



Dave Rodney

MLA Calgary-Lougheed
Chair of Calgary Caucus

Winter Report to Constituents, 2008: “ONWARD & UPWARD”!

Woodbine, Woodlands, Canyon Meadows (SW), Shaw-Neer Slopes, Evergreen, Millrise, Bridlewood
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Happy New Year, Everyone! It has been a **pleasure to meet personally with thousands of you** (from Students to Seniors!) again this year: *on your doorsteps, in our office, at our Town Hall & Round-Table Sessions, over the phone, via e-mail/fax/letter, at our Annual “Picnic in the Park”, and in the community at large.* 2007 has been a truly fascinating year; and 2008 is shaping up to be every bit as exciting!

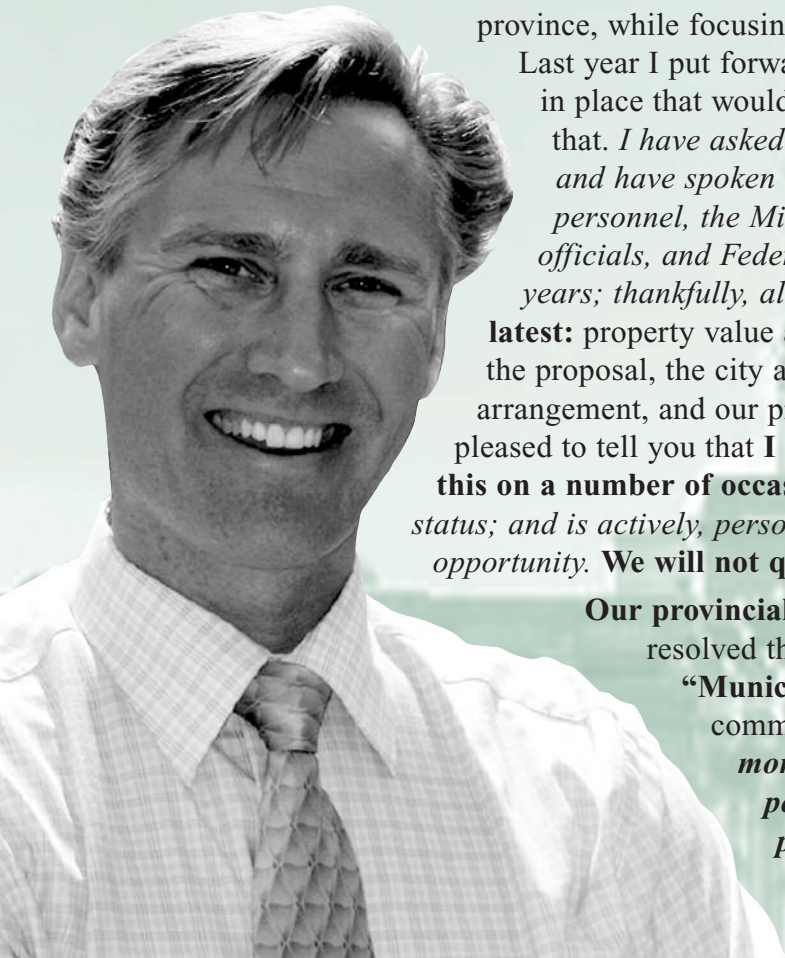
It has been an honour to have served as MLA for the past three years; & I am extremely pleased to report that in that time, our hard work together has really been paying off. We have been awarded 3 new schools in Calgary-Lougheed: Bridlewood Elementary K-4, Evergreen Catholic Elementary, and Evergreen Public Elementary. Additionally, all of the **upgrades in Fish Creek Park** have been completed—*on time, and on budget.* On top of that, we can look forward to the **new South Calgary Health Campus**—the largest facility of its kind in the world. *Congratulations to all on a job very well done!* Re: on-going issues, *I will continue to work closely with the Shawnee-Evergreen Community Association on a desirable outcome to the Shawnee Golf Course situation.* I will also continue to work diligently on issues that affect us across the

province, while focusing on concerns in our riding--including the **SW Ring Road.**

Last year I put forward a **motion in the Legislature** to have an agreement put in place that would see construction begin this year; and I am still hopeful for that. *I have asked some challenging questions about this in question period, and have spoken in depth about this with Infrastructure department personnel, the Minister in charge, City Planners, the Mayor, First Nations officials, and Federal Government employees--very regularly over the past 3 years; thankfully, all sides are motivated to reach an agreement.* **Here’s the latest:** property value appraisals are expected shortly, the Tsuu Tina will vote on the proposal, the city and federal government will move to approve the arrangement, and our provincial government will then finalize payment. I am very pleased to tell you that **I have spoken personally with Premier Stelmach about this on a number of occasions:** *he is completely aware of the history, and current status; and is actively, personally involved in working on a solution at the first possible opportunity.* **We will not quit fighting for this road until we are driving on it!**

Our provincial government has made great strides this year. We resolved the **Teacher Pension Unfunded Liability**, and finalized the **“Municipal Sustainability Initiative”** (which will help our local communities more than ever before--*\$11.3 Billion!*). We **invested more than ever before in history in new & upgraded schools, post-secondary institutes, health infrastructure, & new paved roads** (\$4.1 Billion).

