

**BOLD IDEAS FOR A  
BETTER TOMORROW**



**2019 POLICY PLATFORM**

**ALBERTA  
LIBERAL**



**Alberta Liberal Leader – David Khan**

**FORWARD. TOGETHER.  
STANDING WITH YOU.  
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST.**

**Freedom of the Individual. Equality of Opportunity.  
Fairness to Future Generations.**

These are the core values of the Alberta Liberal Party. They will make life better for all Albertans. We will deliver prosperity and protect our environment. We will improve our economy and our public services. We will support vulnerable Albertans and encourage entrepreneurs. We make today better and still plan for tomorrow.

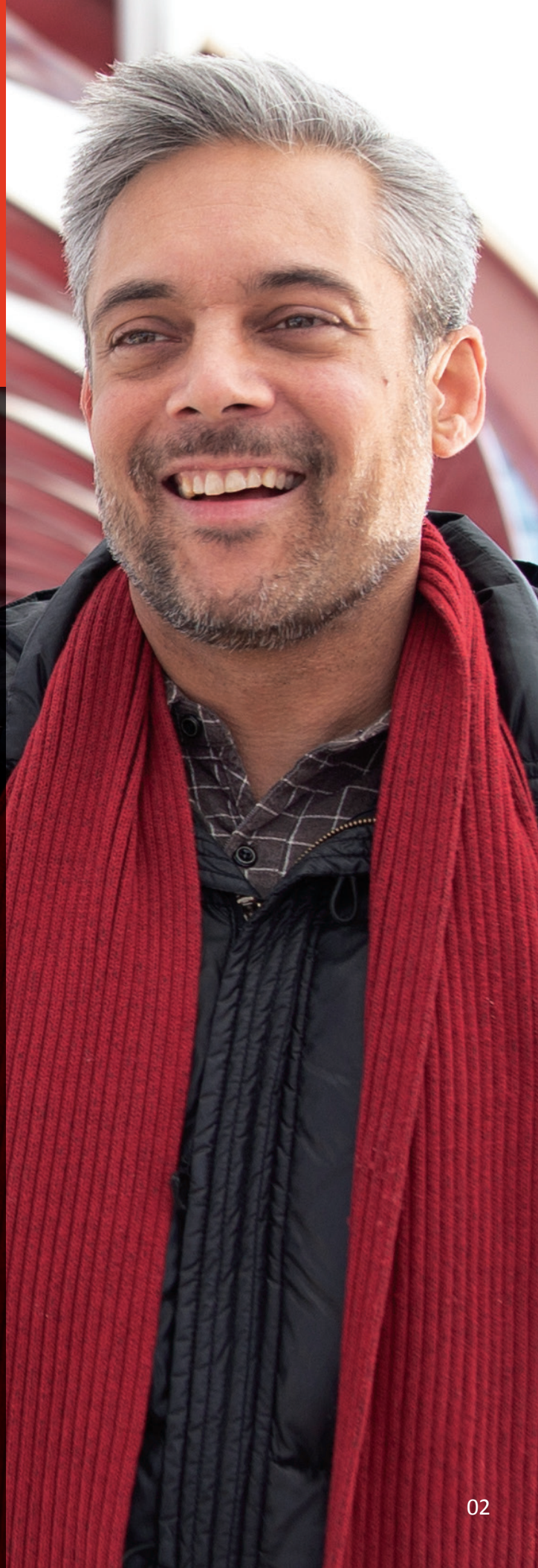
The Alberta Liberal platform is focused on solutions. Our pro-growth tax shift will create jobs and get Alberta's economy back on track. We will put more cash into the pockets of Albertans by eliminating income tax for two out of three Albertans. We will provide funding to help Albertans retrain and learn new skills to grow our economy. We will create an investment-friendly province to bring capital and companies to Alberta.

We have solutions to improve our public services. We will hire 2000 new teachers and invest in inclusive education. We will prioritize sustainable and preventative healthcare to improve outcomes and drive down long-term costs.

We will safeguard our precious air, water and land. We are committed to battling climate change. We will make polluters pay. We will not tolerate industry damaging our future and our children's future.

Our platform will create a tolerant, inclusive and free Alberta. We will stand with the LGBTQ2S+ community. We will give dignity and freedom to people trapped in poverty. They will get a hand up, not a hand out. Our policies will protect human rights at all costs. We will boost equality of opportunity for all Albertans.

**As Alberta Liberal Party Leader, I am looking forward.  
Join me. We will move Alberta Forward. Together.**



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# FINANCE

**Alberta's fiscal situation is unsustainable. Years of relying on volatile resource revenue have left us in a crunch after the oil crash. We're on track for over \$100 billion in debt within four years.**

The Alberta Liberals have a plan to restructure our tax system. We will get off the royalty roller coaster, address revenue issues and incentivize economic growth.

**INCOME TAX TO HST: We will eliminate most Albertans' income tax and continue to support public services with a sustainable, pro-growth HST.**

Not all taxes are created equal. Some forms of taxation have a greater negative impact on the economy. A Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) is better for job creation, investment and wage growth, yet Alberta continues to overuse harmful income taxes. It's time to tax consumption, not productivity.

The Alberta Liberal plan will see a revenue-neutral shift to an HST. We will eliminate most Albertans' income taxes while introducing an HST. Albertans will not pay more taxes, but the way we pay tax will change in a way that creates economic growth and reduces revenue volatility.

## **Highlights of the plan include:**

- No income tax for two-thirds of Albertans.
- Lower income tax for all Albertans. Rebates for low-income Albertans.
- Up to \$1 billion in new revenue from out-of-province visitors and tourists.
- Albertans won't pay more.
- A 2% corporate tax cut to create jobs.
- A new Hospital and Schools Tax (HST) to protect public services.
- Greater tax stability to get off the resource revenue roller-coaster.

## **Details:**

- Lower Income Tax - \$57,250 per person in Tax Exempt Income for every Albertan (\$114,500 for couples)
- Bring in an HST - An 8% HST to provide stable funding for Health and Education
- 2% Corporate Tax Cut to boost and diversify the economy and create jobs.



# FINANCE (CONT'D)

## **EFFICIENT TAX COLLECTION**

We support entering into a corporate tax collection agreement with the Canada Revenue Agency to improve tax collection rates and reduce unnecessary duplication. This will cut down on bureaucracy and save Albertans money.

## **PRESERVING THE HERITAGE FUND**

The Heritage Fund is our legacy for future Albertans but has been treated like a slush fund for politicians. Liberals support changing the rules so that the Heritage Fund's investment income will be retained in the fund and not simply diverted to general revenues after inflation-proofing.

