

Member's Statement

May 17, 2005

World No Tobacco Day

Dave Rodney (MLA, Calgary-Lougheed): Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission I am pleased to inform the hon. members that AADAC will be hosting a provincial celebration to mark World No Tobacco Day, and that's on May 30 at the Coast Terrace Inn in Edmonton.

It's a very significant date, Mr. Speaker. 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. As my colleagues may be aware, Mr. Speaker, 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, Mr. Speaker. 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.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your support of World No Tobacco Day.



Legislative
Assembly
of Alberta