

Premier presents a plan to return Alberta to surpluses in three years

A strong plan for a stronger Alberta

IN A PROVINCE-WIDE televised address, Premier Stelmach said Alberta will be back into a surplus position and saving again for the future in three years. He also announced the return of Alberta Capital Bonds, so Albertans can invest directly in the province's future. In the address, aired October 14, the Premier outlined our government's plan to weather the recession and position the province for a strong economic recovery. The plan includes:

1. Trimming spending, including a two-year wage freeze for civil service managers - an effort in which the entire public sector will be asked to share;
2. Using cash reserves - the \$17-billion Sustainability Fund - to cover three-quarters of the revenue shortfall and protect key programs during the downturn;
3. Continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and
4. Ensuring that Alberta's energy sector and other industries are globally competitive and continue to attract investment.

He also underlined the need for improvements to the health care system based on the Vision 2020 plan for health care. The 17-minute program was broadcast throughout Alberta. Video and text of the address are available at www.alberta.ca. **CNW**

Out and About with Lindsay

« Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports visits Lindsay's constituents, summer 2009.

» Minister Lindsay Blackett and artist Donald Miskolzi pose proudly with their collaborative art project at Fort McMurray's Keyano College during Alberta Arts Days celebrations on Saturday September 19, 2009. Photo by Sean McLeman.

« Lindsay speaking with a constituent at the Arbour Lake Retirement Residence.

« Lindsay does time for a good cause, participating in the Canadian Cancer Society's Jail-N-Bail event.

» Lindsay with volunteers at the Hawkwood community picnic, August 2009.

Best Wishes

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

Birthdays

George Eros, Dec. 2 - 75 years
 Cathie Wilma Holm, Oct. 16 - 80 years
 Jenny Carter, Oct. 9 - 75 years
 Margaret Jean Dickson, Nov. 21 - 90 years
 Douglas S. Morgan, Nov. 17 - 85 years
 Ken Goodwin, Sep. 2 - 80 years
 Lynn Darmohry, Sep. 6 - 70 years
 Leonard Darmohry, Aug. 1 - 70 years
 Jacob (Jake) Friesen, Jul. 6 - 75 years

Anniversaries

Susan & Joseph Gregoire, Aug. 8 - 50 years
 Margaret & Joseph Marshall, Nov. 28 - 50 years
 Joan and Ted Kuervers, Sep. 12 - 50 years
 Irene & Alexander Cosway, Sep. 10 - 60 years
 Edward & Natalie Tysowski, July 26 - 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



The Al - Azhar Shriners of Southern Alberta visit the NW Constituency office on December 7th to present Minister Blackett with a plaque, thanking him for his assistance with the Community Spirit Donation Grant Program.

Message from Lindsay

Dear Constituents,

I am not sure where the time has gone. It seemed it was just a few weeks ago that we had balmy weather and green grass.

With that, I will note that the economic downturn is still with us. However I believe that Government of Alberta is up to the challenge of preparing for our province's inevitable economic recovery. Premier Stelmach has promised to have Alberta in the black by 2012. To achieve this goal we have to tighten up on government spending, continue with infrastructure with respect to schools, hospitals and roads.

This past legislative session was both shorter and less emotionally charged compared to last spring. My highlight of this past session was having three grade six classes from St. Basil School come to spend a day at the Alberta Legislature. I would like to encourage more schools in Calgary-North West to visit the institution that has such a large impact on their daily lives and futures.

Lindsay Blackett
 Lindsay Blackett

North West High School

ON OCTOBER 7, 2009 an open house was held for the North West High School. The school is anticipated to open for the 2013-2014 school year and will be built to accommodate up to 1500 students from Grades 10 - 12.

The future high school is expected to accommodate students living in the communities of Tuscany, Scenic Acres, Arbour Lake, Citadel, Hawkwood and Ranchlands.

Registration information will come closer to the opening date of the school. **CNW**



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Alberta education makes things easier

Updated resource guide now available for parents

IF YOU'VE EVER wondered what your child is learning in school, Alberta Education has produced an updated version of the Curriculum Handbook for Parents series.

A user-friendly guide outlines the curriculum and education goals set for each school year for Kindergarten through grade 9, while a single handbook covers senior high school. The series is complimented by two additional resources, Curriculum Summaries and Curriculum Express for Parents, a series for parents who are English language learners. The entire series of publications is produced for public, Catholic and Francophone students and available in English for viewing or

downloading at www.education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/handbook.aspx.

