



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

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

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with George Stroumboulopoulos, Host of “The Hour”

• **HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!**

*I trust you enjoyed some very well-deserved time off with loved ones during the holiday season;*

*& I hope 2009 is the best year yet for you!*

• **It was a tough battle, but we won it: 24-20...my Private Member’s Bill: “the Physical Activity/Income Tax Amendment Act 2008”** was recently given Royal Assent! Once the bill is proclaimed, you–& every member of your family—of any age—will be able to claim up to a \$500 tax credit—every year—if you participate in any ongoing physical activity such as regularly attending a health or yoga club, or playing organized sports of all sorts. (*Final details are pending...please stay tuned.*) I designed this bill to be **positive & proactive; to focus on promoting wellness rather than reacting to sickness; & to give us all a break on our health care costs...so *thanks to all of you who vociferously supported the cause!*** <Private Members Bills are seldom passed; but thankfully, going back to my “Smoke-Free Places Act 2004”, I have brought at least 2 pieces of legislation forward—every year...>

• The Bill I am bringing forward this spring is **“The Alberta Outdoors Day Act 2009”**, which—*if it reaches the order paper*—will promote education, health, tourism, recreation, parks, a great family outing, & much more!

• I was honoured to share my favourite part of Calgary—Fish Creek Park (right here in Calgary-Lougheed), during an episode of **“Cool Calgarians”** on CBC Calgary’s **“Living Calgary”** TV Program.

> *Click on the CBC Calgary website & follow the links—if you would like to see it!*

• **Students urged to “Speak Out about Education”.**

Youth aged 14-19 can apply to the Minister of Education’s Student Advisory Council, which will meet face-to-face with the Minister several times a year to discuss student concerns & ideas. A student conference will be held in May 2009—for 200 additional youth. Visit [www.speakout.alberta.ca](http://www.speakout.alberta.ca)

• **Legislation introduced to strengthen services to children & families**

Bill 40: the *“Child, Youth, & Family Enhancement Amendment Act 2008”*, ensures that those who need support the most are provided with the best assistance possible. Please contact us if you need more information.

• **AB helps communities address family violence & bullying**

*Our AB Gov’t* has set aside \$3 million to support local project initiatives are now being accepted for 2009-10 Community Incentive Fund grants. Since 2004, we have provided more than \$15 million in funding for 405 projects. Visit [www.familyviolence.alberta.ca](http://www.familyviolence.alberta.ca)--\* before 13, 2009.

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- **Scholarships help Alberta students pursue trades careers**

150+ Calgary students will receive \$1,000 scholarships to further their careers in a variety of trades. Our AB Gov't & industry fund the scholarships which go to AB high school graduates who participated in the Registered Apprenticeship Program & who target careers in trades. Visit [www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca](http://www.tradesecrets.gov.ab.ca)

- **Sustainable health reforms take shape with Vision 2020**

You & I both know that health care facilities in AB are not being used equitably; &, as a result, some patients aren't being cared for in the right setting, or are waiting far too long to receive care. The actions that will be taken based on the Action 2020 report are designed to remedy that!

- **Courts able to seize instruments of crime**

The amended "*Victims Restitution & Compensation Payment Act*" will allow courts to seize property, such vehicles, weapons--& even homes--that have been used to commit crimes. The proceeds from the sale of the seized property will be used to repair losses and injuries suffered by its victims.

- **AB on track to meet budget commitments-- \* despite global economic downturn & lower oil prices!**

Revenue for 2008-09 is forecast at an increase of \$1.3 billion from budget, & the surplus for 2008-09 is forecast at \$2 billion, an increase of \$435 million from budget

- **AB Gov't ensures future of water quality, quantity**

Our AB Gov't has renewed its world-renowned "*Water for Life*" strategy to ensure water quality & quantity needed to support population & economic growth in AB. The renewed strategy accelerates action to safeguard AB's water sources, ensuring integration of watershed planning with regional planning under the newly proposed "Land-use Framework"; & sets clear direction & action for improved watershed management in AB.

- **Transitional royalty rates to promote new drilling**

By helping to ensure that companies have access to the cash flow they need to invest in new projects, this 5 yr program is aimed at encouraging the development of new drilling projects; & keeping thousands of AB's at work!



- **We encourage our elected officials in Ottawa to do what's best for the entire country at this crucial time! ☺**

MLA Dave Rodney with Edm-Ctr MP Laurie Hahn

***\* 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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