## **REDUCING CORPORATE WELFARE**

Despite its reputation of being a free enterprise, open market jurisdiction, Alberta spends the most of all Canadian provinces on business subsidies. Alberta Liberals will establish an experienced, independent panel to assess the value of all existing business subsidy programs and make recommendations on how to reform our system.

A Liberal Government will stop playing venture capitalist. Instead, we will aim to reinvest \$500 million in corporate welfare back into our public services.

We will create a public database of all tax expenditures and corporate subsidies in Alberta so Albertans know the full cost of all government subsidies.

## **VALUE-FOR-MONEY AUDITS**

Albertans' hard earned tax-dollars must be spent wisely. An Alberta Liberal Government will conduct extensive value-for-money audits of Government spending. We'll find the efficiencies and redundancies in Government and restructure our spending to make sure Albertans are getting full value for their tax dollars.

## **BALANCING THE BUDGET**

Our plan will see \$1.87 billion in new annual spending in Alberta. Additionally, there will be \$1.4 billion in additional tax cuts and low-income rebates from our promise to make the carbon tax revenue-neutral. This totals to a net \$3.27 billion increase the deficit.

This deficit will be offset by four factors: \$1.6 billion in natural revenue increases projected for the next fiscal year; \$500 million reduction in corporate welfare; a projected \$400 million in savings from our Value for Money Audits; and \$1 billion in new sales tax revenue from out-of-province visitors. These four factors will total \$3.5 billion resulting in a net decrease of the deficit of \$230 million in the first year.

Over time our plan will reduce long-term costs for public services and grow Alberta's economy further reducing the deficit while improving services, not slashing them. This is a budget strategy rooted in sustainability.

# **JOBS AND THE ECONOMY**

**Oil and gas will be critical to Alberta's economic future for generations. We need to make sure our industry can compete for investment and get full market value for our product. We need to make sure we get the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion and other pipeline projects built.**

Yet, we can't rely on oil and gas alone. The world is changing and we need to change with it. Alberta needs to grow other sectors like technology, agriculture, and our film industries. The best way to grow these industries is to invest in education and training to ensure Alberta has a highly-qualified and flexible workforce.

**Our economic strategy is based on three foundational principles:**

- Improving market access
- Creating an investment-friendly climate
- Creating a World-Class Workforce

## **PIPELINE ACCESS**

We need access to new markets. The price differential we're seeing on our oil is hurting our economy and is hurting Albertans.

Alberta Liberals will fight to make sure the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion is responsibly built. We will also work constructively on building a Canada-wide coalition dedicated to reviving the Energy East Pipeline and displacing foreign oil imports in eastern Canada. We will encourage First Nations and Indigenous economic participation in/ownership of resource development projects, to share in the prosperity.

## **TEARING DOWN INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE BARRIERS**

An Alberta Liberal Government would put a renewed emphasis on interprovincial trade. It is currently easier to trade with many countries than it is to trade within our own. We will work to break down interprovincial trade barriers to grow the economy and reduce prices for consumers.

We will repair damaged relationships with other provinces and build consensus around national infrastructure projects like pipelines.

# **JOBS AND THE ECONOMY** (CONT'D)

## **TAX REFORM**

Not all taxes are created equal. Economists have shown that by shifting how we tax from income taxes to a sales tax we can grow Alberta's economy without losing the revenue vitally needed for our public services OR increasing taxes Albertans pay. The Alberta Liberal fiscal plan will achieve this goal.

It has been hailed by top economists as "the most pro-growth idea of the campaign."

**FISCAL PLAN:**

**“It's the most pro-growth idea of the campaign yet.”**

- Trevor Tombe · for CBC News  
*Trevor Tombe is one of Alberta's top economists*

Article: “Tombe: Neither the NDP nor the UCP offer the detailed fiscal plans Alberta needs”, Trevor Tombe, for CBC.ca/news, April 1, 2019

**ALBERTA LIBERAL**

The graphic is a red rectangle with a white curved line on the right side. It contains the text 'FISCAL PLAN:' in white, a quote in white and green, attribution text in white, a source article reference in white, and the 'ALBERTA LIBERAL' logo in white. There are also two stylized upward-pointing arrows, one grey and one green, behind the text.

## **SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

We will exempt any new small businesses from paying small business corporate income tax for the first three taxation years after incorporation.

Small businesses inject over \$100 billion into our economy every year. We need to support them. The first few years of a small business are the hardest. That is why we want to focus on supporting them during this time, helping them get off the ground, become profitable, and employ more Albertans.

## **REVERSE NEW STATUTORY HOLIDAY PAY RULES**

The new rules brought in by the NDP Government are unfair, overly restrictive and punishing to both workers and employers. We will reverse these changes.

# **JOBS AND THE ECONOMY** (CONT'D)

## **WORLD-CLASS WORKFORCE**

Alberta Liberals believe in putting people first. Where other parties want to pursue giveaways to industry and pick economic winners and losers, we want to invest in you.

We will launch the Back to Work Grant Program. This program will provide \$80 million annually in grants to out-of-work Albertans who want to pursue job training and post-secondary studies. This fund will provide up to 32,000 out-of-work Albertans up to \$2,500 to help them train for new job opportunities.

Any Albertan who has been out of work or underemployed in their chosen field for three or more months and is pursuing post-secondary studies or new job training can apply. We will prioritize applicants based on their period of unemployment or underemployment and based on where there are skilled labour shortages in Alberta.

Alberta Liberals will also expand the number of new post-secondary spaces to train the next generation of technology workers, increasing the number of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates in Alberta by 25% within the next five years.

## **TIMELY PAYMENT FOR ALBERTA BUSINESSES**

Too many debtors, often large companies, defer payments for months at a time to small and medium-sized businesses. These late payments hurt businesses' cash flows, making it more difficult for them to pay employees and keep their operation afloat.

We will amend the Judgment Interest Act to increase the penalties for late payments to creditors. Harsher penalties will make sure businesses can't get away without paying on time.

## **REDUCING RED TAPE**

We will streamline the corporate registry process and cut the cost of incorporation in half by moving to an online model to reduce overhead. An Alberta Liberal Government will also commit more generally to reducing red tape and unnecessary regulation, but not at the expense of environmental, safety or other important standards.

## **SUPPORTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

We will work with economists to ensure an Alberta Liberal Government's economic and fiscal policies support women entrepreneurs, as part of our Gender-Based Analysis Plus ("GBA+") of our public policy.



