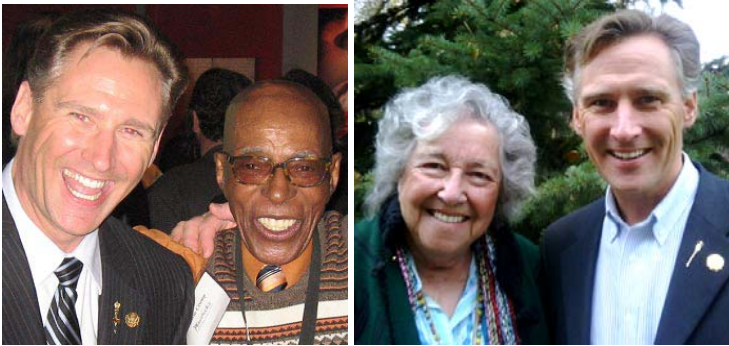




## **DAVE RODNEY, MLA Calgary Lougheed: “Onward & Upward”!**

Woodbine, Woodlands, Canyon Meadows (S-W), Shaw-Nee Slopes, Evergreen, Millrise, Bridlewood

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**MLA Dave Rodney with two of our fine Alberta seniors:**

**Maverick Melvin Crump, & Senator Dr Thelma Chalifoux**

- **New continuing care strategy will provide Albertans more support & choice, while helping them to remain in their homes & communities**

*\* Key Components: increased home care, more supportive-living options, & upgrades to long-term care*

AB's have told us they want to remain in their homes & communities as they age; & a new continuing care strategy announced by our AB Gov't will help seniors & people with disabilities to fulfill that wish. **Aging in the Right Place** outlines a number of initiatives that will provide these AB's with the support they need to live at home or in the community. These initiatives include enhancing home care by:

- \* improving assessments, expanding current programs, & increasing daily personal care hours
- \* Helping those currently living in a facility to return to home or community living
- \* Introducing emergency support programs to identify resources, interim care & accommodation options
- \* Increasing the number of support & respite programs for family & community members caring for them
- \* Introducing technology that will connect them with health professionals & provide medical & safety monitoring

There has been a steady decline in the provincial ratio of long-term care beds to seniors; & placing individuals in long-term care beds when they could be cared for in a supportive living setting is not the preference of AB's. It has been proven that when individuals reside in a supportive living setting their quality of life, health outcomes & independence is significantly better than when placed in a long-term care setting. For those in need of 24-hour care, the province will replace & refurbish 7,000 long-term care beds by 2015 & provide incentives for non-profit & private investment in the development & operation of new long-term care facilities. An alternative continuing care funding model will be available for AB's who wish to manage their own care, or purchase & arrange their own health services & accommodations.

For AB's who want or need other options, a wider range of accommodation choices will be provided through the strategy; & additional incentives will be offered to facility operators who renovate long-term care facilities & develop more supportive living spaces. In addition to providing more choices, *the strategy will work to increase the number of affordable, supportive living units for low-income seniors & persons with disabilities; & individuals*

who currently qualify for accommodation assistance & free medications will continue to receive those benefits. The strategy's initiatives will be implemented over the next three years.

AB's continuing care system provides services in home living, supportive living (designated assisted living/assisted living & lodges), & facility living (long-term care facilities/nursing homes/auxiliary hospitals). *Please note: our new pharmaceutical strategy will provide equitable drug coverage for seniors & persons with disabilities regardless of whether they receive care in a nursing home, in supportive-living, or in their homes.*

For more information about **Aging in the Right Place**, please visit: [www.health.alberta.ca](http://www.health.alberta.ca) or [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca), give us a call, or drop in for a visit!

- **53 pieces of legislation passed during 2008 session:** highlights of our productive fall session included improved access to health care, an environmentally sustainable method to develop our resources, & the construction of a strong economic framework to move AB forward during times of economic difficulty. We announced the addition of hundreds of new police officers & probation officers over the next 3 years & passed the *Victims Restitution & Compensation Payment Amendment Act 2008* (to allow courts to seize property such as vehicles & weapons that have been used to commit crimes). Our gov't also created a \$60-million Safe Communities Innovation Fund for innovative projects that prevent or reduce crime at a grassroots level. A renewal of the *Water for Life* strategy was announced, & the final report on the Land-use Framework was released (these initiatives will help us pass on the legacy of our province's natural beauty, diversity, & wealth to the Albertans of tomorrow). My personal highlight was spearheading the "Physical Activity Amendment Act", Chairing the All-Party Committee on Community Services, & working on 6 other committees.

- **Final Phase of Tobacco Reduction Act:** our AB Gov't is committed to creating a healthy environment for all. Every year 3,000 Albertans die from tobacco-related illness: nearly one AB lost to smoking-- every 3 hours! Legislation restricting access to tobacco products is one of the key elements of the Alberta Tobacco Reduction Strategy, which is aimed at reducing disease, disability and death due to tobacco consumption. (Since the launch of the strategy in 2002, the smoking rate in Alberta has dropped from 25% to 21%.)

*\* Based on my first Private Member's Bill ("The Smoke-Free Places Act 2005"):*

2005: smoking banned in all places where children are not allowed

2008: smoking banned in all work & public places, + retail display & advertising of tobacco products banned

2009: prohibition on sale of all tobacco products in pharmacies/stores that contain pharmacies/health-care facilities/public post-secondary institutions.

For more info, call 866-332-2323 or visit [smokefreeplaces.co](http://smokefreeplaces.co)

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

*Since this article must be submitted a month prior to publishing,*

*please access the most timely & in-depth information directly*

(call, visit, fax, e-mail, or drop by!), *or visit:* [www.daverodney.ca](http://www.daverodney.ca)

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