

“Onward & Upward!”

Dave Rodney, MLA (Calgary-Lougheed) & Chair of AADAC



I hope 2005 has been good to you so far—and that it is our best year yet! It certainly looks like that could indeed be the case on the economic front, as the Conference Board of Canada has announced that “fuelled by windfall energy profits, steady population increases and robust job creation, Calgary's economic growth will lead all Canadian cities in 2005 and for the remainder of the decade” (Calgary Herald, Dec. 21, 2004). In addition to this, our Heritage Fund is strong; and it is poised to only improve in the future: the government’s key policy to achieve long-term sustainable performance is to maintain a diversified portfolio, a long-term focus, and an exceptional investment management team. (As a point of interest, in its 28 year history, more than \$26 billion has been allocated to Albertans’ fiscal priorities in the past—including debt repayment, health care, infrastructure, education.)

The educational report is great as well, as Alberta students continue to achieve excellent results on international tests. They share the highest scores in reading, have improved from third to second in mathematics, and ranked fourth in science (2003 Program for International Student Assessment, administered by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development). Alberta students are amongst the brightest in the world, and all Albertans should be very proud of these achievements. They demonstrate that the students of our province benefit from excellent teachers, high-quality centralized curricula, outstanding learning and teaching resources, and standardized assessment. In true Alberta form, I believe that we will only go onward and upward from here!

While all of the above is good news, I am very well aware that everything is not perfect in our riding and province. I would like to personally like to invite you to be extremely active in our efforts to make this the best place to live in the world.

If you are interested in playing a crucial role in Calgary-Lougheed, if you have any questions, or if you feel the need to express your opinion, please feel free to contact me. I am here to be of assistance to you; and you have an incredibly important role to play in that respect. Let’s keep the issues of our area at the forefront of the provincial agenda!

Wishing you a safe and successful 2005...

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