# EDUCATION

**Education enriches lives and builds strong economies. Our children deserve an ambitious investment in education. The NDP have invested in schools, while cutting operational spending and not supporting true inclusive education.**

The result? Alberta still isn't anywhere near meeting its class-size targets, there is a lack of mental health support for students, special needs students are being left behind and school fees are still punishing low-income families.

We need more than just new schools. We need more teachers and educational assistants, more counsellors and an elimination of school fees.

## **SMALLER CLASS SIZES**

Alberta Liberals will put an end to overcrowded classrooms by implementing flexible classroom size caps and hiring more teachers.

Reducing classroom sizes directly improves the academic performance of students. Yet for almost 20 years successive Governments have failed to meet Alberta's class-size guidelines. Some math classes have upwards of 45 students in them and there are Gym classes with 60 students.

According to Alberta's Auditor General the money that has been spent on reducing class-sizes has been poorly tracked and failed to create results.

### **It's time for change. The Alberta Liberal Plan will:**

- Introduce class-size caps that make it mandatory for the Government and school boards to keep class sizes small.
- Hire as many teachers as needed to meet the class-size requirements.
- Phase in the caps over time, focusing on grades K-3 first, where class size is most strongly tied to performance.
- Work with school boards and educators to make sure class-size caps make sense locally.
- Ensure money allocated for reducing class sizes goes towards that goal.
- Fund enrollment growth, the curriculum review and infrastructure needs.

# EDUCATION (CONT'D)

## TRUE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

We'll invest in more supports for students with extra needs by increasing funding by 50%. We understand the need for more teaching assistants, more training and more professionals with specialized qualifications. We also need to fund cognitive testing and Individualized Education Plans.

We'll ensure funding for special needs students follows the student it is intended for, including for those students who are homeschooled due to difficulties they've encountered in the public school system.

We'll also immediately ban the use of seclusion rooms and mandate closer monitoring of all funding directed towards inclusive education.

## EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH

Alberta Liberals will tackle youth mental health issues through a significant increase in funding for mental health services in our schools. The funding will be part of our \$600 million investment in Mental Health.

Seventy percent of adults with mental illness had recognizable signs in childhood that were inadequately assessed and treated. Addressing mental health issues starts with helping our youth. Doing so not only makes the lives of children better, but reduces the long-term health costs associated with unaddressed mental health problems.

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Alberta Liberals will create a leading-edge Healthy Lifestyle Program that includes banning junk food from schools and fully-funding comprehensive healthy lifestyle training. The formative years of a student's life are the perfect time to teach them how to live a healthy lifestyle.

## CURRICULUM:

The current curriculum review isn't perfect but it has made good progress. It would be a waste of taxpayer dollars to throw it out.

**We support the curriculum changes but are calling for further improvements including:**

- Teaching K-12 students about emotional and mental wellness.
- Expanding financial literacy education.
- Updating age-respectful early education on LGBTQ2S+ issues.

# EDUCATION (CONT'D)

## ELIMINATING SCHOOL FEES

We will phase out school fees for all public schools, including Charter Schools. Nothing is more important to education than equality of opportunity, but school fees disadvantage low-income families. They will cease to exist under an Alberta Liberal Government.

## FAIRNESS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are part of the public system and provide valuable, specialized programs, but this NDP government has treated them and their students like second-class citizens. An Alberta Liberal government will eliminate school and bussing fees for Charter school students, and ensure Charter school infrastructure is funded in an equal and fair way.

| EDUCATION POLICIES   |  |
|--|--|
| ALBERTA LIBERALS   | vs. NDP  |
| Commitment to hire <b>2000+ new teachers</b> as requested by the Alberta Teachers' Association | Will only hire <b>600 new teachers</b>                           |
| <b>50% funding increase</b> for Inclusive Education  | <b>No Mention</b> of Inclusive Education in the Platform         |
| Commitment to <b>introduce class size caps.</b>  | <b>No policy</b> to address overcrowded classes.                 |
| Commitment to <b>increase Mental Health Supports.</b>  | <b>No new commitments</b> for mental health supports in schools. |
| ALBERTA LIBERAL  |  |

# ENERGY AND PIPELINES

**Alberta's energy industry is the heart of our economy. We need to support it, not just for ourselves but for our environment. We need to make sure we're creating the most ethical and environmentally friendly oil possible so the world doesn't turn to dirtier energy sources like coal. Balancing environment and economy won't be easy, but we're up to the task.**

## **GETTING THE TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE EXPANSION BUILT**

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project is the safest way to get our oil to new markets and get a better price for it. We must diversify our customer base, and twinning and upgrading an existing pipeline is the most responsible way to do it. However, the critical National Energy Board environment review and Indigenous consultation and accommodation processes were botched by successive federal governments, and led to the Federal Court of Appeal striking down the approval on constitutional grounds.

As a Indigenous rights and constitutional law lawyer, David Khan understands how Canada's Constitution works and the right way to effectively consult and accommodate First Nations' concerns. First Nations must be properly consulted at the highest levels and their concerns meaningfully accommodated.

The project will also not be built by attacking Ottawa, banning BC wine, threatening to shut off oil exports, or firing up a "War Room" to battle the Feds. This will only hurt our own industry and province.

However, we cannot trust the federal government to get this right. Alberta Liberals will demand an interim report that details the federal government's efforts to comply with the Federal Court of Appeal's decision and the status of the consultation process with affected First Nations in Alberta and British Columbia.

## **AMENDING AND IMPROVING BILL C-69**

Bill C-69 is deeply flawed and must be amended. The world has changed; today's international investors demand not only regulatory certainty, but also socially-responsible investing. We will seize the opportunity for Alberta to turn the tables and renew investment in our industry.



# ENERGY AND PIPELINES (CONT'D)

**Alberta Liberals will join with Alberta's energy industry to demand specific amendments to this bill that balance economic, social and environmental concerns, including:**

- Removing project approval powers from the purview of the federal Environment Minister and depoliticizing approvals;
- Modernizing and improving, not replacing, the National Energy Board, and retaining its well-established, extensively court-reviewed process and extensive jurisprudence;
- Including positive aspects of national and regional growth, prosperity and competitiveness as public interest factors;
- Embracing opportunities for Indigenous economic reconciliation;
- Increasing certainty around timeframes and clock stoppages;
- Introducing innovative approaches to minimize timelines; and
- Establishing clear policy in the areas of climate change and Indigenous rights.

## **RE-IGNITING THE ENERGY EAST PIPELINE PROJECT**

Canada needs greater energy independence and Alberta needs access to markets. A pipeline east just makes sense. We need to reignite the Energy East pipeline project and replace oil imports in eastern Canada with more ethical and environmentally-responsible made-in-Alberta oil. We demand the federal government show national leadership and restart this important national infrastructure project. It's a Win-Win-Win.