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*Only Canadian to Climb Everest Twice, Entrepreneur
International Keynote Speaker, over 20 Documentaries*



“ONWARD & UPWARD”! *Continued*

In the spirit of openness and transparency, we also passed the “**Lobbyist & Accountability Act**”. We continue to make good progress with the “**Affordable Housing**” and “**Crime Reduction & Safe Communities**” Task Forces; and the “**Secretariat on Homelessness**” will work to eradicate that issue in the next 10 years. Premier Stelmach also fulfilled his promise to seek to strike the right balance between a fair economic return on development of the energy resources Albertans own—and the opportunity for energy companies to operate with predictability and stability—in the new **Royalty Framework**.

We are focused on **3 priorities in 2008: building communities, greening our growth, and creating opportunity**. We will work to ensure our **high quality of life is sustained and enhanced**; will take bold action to **deepen a strong environmental ethic, and secure long-term prosperity for all Albertans**. *And we are well on our way: “Calgary is the most dynamic and attractive city in Canada”* says a new report from the Conference Board of Canada, based on **economy, innovation, environment, education, health, society, and housing...& “Alberta leads in home ownership growth: higher incomes, economic stability cited as factors”** (Calgary Herald, A1 & D3, Dec. 12, 2007). Albertans lead the country in virtually every economic category: we have the lowest unemployment rate, pay the lowest overall provincial taxes, and enjoy the highest personal disposable income per capita in the country. While all of this progress is impressive on many levels, it also brings with it a **host of growing pains and difficult choices**; so we must be vigilant if we are to continue to improve the well-being of our families, our province, and our country. *I personally invite you to join me in being extremely active in our efforts to make Calgary-Lougheed, Alberta, and Canada the best they can be. Onward & Upward!*

*Dave Rodney (BA, BEd, MRE): MLA Calgary-Lougheed, & Chair & of Calgary Caucus
2008 “Presidential Who’s Who”, “Canadian Who’s Who”, & “Sports Who’s Who”
“Top Alumni of the Century, 2007”, & “Humanitarian of the Yr, 2006” (U of S)
“One of Alberta’s Most Influential People” (Venture Magazine, 2005)
Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Community Service Medallion*



Hosting “MLA for a Day” Vishal Varshney.



Celebrity Street-Hockey for Ronald MacDonald House.



Hull Home “Brighter Tomorrow” Awards.

2007 Local Highlights



Cutting the Ribbon with President Irene Lewis at SAIT's New High Tech Lab.

- Hosting a very successful **“Constituency Roundtable”** on **Environment, Education, Health, Infrastructure**; thanks to all who attended!
- Making presentations at our **Constituency Schools, Churches, & Seniors’ Centres**
- **Announcing New Funding for Childhood Services & Sexual Assault Ctr’s**
- Addressing the **AB Council of Women’s Shelters “Breakfast with the Guys”** with *Lanny MacDonald, Jim Peplinski, and Jim Prentice* (& appearing on *SHAW TV* for the cause)
- **Climbing the Calgary Tower-- 14 Times—for the Alberta Wilderness Assoc**
- Announcing the **Historic “Federal/Provincial Immigration Agreement”** with Premier Stelmach, and Ministers Finley & Evans
- **Helping to hammer out the \$10 Million Agreement for Mt Royal’s First Degree: Nursing**
- Assisting in **ear-marking \$60 Million for 522 new affordable housing units**



With Greg Forest (Saddledome Fdm) & Ken King (Calgary Flames).



Youth at “U of C’s Affordable Housing Panel”.



Launch of New Nanotechnology Treatment Programs for Calgarians’ Medical Needs



With 90 year old Melvin Crump at the Opening of Glenbow Museum’s “Mavericks”.



Announcing AB’s \$2.5 Million Commitment to Replace the Calgary Weir (Safety/Quality of Life).

