

Alberta joins global effort to eliminate racial discrimination

Programs and services help Albertans know their rights

ALBERTANS JOINED COMMUNITIES around the world on March 21 to recognize the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Events around the province reminded Albertans of the need to foster equality and fairness for all and to take responsibility for actions to meet these goals.

The Alberta Human Rights Commission offers programs and services to help Albertans understand their rights and responsibilities. The Commission also champions initiatives such as the Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination, which nine municipalities have now joined.

Through support from the Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund, Albertans undertake initiatives to build welcoming workplaces and communities that foster equality and reduce discrimination in Alberta.

More information on the education fund is available at www.culture.alberta.ca/educationfund. For further information on human rights programs and community initiatives, visit www.albertahumanrights.ab.ca or call 403-297-8407 (dial 310-0000 for toll-free access within Alberta). **CNW**

Best Wishes

to the following Calgary-North West residents celebrating these milestones.

BIRTHDAYS

Bernard Clayton Stewart,
January 20 - 80 years

Edna Hunt, March 13 - 85 years

Arthur Olof Holm, March 15 - 80 years

Alberta M. Stewart, April 2 - 90 years

Frederick George Holberton,
May 21 - 90 years

Mary Teresa Chiste, June 18 - 80 years

ANNIVERSARIES

Henry and Shirley Wiebe,
February 13 - 50 years

Siegfried and Grace Schuster,
May 7 - 50 years

Wilfred and Sharel Sennett,
June 4 - 50 years

Lindsay is happy to send an official Alberta Congratulatory Scroll to constituents celebrating a wedding anniversary of 25 years or more, or a birthday of 65 years or more (in 5 year intervals).

Lindsay can also arrange for a similar scrolls from the Premier, Lieutenant-Governor, MP, Prime Minister, or Governor-General. For assistance, contact the constituency office at 403-216-5444.

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Calgary-North West News

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LINDSAY BLACKETT, MLA CALGARY-NORTH WEST BRINGS YOU THE LATEST CONSTITUENCY AND PROVINCIAL NEWS

Message from Lindsay

Dear Constituents,

The last few months have been busy both inside and outside of the community.

We started the year with a Cabinet shuffle, which gave us a new Health and Energy Minister along with 11 other changes.

In February we had a Throne Speech on the 4th and a budget that was brought down on the 9th.

Budget 2010 committed 5 year health care funding to accompany Minister Zwozdesky who reversed bed closures and made some very positive steps in his first few months. 1.3 billion dollars is being trimmed from our budget, including 15 per cent from my department.

I was honoured to be one of two Ministers who was at the Olympic and Paralympic games along with the Cultural Olympiad. The pride and atmosphere along with the performance of our Olympic athletes was amazing. Our artists helped showcase Alberta talent, erasing the discussion of

dirty oil and focusing on our innovation, hospitality and our part as proud Canadians.

Several weeks ago our Government came out with the results of the Competitiveness review, which has been well received by the Oil and Gas Sector. The review is the beginning of a partnership between government and industry to help create jobs and additional revenue for Albertans.

Back at home I have been able to attend Community Association meetings in Rocky Ridge Royal Oak and Ranchlands. I have read to pre-school children and their parents at Crowfoot library and I have also hosted a senior's forum for over 50 seniors at the Crowfoot Library. In addition I visited with 3 Grade 6 classes at Hawkwood School and attended a question and answer session for University of Calgary students.

I look forward to the end of the Legislative session, which will allow me to spend more time with my family, friends and constituents.



Lindsay Blackett
Lindsay Blackett

Seniors town hall meeting

Residents share questions and concerns

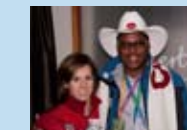
ON MARCH 5, 2010 MLA Blackett held a seniors town hall meeting at the Crowfoot Library. With Beth Chatten as chairperson seniors spoke to MLA Blackett about their questions and concerns. Some of the issues discussed related to health care: drug plans, premiums, expenditures; seniors volunteerism, keeping dollars in Alberta and long term care facilities and hospice care.

Over 50 seniors attended this productive meeting, and provided valuable feedback. **CNW**

MLA Lindsay Blackett chats with a meeting attendee.



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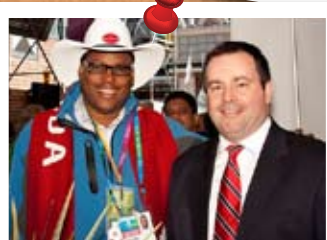
Out and About with Lindsay



Story telling at Crowfoot Library.



MLA Blackett visits the Francophonie House during the Cultural Olympiad.



At Alberta Plaza with Honourable Jason Kenny.



MLA Blackett visits residents at Scenic Acres to sing carols.



Visiting the Torch Relay at Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump.

Budget 2010 strikes the right balance by focusing on Albertans' priorities while limiting spending

Back in black by 2013

BUDGET 2010 SETS the stage for putting Alberta back in the black in three years while protecting health care and other priorities and holding the line on taxes.

Despite current fiscal challenges, the Alberta government will increase funding for health, basic education and supports for seniors and vulnerable Albertans, while maintaining the lowest tax regime in Canada. This is thanks in large part to cost savings found across government that are being reinvested in these priority areas.

"This government understands the value Albertans place on health care, education, and protecting our most vulnerable," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "Our improved fiscal and economic outlook means we can continue to support these priorities while tightening our spending elsewhere."