## **FIXING CANADA'S EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS FORMULA**

Canada's equalization formula, created by Jason Kenney's Government, is unfair to energy-producing provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan, but a "referendum" based on threatening separation will not give us the power to demand changes or amend Canada's Constitution.

An Alberta Liberal government will demand the current formula be amended to treat provinces' hydro revenue the same way Alberta's oil and gas royalties are treated. If our demands are not met, we will establish an Alberta Crown corporation, the Alberta Energy Management Corporation, that will collect energy royalties and remove them from the current equalization formula calculations.

We will also demand an improvement to the mechanism that provides financial help to provinces in time of economic need, whether they are usually "have" or "have not" provinces.

# ENERGY AND PIPELINES (CONT'D)

## ENDING GOVERNMENT BOONDOGGLES

We will put an end to government boondoggles and favour of a free-market approach. Alberta has wasted billions over the years on interventionist boondoggles.

We will establish an independent panel of experts to review and make recommendations on any proposed future taxpayer-financed, value-added investment in the energy sector.

We will cancel the NDP's costly and risky oil-by-railcar shipping plan.

## AMALGAMATING POWER MARKET ENTITIES

There are six government agencies and committees involved in the power market, including the Alberta Electric System Operator, Alberta Utilities Commission, Utilities Consumer Advocate, Market Surveillance Administrator, Balancing Pool and Transmission Facility Cost Management Committee.

These agencies cost over \$175 million annually. Experts believe there is a significant overlap and redundancy in their roles, further exacerbated by a capacity market. We will amalgamate these entities to save consumers tens of millions of dollars a year.

## GROWING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Green initiatives like renewable energy represent an economic opportunity for Alberta. Alberta Liberals will create the business and regulatory environment to allow green initiatives like renewable energy to grow and thrive. We will invest in the research that helps make these projects more economical.

We will explore the feasibility of more geothermal energy and cogeneration plants that convert excess energy into usable power.

# HEALTHCARE

**Alberta Liberals believe in public healthcare for all. We will provide affordable timely access for all Albertans and fund neglected areas like mental health and addictions.**

The best way to support our public system is to make it more sustainable. Currently, Alberta pays the most per capita for healthcare. With the number of seniors in Alberta on track to double by 2040, it is more important than ever to make our healthcare system more affordable with smart investments in areas like preventative care.

Our strategy will drive down long-term costs, improve outcomes and build a stronger healthcare system for future generations.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

Twenty percent of Albertans will be affected by mental illness in their life, yet Alberta only spends 6% of its health budget on Mental Health. This is only two-thirds of what expert opinion, including the Canada Mental Health Commission, recommend.

We will close this funding gap. Our plan will see spending on mental health and addictions increase by \$600 million annually over the next four years. We will provide \$150 million in new annual funding immediately. We will gradually redirect \$450 million in existing funding over the next four years. This will expand services, drive down long-term healthcare costs and save lives.

**We will not just expand access to programs. We will transform the way we approach mental health in Alberta:**

- Harmonizing goals and roles to develop an effective and integrated system.
- Creating a person-centred care system.
- Putting a renewed focus on public education and prevention.
- Increasing the role primary care providers play in mental healthcare.
- Combating stigma to address the 60% of people with mental health problems who never seek help.
- Creating unique services tailored to the needs of people from marginalized groups.

## **AHS FACILITIES PLANNING**

An Alberta Liberal government will better plan Alberta Health Services building locations. The key is an effective diversion strategy. Facilities, like safe consumption facilities and hospital facilities, should be distributed around cities and regions, rather than concentrated in one place.

# HEALTHCARE (CONT'D)

## SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE

The Alberta Liberals will reduce the cost of our healthcare system by spending smartly in the areas that drive down long-term costs.

It's less costly to keep people healthy than it is to treat them when they're sick, and continuing care spaces are less expensive than the acute care spaces patients often end up in. That is why we will invest in continuing and preventative care.

### Our plan will:

- Create 2,200 new long-term care spaces.
- Work with non-profit and faith based providers to deliver long-term care spaces at half the cost.
- Invest \$150 million into home care and assisted living.
- Invest \$100 million into preventative care.
- Create a Preventative Care task force to explore best practices in fields like nutrition, health education, screening, prevention and team-based community care.
- Find savings by cutting the number of middle managers at Alberta Health Services and conduct extensive value-for-money audits.

## EMS

Alberta Liberals are committed to implementing best practices from across the globe to implement a 15-minute patient transfer time from ambulance to emergency room.

### Our strategy includes:

- Hiring intermediate ER health care providers.
- Increasing the number of community paramedics.
- Improving EMS-ER handover efficiency with the use of advanced technology and streamlined handover procedures.
- Rigorously managing patient discharge.
- Launching a public campaign to raise awareness of proper ER use.
- Reducing access block with increased community and continuing care.
- Ending City of Calgary dispatch of ambulances: having AHS take over, as they do across the rest of the province.



# HEALTHCARE (CONT'D)

## OPIOID CRISIS

Two Albertans die each day to opioid overdoses. Much more can—and must—be done to curb Alberta's opioid crisis.

### We will:

- Declare a the Opioid Crisis a Public Health Emergency.
- Fund more treatment beds.
- Increase the number of supervised injection sites.
- Make the addiction treatment medication suboxone free.
- Make addictions counselling free to those who need it.

## DRUG DECRIMINALIZATION

People suffering from drug addiction and abuse aren't criminals, they're sick. Punitive action worsens the stigma around addiction and makes it harder for people to seek help. Addicts need help, not handcuffs. We support following the lead of Portugal and decriminalizing the possession of small quantities of drugs in order to better combat addiction. We will redirect savings from the justice system into addictions treatment.

## AFFORDABLE DENTAL CARE

A lack of access to dental care isn't just about cosmetics or even comfort, and can result in serious health implications such as infections and even death. We will work towards universal dental care with our partners in confederation.

### We can make dental care more affordable in the interim by:

- Providing \$50 million for expanding the availability and reach of affordable, community-based dental care.
- Pressing the Alberta Dental Association and College to allow dentists greater freedom to advertise their services and lift restrictions on dentists being able to offer promotions or special pricing for groups such as seniors or children.
- Making the Dental Fee Guideline prices mandatory for essential services.

# HEALTHCARE (CONT'D)

## PHARMACARE

The Alberta Liberals will work the federal government and our partners in confederation on the implementation of a national pharmacare plan that provides access to affordable drugs for all Albertans.

