

## Member's Statement

April 26, 2005

### Education Week

**Dave Rodney (MLA, Calgary-Lougheed):** Mr. Speaker, it's with great pride that I rise today to echo some of the comments of the fine hon. Member for St. Albert and add perhaps slightly different perspectives as well. I'd like to recognize all the great people associated with education in our fair province, from kindergarten to grade 12. 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.

Mr. Speaker, their parents' efforts are inspiring as well. 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.

Mr. Speaker, many of my aunts and uncles were educators, and my mother taught me a bounty of lessons in my youth, that's for sure. 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. I trust that our hon. members will join me as they congratulate the people in their local areas for the incredible things they've done in education.



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