As part of plans to balance the budget by 2012-13, a detailed review of ministry spending was undertaken and \$1.3 billion in savings were identified. In light of an

improved revenue picture, government was able to re-invest these savings into priority areas, without jeopardizing its goal to return to balanced budgets within three years.

"Some will say we're spending too much; others will say we're not spending enough," said Ted Morton, Minister of Finance and Enterprise. "Budget 2010 strikes the right balance between fiscal discipline and protecting core programs. It enhances our



competitiveness by keeping taxes low and investing in infrastructure for the future, and positions us to be back in the black within three years." **CNW**



Your Alberta – the Government of Alberta's monthly e-newsletter.

Your Alberta will keep you up-to-date on the many projects the Government of Alberta is working on. It will also highlight some of the programs and services the government offers, share money saving tips, and invite your say on the issues that are important to you.

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If you have story suggestions or questions you would like answered, please send them to enewsletter@gov.ab.ca.

To subscribe visit www.alberta.ca

Tuscany middle school updates

Discussed improvements to new school

ON MARCH 12TH MLA Blackett met with representatives from the Tuscany Association, Community Representatives, Trustee Gordon Dirks and Alderman Dale Hodges to discuss improvements to traffic concerns surrounding the new middle school.

Cross walks, more aesthetic building façade and potential school ground improvements will be examined to better incorporate the much anticipated new school. The next meeting is to be held on March 26th. **CNW**

Alberta delivers on oil and gas competitiveness

Innovation to unlock our energy resources and create opportunity

TO ADVANCE ALBERTA'S competitiveness in the upstream oil and gas sector, the Alberta government will modify conventional oil and natural gas royalty rates; promote more innovation and use of new technologies; and reduce unnecessary red tape while improving coordination of regulatory processes.

"Alberta is recognized around the world as a leader in technical innovation and development of energy resources," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "These changes support the Provincial Energy Strategy. They will help us use innovation to unlock our energy resources, create opportunities and jobs in communities large and small across our province and strengthen Alberta's economic recovery."

In recent years, new drilling technologies have unlocked sizable new reserves in other North American jurisdictions that are now competing for investment. "We can't pretend that oil and gas investment levels haven't eroded or that we don't have a responsibility to current and future generations of Albertans to address that," said Energy Minister Ron Liepert. "Being competitive has a positive impact far beyond the energy sector. It contributes greatly to our communities, our standard of living, and our prosperity as a province and as individuals."

Currently almost one in seven Albertans are directly or indirectly employed by the energy industry. Changes to improve Alberta's competitiveness are expected to create 8,000 jobs in 2011-12 and then 13,000 more jobs annually across the economy. Over the next 25 years conventional oil and gas development in Alberta has the potential to add \$2.5 trillion in new economic activity.

"We need to do more to explain to Albertans the ways in which our energy sector drives our economy. Albertans need to have factual and balanced information about how energy development happens in Alberta and just how critical it is to meeting our economic goals," said Liepert.

The Competitiveness Review assessed ways that Alberta's competitive position and share of energy investment have shifted, and identified contributing factors. It also considered how Alberta could improve its ability to attract conventional oil and natural gas investment, in light of market changes and marketplace realities. The unconventional oil sector—oil sands—was not included in the study given the province's unique position in this area and continued success in attracting significant in-



vestment in new and expanding oil sands projects.

The Alberta government's response document, Energizing Investment, and the complete Project Committee Technical Report and appendix are available at www.energy.alberta.ca

The Provincial Energy Strategy and the Competitiveness Review are key components of the Alberta government's plan for a strong economic recovery. The Way Forward will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity. **CNW**

Olympics deliver long-term benefits for Alberta

Alberta continues proud Olympic legacy

WITH HUNDREDS OF business contacts made and resulting media exposure that would have cost about \$70 million to purchase, Albertans will see lasting benefits from the business, tourism and cultural promotion conducted at the 2010 Winter Games, February 12-28 in Vancouver.

Alberta is immensely proud of our participation in the global celebration of the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. Our focus was celebrating excellence in sport, showcasing our arts and culture, pursuing development opportunities for business and tourism and instilling pride in all Albertans.

Alberta House in downtown Vancouver across from BC Place provided a meeting place for business and dignitaries to learn about Alberta's economic and tourism opportunities. The plaza in front of Alberta House was open to the public, and showcased Alberta's cuisine and culture. The Alberta train ran between Vancouver and Whistler to help to promote Alberta to international businesses, visitors and special guests.

Some of the province's most talented artists shared in the Olympic spirit, gaining valuable international exposure. Alberta musicians, dancers, sculptors and more were featured during the Cultural Olympiad running from January 22 through to March 21, and at venues throughout the Games. These artists, like our athletes, are great ambassadors for our province and helped to share our cultural story with the rest of the world. **CNW**



Olympic Silver Medallist Jennifer Heil poses with Minister Blackett at Alberta House.



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Reading to tots at the Crowfoot Library



ON MARCH 3RD, 2010 MLA Lindsay Blackett visited tots at the Crowfoot Library. Over 50 local residents attended, including 25-30 curious tots.

Lindsay read three books and participated in games, activities and songs with the children and library staff. MLA Blackett enjoys this activity on a regular basis and hopes to see even more children during his next visit to the library branch. **CNW**

Visit Lindsay's ^{new} website at www.lindsayblackett.com