## INCENTIVISING HEALTHY PATIENTS

Currently, family doctors are paid based on the number of examinations or procedures they conduct or tests they order and review (“fee-for-service”). This can mean unnecessary procedures or tests can be ordered. Alberta Liberals will examine moving to a “primary care clinic” model that is being implemented in British Columbia, where doctors and family medicine clinics are paid based on how healthy their patients are, and are therefore incentivised to hire nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, nutritionists, kinesiologists, and physiotherapists. This model promotes preventative medicine and prevention screening, rather just treating crises.

# SENIORS

**Our seniors have built our province. They've helped create the prosperity we enjoy today. It is imperative we take care of them. We also need to plan for the fact that the number of seniors in our province will double in the next 20 years. We have to be prepared to provide top quality services even with the extra demand on services this will create.**

## **CONTINUING CARE**

The Alberta Liberal Health Care platform includes a commitment for 2,200 more long-term care spaces and \$150 million in funding over four years for homecare and assisted living.

We value seniors and know how critical is to create new continuing care spaces to meet their needs.

## **DEDICATED SENIORS MINISTER**

The Alberta Liberals will create a dedicated Ministry for Seniors Services. As our population ages, our healthcare system and social services will be facing unprecedented challenges.

In order to address the upcoming demographic bomb, baby boomers aging, we must have a Minister dedicated full-time to both the seniors issues of today and planning for the challenges of tomorrow.

## **KEEPING SENIORS TOGETHER**

Alberta Liberals support keeping elderly spouses together. Too many couples are forced to live apart as their care needs diverge. We will examine strategies to keep seniors living together including allowing partners to live together in long term care facilities.

## **SAVING SENIORS MONEY**

We will discontinue the Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program and reinstate the Seniors School Property Tax Assistance Program which will save seniors money.

## **SUPPORTING LGBTQ SENIORS**

Provisions for same-sex couples in nursing homes and long-term care should be made to help these individuals enjoy the same rights and privileges as opposite-sex partners, and feel comfortable in their homes.

# ENVIRONMENT

**Environmental protection is critical to protecting our way of life. It allows us to breathe clean air, drink clean water and grow healthy food, while protecting wildlife and ecosystems. We must protect the Earth for Albertans today and for future generations.**

The Alberta Liberals are serious about environmental protection. Alberta Liberals are not afraid to say it: **We are the most environmentally-committed party in Alberta.** We will protect our local environments and play a leadership role in the fight against climate change.

**Our Environmental Plan is focused on three key areas:**

- Combating Climate Change
- Taking Care of Nature
- Living Sustainably.

## **COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE**

We have 12 years to prevent irreversible climate change that will harm every aspect of life and prosperity in Alberta. A modern climate change strategy has to be a two-pronged approach: mitigation and adaptation. We need to work to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. However, climate change is already a reality. We need to prepare for what that means for us and nature.

## **MITIGATION**

### **REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON TAX**

We must all fight climate change. It is one of the most important issues of our time. We must all change our behaviour. It is not just a responsibility for heavy emitters and our oil and gas industry. Every single ton of carbon we emit into the atmosphere carries a cost to society and the economy.

Alberta Liberals will make the carbon tax revenue-neutral. Economists agree that market-based approaches are the most cost-effective tool available to governments to address greenhouse gas emissions. It strikes a balance between protecting our environment and protecting our economy. A carbon tax helps reflect the true cost greenhouse gas emissions have on our economy, society, and environment.



# ENVIRONMENT (CONT'D)

We will adopt enhanced rebates for low-income Albertans. We will also lower income taxes. The amount will be equal to the carbon tax **Albertans pay. All carbon tax revenue will be returned to consumers and businesses.** Our revenue-neutral carbon tax is efficient, equitable and protects the environment. **We will not use the revenue as a “re-election slush fund” as the NDP have done.**

We will fully inform all Albertans on the progress being made in reducing carbon emissions.

## **VOLUNTARY VEHICLE RETIREMENT PROGRAM**

We will introduce a program that provides incentives to encourage Albertans to replace higher-polluting vehicles with cleaner forms of transportation.

## **NATIONAL CLEAN FUEL STANDARD**

We will call for the implementation of a national Clean Fuel Standard by examining the feasibility of an Electric and Hydrogen Vehicle Incentive Program and an Electric Vehicle Charging Incentive Program.

## **GROWING RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Green initiatives like renewable energy are an economic opportunity for Alberta. Alberta Liberals will create the business and regulatory environment to allow green initiatives like renewable energy to grow and thrive. We will invest in research that helps make these projects more economical. We will explore the feasibility of using more geothermal energy.

## **ADAPTATION**

### **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

We will create wildlife corridors to allow for the safe movement of animals, maintaining ecological integrity and increasing the viability of species at risk. This will be more necessary as climate change forces species to migrate.

### **URBAN PLANNING**

Planting trees in urban areas not only improves air quality and absorbs carbon dioxide, but will also help keep communities cool by mitigating the heat-island effect in cities as our planet warms. We will explore other opportunities to make our towns and cities more resilient in the face of climate change.

# ENVIRONMENT (CONT'D)

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RECOVERY

As the climate warms, we will experience more extreme weather disasters including wildfires, droughts, and floods. Alberta has a long history of critically underfunding Emergency Preparedness.

### An Alberta Liberal Government would:

- Budget much more realistically for disaster recovery instead of relying on massive supplementary appropriations. In 2018-19, the province budgeted a mere \$215,000 for disaster recovery. We would budget based on a rolling average of the previous five years.
- Require all Albertans who live or operate businesses in the floodway or flood fringe to have flood insurance, in the same manner that drivers are required to carry motor vehicle insurance.
- Pressure the federal government to create overland flood insurance to cover all Canadians, as we are the only G7 country without that government-backed coverage.
- Legislate a requirement for the government to immediately release all independent, post-incident emergency response assessments as soon as they are received.

## TAKING CARE OF NATURE

We share an ecosystem with all life and what affects one part of the ecosystem affects all of us. That is why it is critical to protect nature in Alberta.

### EXPANDING PROTECTED AREAS

Currently, around 15% of Alberta's natural environments are protected. We will expand protected areas to cover 30% of Alberta by 2030. Protected areas can come in many forms and management structures.

### PROTECTING WILDLIFE/SPECIES AT RISK

The Alberta Liberals will work with experts, conservation non-profits and other stakeholders to strengthen our conservation policies and preserve biodiversity. We will put an extra emphasis on protecting species at risk.

