousal income exemptions, & more flexible loan repayment options.
- Calgary MSI funding for went up from \$115 million last year to \$254 million in Budget 2010.
- For more information on Budget 2010, please visit www.budget2010.alberta.ca



Your MLA/Mt Everest Double Summiteer Dave Rodney & Canadian Olympic Gold Medalists Jennifer Heil, Michelle Cameron-Coulter (at AB House); & beside the AB Train

Success of AB brand keeps riding the rails & highways

Following the huge return on investment during the Olympics, the AB Train & Touring Buses will make a huge impact on visitors to the Rockies--through the 2010 summer & fall travel season—in both BC & AB. It is estimated that AB will realize \$70 million worth of international media coverage through its Olympic tourism marketing strategy. During the Rocky Mountaineer spring season, 6 AB branded bi-level dome coaches will travel to & from Banff & Jasper several days a week. The Rocky Mountaineer was recently honoured with a prestigious World Travel Award as the “World’s Leading Travel Experience by Train” & recognized by National Geographic as one of the “World’s Greatest Trips.” An estimated 100,000 passengers will ride the Rocky Mountaineer on all 4 Western Canadian routes this season., & motor coaches will continue carrying the AB Brand until the fall of 2010 for sightseeing excursions throughout the Rocky Mountains.



*** For the “LATEST & GREATEST” on CALGARY-LOUGHEED issues:**
since this update must fit on a page & be submitted a month prior to publishing--to meet community newsletter deadlines--please call, fax, e-mail, drop by our office, or visit: www.daverodney.ca
(which features all of your MLA’s speeches in the Legislature)! ☺

