

## New hospital beds reduce emergency department pressures

*New beds open in Calgary and Edmonton*

Alberta Health Services is on track to complete its plan to open 360 new beds in Calgary and Edmonton before March 31, 2011 to help relieve pressures on emergency departments and improve access to care. Two thirds, or 239, of these new beds have been open since April 2010.

These beds include transition unit beds, hospice beds, medical assessment units, detoxification and mental health beds. This increased capacity is part of a larger strategy to reduce pressures in emergency departments and improve access across the health care system.

New transition units are located in several Alberta hospitals, including the Foothills Medical Centre and the Peter Lougheed Centre in Calgary, and serve a need for patients who no longer require acute care, but are awaiting placement in a continuing care facility.



## Best Wishes

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

### BIRTHDAYS

**Katherine Mullen,**  
January 27, 2011 - 90th Birthday

**Lloyd Alan Silcox,**  
December 11, 2010 - 65th Birthday

**Shirley Wiebe,**  
November 9, 2010 - 70th Birthday

### ANNIVERSARIES

**Mr. Henk and Mrs. Everdine de Groot,**  
December 30, 2010 - 50th Anniversary

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.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## Out and About with Lindsay



With a team of volunteers door knocking in the community to speak directly with residents.



Guru Ravidass Ji celebration at the Guru Ravidass Centre in the North East of Calgary on February 20, 2011.



Grey Cup 2010 Youth Brunch in Edmonton.



Minister Blackett visits Canadian Forces Base Edmonton.

# Calgary-North West News

ISSUE 7 | WINTER 2011

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

## Message from Lindsay

Dear Constituents,

The last month and a half have been very interesting times for Albertans. Premier Ed Stelmach announced that he would not be seeking re-election. David Swann also announced that he would be stepping down from his position as Leader of the Alberta Liberal Party and we have a leadership race for the fledgling Alberta Party.

After getting over the initial shock of the Stelmach announcement, I decided to focus on the task at hand that I could control, which is to continue my work in my constituency and that of my department.

It is very easy in political life to forget what your priorities are if you choose to do so. I decided to run for public office to make a difference in my community and to contribute to the betterment of Alberta as a whole.

We all work on behalf of the same taxpayer and by working with our local Aldermen and School Board Trustees we are making progress locally on schools and recreational facilities. New schools, the North West Recreation Centre, Canada Olympic Park facilities, Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park and other community facilities are part of that progress and we are not done.

Rest assured, while others may be focused on who our new leader may be, I will continue to work towards improving our communities and making Calgary-North West a great place to live.



*Lindsay Blackett*  
Lindsay Blackett

## New electoral boundaries reflect Alberta's growing population

*Changes affect Calgary-North West*

I HAVE SOME information on changes the will affect our constituency.

Alberta's electoral boundaries and the names of electoral divisions have been updated. The division of Calgary-North West Progressive Constituency Association will now include the communities of Royal Oak, Rocky Ridge, Tuscan, Lynx Ridge and Scenic Acres. The new Calgary-Hawkwood Progressive Conservative Association division will include Ranchlands,

Hawkwood, Arbour Lake, Citadel and Silver Springs.

The Electoral Divisions Act, passed by the Alberta Legislature on Dec. 1, updates Alberta's electoral boundaries to reflect recommendations made by the arm's-length Electoral Boundaries Commission as well as changes made by the Legislative Assembly.

The new boundaries will come into effect when the next provincial election is called. Information about division boundaries

and polling locations will be available from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer at that time.

In June 2010, the Electoral Boundaries Commission's report was presented to the Assembly. On October 26, 2010, the Assembly debated the Commission's recommendations and approved the report but with changes to the recommended names of four electoral divisions. Bill 28 reflects the Commission's report as amended by the Assembly.

The Electoral Divisions Act repeals and replaces the existing act of the same name. A map of the electoral boundaries can be viewed at [www.altaeab.ca/FinalMaps/ALBERTA\\_11X17.pdf](http://www.altaeab.ca/FinalMaps/ALBERTA_11X17.pdf).



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## 2010 Highlights

### Making Calgary-North West a great place to live

WHEN I RAN to represent you in Calgary-North West, I heard a number of suggestions for improvement and change in our constituency. School and recreation facility shortages, community safety and health care were hot topics of concern for residents.

I am pleased to report that since that time, we have accomplished several goals in building our community:

- Addition of three schools: St. Basil Elementary & Jr. High School, Royal Oak K-4 and North West High School.
- Canada Olympic Park has added an exciting new athletic and ice complex complete with three brand new ice rinks. Minor and amateur hockey, ringette and soccer players will share a facility that will also train Canada and the world's high performance athletes.
- The Calgary North West Recreation Centre is expected to be completed in 2014/2015.
- The Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park is scheduled to open in July. When open, the park will provide a natural space for many activities, such as walking and cycling along pathways, enjoying wildlife, participating in guided programs and volunteer activities, and experiencing the rich cultural history of the area.



- I continue to work with the Calgary Police Service on anti-crime prevention and community safety.
  - Becoming the Best: Alberta's 5-Year Health Action Plan will improve access to health services and shorten wait times. It will focus on a healthier Alberta. It will ensure that safe, quality care is available now and into the future. It puts people first by addressing the health needs of patients and families. It will help create the health system Albertans expect.
  - The new south Calgary hospital is set to open in 2012 and expansions are taking place in our three existing hospitals.
- In addition the provincial government has contributed to the growth of our city by investing:
- 10 million dollars into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame;

- 40 million dollars into the Telus World of Science;
  - 900 million dollars into post secondary education in Calgary including SAIT, Bow Valley College, University of Calgary and Mount Royal University.
- I will continue to listen to your comments and concerns while working to make Calgary-NW a great place to live. **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.