# ENVIRONMENT (CONT'D)

## **BUILDING WILDLIFE CROSSINGS**

We will build more wildlife crossings to combat habitat fragmentation, to move and prevent collisions between humans and animals.

## **FIGHTING CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

We must protect deer, elk and moose from this disease and adopt appropriate measures to control and eliminate the potential for it to be transmitted to livestock and/or human populations.

## **BANNING CLEAR CUTTING**

The Alberta Liberals will ban this practice outright while working with the forestry industry to implement best practices for developing a strong and vibrant sector focused on sustainability and profitability. The practice of clear-cutting is extremely damaging for ecosystems, animal life, flood protection, and tourism.

## **PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLIES**

We're committed to a stronger conservation strategy for our water supplies and the Rocky Mountains Eastern Slopes. Our ecosystems and our own well-being depend on it.

### **Our strategy will include:**

- Setting water quality and quantity as the highest priorities when considering any activities that affect headwaters.
- Funding all watershed councils to develop land use planning documents and developing land use plans based on their recommendations.
- Greater scrutiny of projects with large impacts on water usage.
- Implementing regulations and incentives to reduce the amount of freshwater used in fracking in favour of non-potable water.
- Implementing mandatory baseline groundwater testing and public reporting for oil and gas wells where hydraulic fracturing has been used.
- Opposing interbasin water transfers in all but the most extreme circumstances.
- Banning off-highway vehicles in areas where they compromise water supplies and habitat viability.

# ENVIRONMENT (CONT'D)

## ADDRESSING UNFUNDED RECLAMATION COSTS

The Alberta Energy Regulator (“AER”) has estimated the long-term reclamation costs of Alberta’s oil and gas industry to be as high as \$260 billion or more. Despite this, the Alberta Government has collected a mere \$1.6 billion from industry to deal with this clean-up liability. That’s about 0.6% of the total bill.

To protect taxpayers, our environment, and our sustainable domestic energy industry, the Alberta Liberals are proposing an “Oil Patch Cleanup Bond” to ensure polluters pay. Additionally, we will put time limits on “suspended wells” to ensure non-producing wells aren’t left unreclaimed for decades. We will set timelines for reclaiming well sites.

## LIVING SUSTAINABLY

Fairness to future generations means finding a way to live sustainably today. We can’t pass the burden of short-term decision-making onto our children and grandchildren.

## EXPANDING RECYCLING PROGRAMS

With China taking in less recycling product, Alberta needs a change to recycling policy, and fast! Alberta Liberals will expand electronics recycling to include small appliances and a host of other electronics that are currently ineligible for the Alberta Recycling Management Authority’s Province-Wide Electronics Recycling Program.

We will also implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on select products. EPR is a recycling strategy that adds all the environmental costs of a product to its market cost.

## REDUCING URBAN SPRAWL

We will work with municipalities to address urban sprawl and create more sustainable growth models.

## ELIMINATING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

We will eliminate the use of single-use plastics in Alberta by 2030. We will begin by incentivizing industries to scale down their use of these materials today.

## PROTECTING GRAZING LEASES

We will establish a new grazing lease protocol for the entire province based on the program established by the Municipal District of Taber.

## REGULATING GRAVEL EXTRACTION

We will strengthen provincial oversight of gravel extraction.



# POVERTY REDUCTION

**Alberta Liberals are committed to making sure no one falls through the cracks. A compassionate society takes care of their vulnerable, creates opportunity for all and strives to free all citizens from poverty.**

## **SUPPORT FOR A BASIC INCOME**

The Alberta Liberals support the creation of a Basic Income. This is the future of social assistance programs. Rather than a sprawling bureaucratic system that leaves many Albertans behind, a basic income promises every Albertan security and does so in a cost-efficient and flexible manner.

As a policy, it has the potential to change our society for the better and help us adapt to a changing world where jobs are threatened by automation and globalization. But any policy this bold is complex. We can't rush in. It will also require support from the federal government.

The Alberta Liberals will push for the eventual implementation of a Basic Income. We will lobby the federal government and our partners in confederation to achieve this goal and launch an exploratory committee to study how to best implement the policy.

We will launch a pilot program to study the implementation of a Basic Income policy in a region of Alberta.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The Alberta Liberals will double the funding for new affordable housing over the next five years. We would also put forward an additional \$50 million directed towards repairing and upgrading existing affordable housing facilities.

Addressing homelessness frees up health care beds and reduces mental illness, crime, addiction and violence. As a society, we should know by now that if we fail to invest in its eradication today, the result will be considerably higher social costs down the road. Despite this, past governments have failed to meet Alberta's ten-year goal to eliminate homelessness and passed on costs and responsibilities to municipalities.

## **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

We will maintain funding for Family and Community Support Services. We recognize the invaluable work FCSS does in the fields of advocacy and preventative social support programs.

# JUSTICE

**Alberta's justice system is overburdened and failing to deal with the root causes of crime. Criminals are being released without being convicted because mandatory timelines for trials cannot be met. We have a plan to fix this that focuses on creating an efficient and fair system that address the root causes of crime.**

## **CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Albertans deserve to feel safe. Alberta's economic hardships have come with a rise in crime rates. We want to tackle crime in a way that puts results first. That means addressing root causes and investing in crime prevention.

### **We will:**

- Hire more police officers devoted to establishing a visible presence in the community.
- Increase support for community watch groups.
- Create a \$100 refundable tax credit for home security systems.
- Tackle root causes of crime, including poverty, mental health and addictions issues in society.
- Invest another \$5 million into the regional victims of crime fund.

## **REDUCING COURT WAIT TIMES**

Justice delayed is justice denied. Court wait times in Alberta must be reduced. With the law now requiring absolute limits on wait times for trials, charges are being stayed and criminals are being released to the street without trial because of court delays.

### **Alberta Liberals will establish a task force to consider strategies for reducing wait times, including:**

- Standardizing case management procedures.
- Ending the practice of "file ownership" which impedes the efficient functioning of court administration.
- Encouraging alternative dispute resolution.
- Hiring more clerks, Masters and Provincial Court Judges.
- Pressuring the Federal Government to appoint more Queen's Bench and Appellate Justices by creating and funding more judicial positions.
- Increasing funding for court interpreters to reduce the number of trials delayed by language barriers.

# JUSTICE (CONT'D)

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND DRUG COURTS**

The Alberta Liberals are committed to expanding Mental Health and Drug Courts.

If you want to stop crime you have to tackle the root causes. That is why we need specialized mental health and addictions courts. By addressing the mental health and addictions issues underlying crimes, we can greatly reduce the rate of reoffense in Alberta and keep citizens safe.

