

2005

Mountain of Heroes Foundation March 17 2005

The Calgary-based Mountain of Heroes Foundation recently held their inaugural awards gala dinner.

Five local citizens were honoured:

Christianna Wood-Roddick, who initiated “Christianna’s cause” at the tender age of 10. After the tragic death of her mother a year ago Christianna has raised \$35,000 for the Aventa program, which her mother founded. Aventa is an AADAC funded group that attends to the addiction treatment of women.

Eva Davis, a concentration camps survivor, has raised two successful sons, runs a small business, and taught tolerance to a whole new generation, partially through the gift of song.

Kevin Mark was on his way to the NHL in 1982 before he was paralyzed from the neck down during a hockey game. He’s now an accomplished engineer and a distinguished speaker who has personally raised over \$300,000 for the Calgary Handi-Bus Association.

As a youth Pat Nixon was aimless and living on the street. He’s gone on to become the executive director for the Mustard Seed Street Ministry, which not only provides food and lodging for the homeless but also supplies employment training to get its clients off the street.

Finally, Dr. Harvey Rabin founded the southern cystic fibrosis adult clinic at the Foothills Hospital in 1979, and he continues to run it today although he is not paid for his time spent as clinic director.

My wife, Jennifer, and I founded the foundation a few years ago, and we thank our board members: Nicki Perkins, a CF survivor who chaired the awards event; her husband, Dean Perkins; Colleen and Dave Zeller; and Wayne Logan.

We shared a wonderful evening with our heroes, our sponsors, the public, and the media. Proceeds from the event were dedicated to fund the research of Dr. Mody, a Calgary scientist who is doing world-class work on cystic fibrosis.

AADAC Youth Drug Treatment Programs April 18 2007

As chair of AADAC I hear first-hand about the lives impacted and the corrosive effects on society that result from addiction. Substance abuse is a serious matter, and it’s especially tragic when it involves children. However, the government has

it within its means to intervene in a positive way, as was demonstrated recently in this House.

Thankfully the new provincial budget, announced last week, includes an increase to AADAC's funding, which will allow the commission to begin operating almost immediately youth detoxification and residential treatment in this province.

I'm pleased to say that there will be two programs, located in the Edmonton region and the Calgary region, with 24 new beds, eight for detoxification and 16 for residential treatment. The programs are designed to help youths who are in serious difficulty with substance abuse and who require intensive intervention. Both the detoxification and residential programs will treat crystal meth users as well as users of other addictive drugs.

Regarding crystal meth, AADAC will provide a treatment protocol designed specifically for youth who are abusing this dangerous substance. The residential program will be 12 weeks in duration. However, in cases of long-term or severe substance abuse AADAC has the capacity to provide youths with up to a year of treatment through its spectrum of programs.

AADAC has also as of April 1, 2005, increased its accreditation standards for all youth treatment programs we fund so that we can doubly ensure that young Albertans in our care are receiving the highest standard of help possible.

The new standards along with the detoxification and residential treatment programs are excellent enhancements to AADAC's range of services for youths and adults. AADAC already provides comprehensive outpatient programs for youths and their families at 26 area offices.

Education Week April 26 2005

Education Week, indeed, is April 24 to 30, and our Albertan people can be very proud of the great educational legacy that has been built in this province over the past 100 years. During this week back in 1905 two school districts, Leachville and Coalfields, began educating their students. Throughout 1905 another 119 school districts were formed as the new government of Alberta took shape, and that was just the start of something incredibly special.

Today many results show that Alberta's students outperform students from across Canada. Not only that, on the international stage they score the highest marks in reading and are among the top three in science and math.

Albertans enjoy one of the most educated populations in the country with 55 per cent of 25 to 54 year olds boasting a postsecondary education. As is the case with so many other personal, professional, and political realms, Alberta continues its attitudes and actions of firsts.

For example, Alberta is the first province to establish a registered apprenticeship program, or RAP, to help students begin to learn a trade while in high school, and Alberta is the first province to establish a technology system that has 99 per cent of Alberta schools connected to the Internet.

My father taught me five subjects in high school. A couple of careers ago I spent 13 years in three countries at all grade levels as an educator and administrator, mostly here in Alberta. As such, I have just a tiny bit of first-hand knowledge of the great sacrifice and contribution involved with those in education today.

World No Tobacco Day May 17 2005

As chair of the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission I am pleased to inform the honorable members that AADAC will be hosting a provincial celebration to mark World No Tobacco Day.

Since 1988 the World Health Organization has designated World No Tobacco Day as an annual global event to call world-wide attention to the impact of tobacco use on public health. Here in Alberta the World No Tobacco Day provincial celebration recognizes the efforts of our community partners and salutes their commitment to tobacco reduction in our province.

This year AADAC is pleased to sponsor the event with partners Health Canada, the Alberta Lung Association, and the Canadian Cancer Society.

The event features presentations of the Barb Tarbox awards of excellence and youth scholarship fund.

After being diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, Barb Tarbox dedicated the remainder of her life to talking to young people about the dangers of smoking. After her death two years ago at the age of 42 AADAC established the awards in Barb's honour to recognize Alberta businesses, nonprofit groups, and individuals who have made significant impacts in the area of tobacco prevention, cessation, and reduction as well as protection from second-hand smoke.

In addition, a \$2,500 youth scholarship fund is awarded to a young person under the age of 18 who has made a positive contribution to tobacco reduction in their community.

As the leader of the Alberta tobacco reduction strategy AADAC could not have achieved the results it has without the community involvement of concerned individuals, agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. I

'm proud to inform our hon. members that the Alberta tobacco reduction strategy is helping to significantly reduce tobacco use in the province, and the results are

impressive. The number of Albertans over the age of 15 who smoke has dropped from 25 per cent in 2001-2002 to 20 per cent in 2003-2004. That's a hundred thousand fewer smokers.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission Nov 22 2005

During this centennial year in this House, in Calgary Lougheed, and across this province as chair of the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission I've learned a great deal about what makes this province so great.

Last month AADAC partnered with the Lung Association and the Canadian Cancer Society to launch a new online smoking cessation site, albertaquits.ca, and a thousand Albertans have registered since its launch as they access support in their attempts to quit smoking.

Last week AADAC launched the Alberta drug strategy. It's a five-year plan that sets a vision and an action framework for a coordinated, collaborative approach to prevent and treat the harms caused by alcohol and other drug abuse. At the same time, AADAC opened new residential addiction treatment programs in Edmonton and Calgary that fit within the framework of the Alberta drug strategy. These programs include 24 beds which serve youth aged 12 to 17.

In addition to services such as these provided by AADAC, government has developed a coordinated response to methamphetamine that reflects provincial priorities for health renewal, and the co-coordinated response includes TV commercials targeted at youth and parents, strong support for local drug coalitions, educational materials, and curriculum-aligned school resources.

Yesterday we kicked off National Addictions Awareness Week, the goal of which is to provide information and promote activities that generate awareness of substance abuse and gambling problems and solutions.

As we look forward, it's worthy of note that on Canada Day 2006 Bill 202 will become law. This bill will give provincial authorities and parents the power to place children under the age of 18 into drug detox and assessment programs.