The curriculum publications are a valuable resource not only for parents, but for teachers, trustees, school counsellors and students who want to look ahead at the content for their school year. These resources outline how Alberta's curriculum is relevant, practical and challenging. In fact, it is often regarded as one of the best in the world- our results on national and international tests are proof.

I encourage you to visit your child's school or teacher if you have additional questions about what he or she is learning in Alberta's classrooms.



With the support of parents and teachers, Alberta's students are going to have another great year! **CNW**

Alberta to reduce drug costs and increase access to new drugs

Second phase of pharmaceutical strategy rolled out

ALBERTANS WILL SAVE money on their generic prescription drugs and receive more advice about their medications from their local pharmacist under phase two of the government's pharmaceutical strategy. Phase two of the pharmaceutical strategy will see the Alberta government:

1. **REDUCE GENERIC DRUG PRICES** - Starting immediately, prices for new generic drugs will be reduced from 75 per cent of a brand name drug price to 45 per cent - a reduction of as much as 30 per cent. Prices for existing generic drugs will also be reduced significantly, beginning in April

2010. Over the coming month, government will continue its discussions with pharmacists and pharmacies about this price reduction. Reduced prices for generic drugs will be available to all Albertans.

2. **PROVIDE FASTER ACCESS TO NEW DRUGS AND REDUCE COSTS** - Like other provinces, Alberta will negotiate contracts, known as product listing agreements, with brand name drug manufacturers. These contracts reduce costs through volume discounts, provide faster access to new, innovative drugs and help fund health research. Ontario, Quebec, B.C. and Manitoba currently



use product listing agreements.

3. **EXPAND THE ROLE OF PHARMACISTS TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS** - Government will work closely with Alberta pharmacists and pharmacies to have pharmacists spend more time using their professional knowledge and skills to counsel and advise patients so they get the best results from their medications. To support this expanded role, government will introduce a new payment model for pharmacies.

A comprehensive transition plan has been developed to support pharmacies as they shift their focus from dispensing prescription drugs to providing more professional services. This transition plan includes a \$5 million fund to assist rural and remote pharmacies as well as a transitional allowance for all pharmacies for each prescription less than \$75. This transitional allowance will be provided for the next three years. Phase one of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Strategy was announced in December 2008. It included a drug program for Albertans with rare diseases, improvements to the drug approval process, a new drug plan for seniors, revised premiums for non-group coverage and a consolidated government-sponsored drug program. These enhancements to Alberta's pharmaceutical program support government's Vision 2020 goals of focusing on patient's needs, improving access and creating a sustainable health care system. **CNW**

Calgary North-West to acquire new schools

Community growth requires school expansion

NEW SCHOOLS ARE being built in Calgary North-West, including a K-4 school coming to Royal Oak, a middle school in Tuscany and the new North West High School in Arbour Lake. (see front page)

Although this is indeed progress, I know that more schools need to be built in the ever expanding communities of Calgary North-West.

A new middle school in Rocky Ridge and another K-4 school in Tuscany are two more goals to champion, and I will continue to fight to see them become a reality. **CNW**

Alberta students to benefit from WorldSkills equipment

\$16 million in new equipment available to Alberta students

THOUSANDS OF ALBERTA trades and technology students will benefit from state-of-the-art equipment purchased by the Alberta government for WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

As a legacy from the international competition, the government has distributed the equipment to schools and post-secondary training providers across the province. Computers, water saws, cooking equipment and moulding machines are among the many items used during the four-day Worldskills competition held this September.

All high schools offering career and technology studies courses and all post-secondary training providers offering apprenticeship technical training that submitted proposals are receiving equipment or tools.

When awarding the equipment, the government considered the need to replace old equipment and the value added to the overall community.

Alberta invested \$24 million toward WorldSkills Calgary 2009. About \$16 million was spent on this equipment and \$1.7 million was used to transport thousands of Alberta students to the competition. **CNW**



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www.alberta.ca



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North West Recreation Centre

Potential home for NW Recreation Park

I AM CURRENTLY working with the City of Calgary and the Province to provide over ninety acres of land to be leased for a North West recreation park. Located just west of Walmart on Country Hills Boulevard, this would be the future home to the North West Recreation Centre, as well as a potential permanent home for the North West Indoor Soccer Centre, and other sports facilities that may include a skateboard park. Funding is not yet finalized, but housing a sight is a positive first step.

I would like to thank Mayor Bronconnier, Alderman Hodges and Alderman Lowe for their support thus far. I hope this first step will bolster the North West Recreation Committee, who have worked hard to make this dream a reality.

For more information on the Calgary North West Recreation Centre, visit www.cnrcs.ca **CNW**