## **END POLICE CARDING**

The practice of police carding often reinforces systemic racism in our society, and has not been demonstrated to reduce crime. We will end this practice.

## **INDEPENDENT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Currently, in our system, the Justice Minister is also the Attorney General. The Attorney General must ensure the rule of law is implemented fairly, without fear or favour, and without political interference. That is why we will separate the offices of the Attorney General and the Justice Minister.

## **IMPROVE CHILD CUSTODY ENFORCEMENT**

Alberta Liberals will establish an Access Program Coordinator position within the Justice and Solicitor General ministry to enforce child custody and access orders without the time and expense of having to apply to the Court for relief whenever one parent violates or ignores the terms of a court order.

## **END SQUATTERS RIGHTS**

Alberta Liberals will repeal section 74 of the Land Titles Act, which is an antiquated concept that continues to allow individuals to obtain title to and ownership of land through adverse possession (“squatting”).

## **ANTI-SLAPP LEGISLATION**

A “strategic lawsuit against public participation” (SLAPP) is a lawsuit that is intended to intimidate and put financial pressure on critics until they abandon their criticism or opposition.

Such lawsuits have been made illegal in many jurisdictions on the grounds that they impede freedom of speech. We will pass Anti-SLAPP Legislation in Alberta to put an end to this unethical practice.

## **FIX THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE**

Alberta's Medical Examiner's office is broken. It has faced multiple multi-million dollar lawsuits, high staff turnover, and reports of up to 11 month waits for autopsies which have affected our ability to address homicides and the opioid crisis.

Alberta Liberals will fix our broken Medical Examiner's office and get autopsy wait times down. We will expand access to Medical Examiner's services and hire a new medical examiner for Northern Alberta.

## **FAMILY LAW REFORM**

Dealing with Family Law can be an emotionally trying experience. When done wrong, the repercussions can reverberate through lives for years to come. It is critical that we ensure not only just outcomes but mitigate any negativity of the experience.

### **An Alberta Liberal Government will push for Family Law reforms including but not limited to:**

- Setting date of separation for date of division of property or considering a hybrid date model.
- Creating an informal family case management system to reduce the need for costly and emotionally-draining trials.

## **EXPUNGEMENT OF SMALL CANNABIS CONVICTIONS**

Minor drug possession charges weigh society down, they weigh people down. Especially now that we've legalized cannabis. We will pressure the federal government to pursue immediate and automatic expungement of convictions for the possession of small amounts of cannabis.

Expungement is a better alternative to pardons since pardons only forgive an offence instead of treating the charge as if it never happened.

# GENDER EQUALITY

**A just society provides equal opportunity to all citizens, letting them succeed or fail on their own merits. To work towards the promises of equal opportunity, we need to address the inequalities faced by women.**

## **PAY EQUITY LEGISLATION**

The Alberta Liberals will implement Pay Equity Legislation that requires companies to prove they are paying men and women equally and fine those who are not. Canada has the largest gender pay gap among OECD Nations, and Alberta has the largest gap in Canada. We're also the only province without pay equity legislation. Our pay equity legislation would address systemic workplace inequalities that "equal work for equal pay" laws do not.

## **SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S SHELTERS**

The Alberta Liberals will provide a boost to funding for women's shelters in Alberta to address the 10% increase in crisis calls to shelters over the last two years. Fifty-four percent of women who enter shelters face "severe" or "extreme" danger. We must do all we can to protect them.

## **GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS PLUS ("GBA+") BUDGETING**

Alberta Liberals would enact budgets that have a special focus on examining and assessing their impacts on women and minorities, to ensure policies, programs, initiatives and funding support the goal of equality of opportunity for all.

## **FREE BIRTH CONTROL**

Alberta Liberals will introduce free birth control for women. We know how important birth control is to a woman's health, freedom and happiness and we will ensure it is provided to all women. Access to birth control creates significant savings in healthcare, boosts the economy and improves health outcomes for women.

## **GENDER EQUALITY IN OUR LEGISLATURE**

Women have faced discrimination and barriers when serving as MLAs. Alberta Liberals will ensure there is support for female politicians and their childcare responsibilities, and ensure rules and procedures are updated to ensure women can participate as fully as men in our Government.

# GENDER EQUALITY (CONT'D)

## MANDATORY SEXUAL ASSAULT/HARASSMENT AND CONSENT TRAINING

Most police officers and judges care and want to do the right thing. However, there have been some glaring instances where some have shown they do not understand these issues or the law. Alberta Liberals will institute mandatory sexual assault/sexual harassment and sexual consent training for all police officers and judges.

## SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE

We want every parent to have the opportunity to participate in the workforce and be a parent.

Providing subsidized child care improves labour participation for women, injecting billions into our economy annually. When you invest in child care, you invest in women. When you invest in women, you invest in Alberta.

### The Alberta Liberal Child Care Plan will:

- Universally subsidize child care for all Albertans.
- Means test the system to make it cost-effective and ensure the Albertans who need it the most will pay the least. Families earning \$40,000 and under will pay \$0 a day, scaling up to \$45 a day for high-income families.
- Create an income-tested Refundable Child Care Tax Credit for low- and middle-income families who have a stay-at-home parent or pursue other child care options.
- Provide funding to create new child care spaces to address space shortages

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

We are committed to making sure all women have full access to abortion. We will make sure abortion procedures are more easily available in rural communities. We will also fund one cycle of in-vitro fertilisation treatment for women and families who have infertility issues and want to start a family.

## PORTABLE HOUSING BENEFITS

We will explore portable housing as a tool to help women fleeing domestic violence. Portable Housing Benefits provide direct financial assistance to women seeking a home while fleeing violence.

## TRANSGENDER SUPPORTS

We are committed to funding medical procedures for transgender Albertans. This includes eliminating gate-keeping and fully funding hormone treatments for trans women.



# HUMAN RIGHTS

**No party is more committed to human rights than the Alberta Liberal Party. We believe in the equality, autonomy and worth of every individual. We have led the charge on these issues in the past and we will continue to fight for the freedom and dignity of every human being.**

## **REVIEW OF THE ALBERTA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

The last comprehensive review of Alberta's *Human Rights Act* was over 22 years ago. It's time to modernize the legislation with a comprehensive review. We will expand the act to prevent discrimination on the grounds of:

- Pregnancy
- Social condition
- Indigenous heritage
- Political belief
- Language
- Addiction
- HIV-positive status
- Physical size or weight

## **STRONGER ENFORCEMENT OF THE ALBERTA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

We will guarantee non-discrimination in employment through financial and administrative support for those bringing complaints.