Legislative Review

- *As a follow-up to my “Smoke-Free Places Act” from 2 years ago, a province-wide smoking ban in all public places & workplaces took effect January 1, 2008.* AB’s new “Tobacco Reduction Act” will prohibit smoking within a specified distance from windows, doorways, & air intakes. (smokefreeplaces.com)
- *We passed 28 bills in 18 days during our fall session.* I was pleased to spearhead “*Bill 5: the Health Statutes Amendment*”, sponsor “*Bill 13: the Access to the Future Amendment*”, and introduce the “*Post-Secondary Learning Amendment Act*”.
- It was also a privilege to pose **Challenging Questions in Question Period, Make Speeches on Numerous Bills & Motions, & Deliver Many Members Statements—featuring issues facing our riding.**
- I am really looking forward to bringing forward a new piece of legislation this spring—“**Bill 205: the AB Personal Income Tax (Health & Wellness Incentives) Amendment Act, 2008**” (*since I believe that healthy living is worthy of being rewarded!*)
- For MUCH MORE, please visit www.daverodney.ca & www.gov.ab.ca



At the Capitol Building, Washington DC (after Meetings with International Officials).



With US/Canadian Ambassador Wilson after delivering a Speech in Washington DC.



With Rex Murphy at the Military Museums Fundraiser.



With our new Calgary Chief of Police, Rick Hanson.



With Ambassador Friends from Africa.



With "Professional Immigrant of Distinction"
Dr. Thad Demong & his wonderful wife, Carol.

Please Contact Me If You Require Assistance

- **Listening to and acting on your concerns or ideas--** including resolving problems with provincial government departments/projects, or presenting petitions in the Legislature
- **Grant applications or News Releases/Hansard Transcripts** (re: Legislative Bills & Motions)
- **Visiting your school, service club, or seniors group; and/or** arranging a tour of the Legislature in Edmonton or MacDougall Centre in Calgary
- **Commemorative scrolls for special milestones / achievements / events**

Invitations



Announcing Calgary as the
2008 JUNO Awards Host City.

- **DO YOU KNOW AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR or ALBERTAN?** Call us re: The "2008 Excellence in Teaching Awards" & the "Alberta Order of Excellence" <Nominations are due at the end of January!>
- Help design our new provincial license plate: www.licenceplate.alberta.ca
- **IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN WHO ARE 8, 11, OR 14 YEARS OLD**, you are eligible for a \$100 Alberta Centennial Education Savings Plan Grant—each year (as a result of passing Bill 54 in our last session)! Please contact us at the office or visit www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/aces/ if you have any questions!
- *As we prepare for the spring session of the Alberta Legislature, I encourage you to contact me regarding any subject of provincial jurisdiction that you are concerned about.* Please let us know if you have any questions, or if you simply wish to express any opinion. Tell us know what we are doing well; and what you would like to see changed. **Let's build the strongest, healthiest, most compassionate Alberta--together!**



With the CPO's Micheal Hope.

Fascinating Facts

- \$1.00 Change in Oil = \$ 123 Million Change for the AB Economy
- 1 Cent Change in Canadian dollar = \$172 Million Change for the AB Economy
- 10 Cent Change in Natural Gas = \$104 Million Change for the AB Economy

Committees Updates

- As **Chair of Calgary Caucus**, I have initiated deliberations with the **most powerful** organizations in the province (eg: “CAPP”—the Canadian Assoc of Petroleum Producers); the most in need (eg: “the Calgary Homeless Foundation”); and **those in between** (eg: community, education, health, social agency, youth, seniors, & environmental groups)
- As **Chair of the “Standing Committee on Legislative Offices”**, I deal with issues involving the *auditor-general, ethics commissioner, ombudsman, freedom of information & privacy commissioner, & chief electoral officer.*
- I have been meeting every week with the **“Standing Committee on Public Accounts”**, to examine previous budgets of publicly funded entities.
- As a member of the **“Cabinet Policy Committee on Community Services”**, I have been assisting with planning next year’s budgets for health, education, children’s services, seniors, supports for the disabled, tourism, parks, recreation, and culture.
- It’s been a pleasure to work on the **“Alberta Community Spirit Program”**, which will result in fabulous opportunities for charities & non-profit organizations. *(Please let me know if you would like a copy of the final report—which will indicate how your favourite group may benefit!)*
- As a member of the All-Party Field Policy Committee on **“Managing Growth Pressures”** and the **“International Development & Governance Advisory Committee”**, I work with colleagues & constituents on solutions to both local & global issues.
- My job as Government Liason to the **“Strategic Tourism Marketing Council”** continues: Tourism is Alberta’s #4 industry, & I would like to see that position improve!



With Prime Minister Stephen Harper at Hull Home’s Stampede Breakfast.



At our Annual “Picnic in the Park”, after MCing the Re-opening of Fish Creek Park.



Provincial/Federal New Safe Communities Announcement.



With Ministers Finley and Evans at the Signing of the Historic Federal/Provincial Immigration Agreement.

