

DAVE RODNEY, MLA Calgary Lougheed: "Onward & Upward!"

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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from MLA Dave Rodney & Family!



*** 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)! ☺

Solutions for Pooling \$242 Million & Decreasing Wait Times for Charities

I have working on an MLA committee examining aspects of the AB's charitable gaming model for the past number of months. We will make recommendations on how to improve wait times & the pool of proceeds from licensed casino events to eligible charitable groups; & we will also review the number of volunteers a group needs to provide to conduct & manage charitable casino events. Our panel was appointed by the Solicitor General & Minister of Public Security in response to concerns raised by charities. Meetings have been held throughout the province this fall; & a final report will be completed before April 1. *Last year 3,500 licensed charities earned \$252 million in proceeds!*

Innovation Voucher Pilot Program Back by Popular Demand

Last April I was honoured to launch a very successful program which assisted entrepreneurs to develop their technology-based ideas into marketable products & services. 179 businesses from across AB were awarded vouchers totaling more than \$5 million. Companies now have another opportunity to apply to the program; & they may qualify for innovation vouchers of up to to \$50,000

to cover up to 75% of eligible project costs including specialized technical & professional services— as long as the voucher is used within 9 months at approved service providers including labs, fabrication centres, business development centres, & other organizations supporting innovation. For more info: technology.gov.ab.ca

Highlights of the AB Economy 2009

Visit www.albertacanada.com/documents/SP-EH_highlightABEconomy.pdf for the latest documentation of the advantages that AB provides for investors, business operators, workers, & residents. It provides comparisons to other provinces, US states, & other countries.

Forum participants see education as key to future success

Approximately 1,000 Albertans wrapped up the “Inspiring Education” October 18 – 20 forum with a commitment to prepare now for students of the future; & renew the vision for education to support a diversified knowledge economy. Inspirational speakers shared their perspectives on education & the future, & a panel discussion on education & the economy. In a roundtable setting, participants discussed the qualities & abilities needed by an educated Albertan in 2029; & provided input to policy & governance themes. The project is also supported by a working committee with membership from education stakeholder groups & representatives from several provincial government departments. Outcomes from the forum & spring community engagement activities will help to inform development of a policy & governance framework & revisions to the *School Act*. The framework, being developed by the Steering Committee, is scheduled to be presented to Hancock early in the New Year. For more: inspiringeducation.alberta.ca



MLA Dave Rodney & the McPhee’s “Dream Out Loud” with “AB Great Kid” Stephen!
