

Member's Statement

November 22, 2005

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission

Dave Rodney (MLA, Calgary-Lougheed): Mr. Speaker, 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. Later today as an example of this I'll be tabling the AADAC annual report. Right now for the information of our members and their constituents I'll list just a few of AADAC's good works in the recent past with a very quick glimpse to the future.

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 co-ordinated, 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 co-ordinated response to methamphetamine that reflects provincial priorities for health renewal, and the co-ordinated 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.

Mr. Speaker, 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.

Thank you to all members for your assistance with AADAC and its initiatives.



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