Good News

Please contact me today if you have any questions/comments re:

- Alberta recorded a **Surplus for the 13th Consecutive Year**, which was primarily committed to infrastructure requirements & maintenance (health, social services, educational, community, centennial projects & services; + highways), & **savings** (to the *Heritage Fund*—now @ \$16.5 Billion—and to other endowments, including advanced education)
- The Gov't will implement or further study more than **30 Recommendations from the Crime Reduction & Safe Communities Task Force**. The accountability framework will rest with the **New Safe Communities Secretariat**.
- **AB's Commitment to Quality Child Care Reaffirmed in Consultation:** Feedback will be used to Develop Provincial Child Care Standards
- **AB Banks on Future Students** (\$227 Million Boost to Scholarship Fund)
- **1000 New Student Spaces @ U of C's State of the Art "ISEEE" Program** (\$260 Million)
- **U of C Veterinary Faculty Program Approved** by the AB Minister of Advanced Education & Technology
- Proposed legislation changes will **increase the number of health professionals in AB**
- **Initiatives Support AB's Health Workforce Strategy:** Improving Opportunities for Internationally-trained nurses, rehabilitation medicine students & staff
- **AB @ Forefront of Hip & Knee Care** (More Surgeries Completed, Less Wait Time)
- **\$26 Million Investment Helps Contracted Agencies Hire & Retain Social Services Staff** (Children & Youth, Adults with Developmental Disabilities, & Other Vulnerable Albertans)
- **AB Immigrants Encouraged to Reach for Their Full Potential in Their Chosen Professions**
- **Mandatory Auto Insurance Premiums Remain @ 2006 Levels**
- **Over 530 Park Areas protect over 20,000 sq km** of AB's wilderness areas, ecological reserves, provincial parks, wilderness provincial parks, natural areas, heritage rangelands, natural areas, recreation areas, and wilderness parks.
- **For MUCH, MUCH MORE, please visit: www.gov.ab.ca**



The "Santa's Express" with Ashid Bahl & Hull Home Students.



Jen & Dave with Queen Elizabeth II.



With Our Soldiers Serving Overseas...

For Your Information

- Teachers, Students, Schoolboards, & Taxpayers Benefit from Historic Solution to Unfunded Pension Liability: www.education.alberta.ca
- The Province is funding 9 new Parent Link Ctr's to help give the info & resources needed to get children off to a good start: www.parentlinkalberta.ca
- Young AB's urged to be "Better than Bullying" (888-456-2323, www.bullyfreealberta.ca)
- Gov't Launches 2nd Phase of Consultation on Child Care Standards: www.child.alberta.ca
- To help protect our children & youth, please visit: www.badguypatrol.ca & www.weron2u.ca
- New Website Shares Parenting Experiences with hopes to attract more Foster Parents in Alberta: www.FosterCareAlberta.ca
- AB's kids benefit from partnerships investments: www.albertaspromise.ca
- AB Centennial Education Savings Plan: 1-866-515-2237, www.advancededucation.gov.ab.ca/aces
- Registered Education Savings Plan: 1-800-O-CANADA; Canada Education Savings Grant: 1-888-276-3624
- The Immigrate to Alberta website www.alberta-canada.com/immigration, now serves as a single window into a wide range of information & government services.
- Province to Create a 10-year Plan to End Homelessness—New Secretariat Will Work Closely with AB's Municipalities (The Government's affordable housing strategy will lead to the development of more than 11,000 units over the next five years. Further details: www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca)
- New workforce strategy helps address worker shortages: Key Industry Assoc's & Labour Groups Hammer Out Action Plan (For "A Workforce Strategy for Alberta's Construction Industry", visit: www.employment.alberta.ca)
- New Dispute Resolution Course Now Online: www.employment.alberta.ca/employmentstandardsExpanded
- New warrant apprehension unit will get criminals off the street: www.safecommunities.gov.ab.ca
- Public Input Welcome on Kananaskis Park & Recreation Plans (403-678-5508 or www.tprc.alberta.ca/parks)
- Bio-Energy Grant Turns Waste into Wealth: www.energy.gov.ab.ca
- Internet Coverage of Legislature: www.assembly.ab.ca
- For **MUCH MORE**, I have a column every month in your community newsletter; & please feel free to visit www.gov.ab.ca or www.daverodney.ca anytime!

Meet Darlynn Linn

Darlynn is the first person you'll meet when you visit my constituency office. She has worked for Calgary-Lougheed constituents for over a decade, is a wealth of information about our communities, and is a great resource for constituents who have questions about provincial government departments or programs. *Please feel free to call, e-mail, or fax Darlynn if you would like to arrange up a time to meet with me!*



Premier Ed Stelmach, Calgary-Lougheed Constituency
Manager Darlynn Linn, and MLA Dave Rodney