Once you subscribe, you can expect to see Your Alberta in your inbox at the beginning of every month. Special editions will also be delivered to coincide with major provincial events.

If you have story suggestions or questions you would like answered, please send them to [newsletter@gov.ab.ca](mailto:newsletter@gov.ab.ca).

To subscribe visit [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



## Premier's Exit

*Stelmach will not seek re-election*

ON JANUARY 25TH, our leader Ed Stelmach announced he will not be running as a candidate in the next general election. Premier Stelmach has dedicated 25 years to public service including serving as a school trustee; chair of the Vegreville health unit board and a member of the Archer Memorial Hospital and Lamont Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home boards; and as a councillor and reeve for Lamont County.

Until Premier Stelmach steps down in September he will continue to advance the interests of Alberta and govern to fulfill the commitments he made in the last general election. The Premier presented a budget that shows the way to being balanced on a fully consolidated basis in 2013. This budget will use the funds saved during the boom to help us through the bust and position us to leap ahead of the nation and continent.

In due course a full, fair and transparent leadership race will be held to select a successor to Premier Stelmach. I am very appreciative of the Honourable Ed Stelmach and his contribution to Alberta. I will be forever indebted for the opportunities he has given to me to be able to make a difference in our great province. We must now continue to move forward and I remain committed to continuing my role as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and representative for Calgary North West. **CNW**

## Calgary North West Recreation Centre Update

*Progress continues on recreation facility*

### What is the status of the project?

The design of the facility has not yet started. Progress has been made in five key areas:

- The City of Calgary completed a needs and preferences study. The study identified the top recreational needs for a new facility based on an analysis of the current facilities that service Northwest communities and feedback obtained using a comprehensive survey of residents in Northwest Calgary.
- A facility site selection review has been completed by the City of Calgary. Currently, representatives from the City of Calgary and the Provincial government are negotiating the sale of provincial land to the City that will become the site for the future facility.

The CNRCS and the City of Calgary conducted workshops and meetings to define the Vision for the future facility which will outline priority amenities, the types of programming, and services for the future facility.

The CNRCS and the City of Calgary started discussions to define a governance model for the future facility. This governance model will outline key parties that will be involved in overseeing the facilities construction and design, the makeup of a

Board of Directors and other key elements of how the facility will be operated.

The CNRCS completed a review of fundraising alternatives. We expect the future facility will be similar in size to Westside Recreation Centre and Cardel Place. Estimates suggest that constructing such a facility will require \$120 - \$140 million. Given that only \$70 million has been allocated by the City of Calgary through provincial infrastructure funding dollars, a sizable amount of money will need to be raised.

The CNRCS split so six representatives could continue as the CAG to The City while the rest of the society composed and submitted a proposal to The City's Expression of Interest in partnership with Calgary Soccer, YMCA, and Calgary Hockey.

### When will the recreation centre be completed?

The facility is expected to be completed in 2014/2015.

### Where will the Northwest recreation centre be located?

The proposed location that has been selected is across from Butter Field Farms in Rocky Ridge/Royal Oak just North of Country Hills Boulevard. Ongoing updates on the

project as well as Advisory Group contact information can be found at [www.calgary.ca/nwreccentre](http://www.calgary.ca/nwreccentre).

### What will be in the facility?

Final decisions on facility features and amenities have not been finalized. However, top amenities were identified in a needs and preferences study conducted by the City of Calgary. View a summary of the top amenities that will likely be included in the future facility.

The selection of amenities and services will also be influenced by the Calgary Sports Strategy and the Civic Arts strategy.

The CNRCS and City of Calgary will be collaborating with representatives from competitive sporting organizations and arts organizations to develop amenities that attempt to meet the recreational needs of as many residents as possible given financial resource constraints.

It is also important to note that the facility must operate profitably. This requirement to operate a financially sustainable facility will also influence final decisions on the facility features.

You can send comments to the CNRCS by email at [cnrcs.info@gmail.com](mailto:cnrcs.info@gmail.com). **CNW**

## Culture and Community Spirit Invests in Calgary-North West

*Over \$122,000 granted to recipients*

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Calgary-North West recipients of Culture and Community Spirit Grants in 2010-2011:

- Trickster Theatre Society
- Prairie Journal Trust
- St. Maria Goretti School
- Penny Chase
- Georgina Craig
- Anne Sorbie
- Do-Hee Sung
- Canadian Association for Participatory Development
- MusiKiva Canada Inc.
- Rotary Club of Calgary
- Millennium Society **CNW**



## Proposed Casino

*New casino will not be built in northwest Calgary*

RESIDENTS IN ROYAL Oak have raised concerns about proposed plans to build a new hotel and casino in the neighbourhood.

Developers wanted to build a 1,250-seat casino, as well as a 200-room hotel and a convention centre in Royal Vista Business Park near Royal Oak homes and a shopping development, just off Country Hills Boulevard near Stoney Trail.

The developer is no longer going ahead with plans for its casino and hotel development near Royal Oak. **CNW**



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