## **THE RIGHT TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING ("MAID")**

We will require all health facilities, including Covenant Health facilities, provide MAID services on site. Individuals have conscience rights, facilities do not. Public health facilities must provide this service to prevent undue suffering for MAID patients and respect their constitutional right to MAID.

## **COMBATTING RACISM**

We are committed to a safe and inclusive Alberta. We will work with Albertans from all backgrounds to fight against racism and hate groups. Diversity is our strength and we stand with our multicultural communities.

# HUMAN RIGHTS (CONT'D)

## INCLUSIVE LENS

We see inclusion as a universal human right. The aim of inclusion is to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender, age, disability, medical or other characteristic. It is about giving equal access and opportunities and eliminating discrimination, intolerance and barriers to full participation in society. It affects all aspects of public life.

Alberta Liberals will ensure policy decisions are made with an inclusive lens. We will engage with citizens, families and stakeholders on policy that affects their lives and defend and support inclusion and accessibility.

## LGBTQ2S+ HISTORY

We will update the Alberta Curriculum with age-appropriate content about the history of LGBTQ2S+ populations in Canada and the world, and their struggles to achieve equality.

## GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES (“GSAS”)

Alberta Liberals were the first party in Alberta to support GSAs and introduce GSA Legislation. We support mandatory GSAs in all schools where they are requested. We fundamentally oppose informing parents that their child has joined a GSA without their consent.

## BAN CONVERSION THERAPY

We will make sure this hateful and medically reckless practice is banned in Alberta. Instead of deferring a ban on this practice until after the election like the NDP have, we will act immediately, basing initial legislation on that in place in other provinces.



# PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**Persons with Disabilities must be given the same opportunities to fully participate in society that many of us take for granted. We must bridge the accessibility gap.**

## **ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF DISABILITY**

The Alberta Liberals will create an Associate Minister of Disability. They will be tasked with finding ways to make Alberta more inclusive and more accessible for Albertans with disabilities.

## **PROGRAM FUNDING**

We will commit more funding to help them accomplish this goal.

### **They will implement policy directives including:**

- Assisting persons with disabilities in finding gainful employment through partnership programs.
- Hiring more persons with disabilities as Government of Alberta employees.
- Expanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (“FASD”) public awareness education and support for Albertans living with FASD.
- Creating Post-Secondary Scholarships for persons with disabilities.

## **AISH**

The Alberta Liberals support indexing Alberta Income for the Severely Handicapped (“AISH”) to inflation. The NDP Government should have done this immediately upon being elected instead of waiting nearly four years and finally caving after political pressure overwhelmed them. Alberta Liberals will also increase the base AISH funding to compensate for the seven years of inflationary losses Albertans on AISH have suffered since the last AISH increase in 2012.

We will put an end to clawbacks on AISH. Albertans with disabilities often have their social assistance from federal programs clawed back. We explore options for putting an end to this practice or, if necessary, increase AISH payments to compensate.

# DEMOCRATIC REFORM

**Society works best when the Government works for all. Alberta's electoral system leaves over half the votes cast uncounted. Big money is circumventing our election finance rules. Marginalized groups are underrepresented. Accessing Government information has never been more difficult.**

Alberta Liberals have a plan to make sure every Albertan has a voice in the future of our province.

## **ELECTORAL REFORM**

The Alberta Liberals are 100% committed to implementing a Proportional Representation ("PR") voting system.

Our winner-take-all electoral system isn't fair. It leaves over half the votes cast uncounted, reduces the representation of marginalized groups, and disenfranchises voters.

### **The advantages of PR include:**

- Broadening the choices available to Albertans.
- Increasing voter turnout.
- Electing more women, LGBTQ2S+, and visible minorities, so that our Legislature reflects the diversity of our province.
- Ensuring a party doesn't get 100% of the power with 40% of the votes.
- Forcing parties with differing views to work together in the Legislature.

An Alberta Liberal Government will implement a Mixed Member Proportional ("MMPR") form of proportional representation. MMPR is working successfully in advanced democracies such as Germany and New Zealand.

MMPR has voters cast two votes on their ballot. They vote once for a local constituency candidate. They vote again on the same ballot directly for a political party. Votes for constituency candidates work similarly to our current system. The vote for political parties will elect representatives from a published list of party candidates.

# DEMOCRATIC REFORM (CONT'D)

Seat counts will more accurately reflect the percentage of political parties' popular vote under MMP. The Legislature will more accurately reflect the will of Alberta voters and maintain the local representation Albertans value.

The next two Alberta elections will be run pursuant to the MMP system. Before the third election, a referendum will be held so Albertans can choose between MMP and the original first-past-the-post ("FPTP") system. A sunset clause will ensure the electoral system automatically reverts to FPTP if Albertans don't vote to keep MMP in the referendum.

This will let Albertans choose between the two systems based on real-world experience rather than hypotheticals.

## PAC LEGISLATION

The Alberta Liberals will regulate Political Action Committees ("PACs") and put your democracy back in your hands. PACs are a growing problem. These American-style political groups are able to solicit unlimited union, corporate, out-of-province donations, with little or no transparency.

Only the Alberta Liberal Party has rejected this practice and only the Alberta Liberals can be trusted to fix the problem. In fact, we tabled a private member's bill to do just that, which the NDP Government killed before a vote using procedural tricks.

### Our plan for PACs includes:

- Banning corporate, union, out-of-province and foreign donations.
- Limiting PAC donations to \$4,000 per year for individuals.
- Creating a legal definition for PACs.
- Increasing PAC donation and expenditure transparency.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ("FOIP")

Access to information matters. It's crucial to holding Governments accountable. Yet, this NDP government has received a 'D' grade on access to information from News Media Canada. Alberta Liberals would aim for an 'A', with flat-fee FOIP requests, more resources for FOIP offices and creating transparency legislation for all private-public partnerships ("P3s").

# DEMOCRATIC REFORM (CONT'D)

## **REPRESENTATION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

We will add six new seats to the Alberta Legislature for Indigenous Peoples representation: four for First Nations, on a regional basis; and two for Métis Councils.

## **FIXED ELECTION DATES**

Rather than Alberta's current fixed election period, we will legislate a fixed election date so Albertans always know exactly when the next election will be held and Governments can't choose a date to their political advantage.

## **STRONGER, MORE INDEPENDENT ADVOCATES**

We will boost funding for the offices of the Health Advocate, the Mental Health Patient Advocate, the Disabilities Advocate, and the Seniors Advocate. We also support establishing a Legislature Budget Officer, modeled on the federal Parliamentary Budget Officer, to cut through the political spin and provide Albertans with unbiased, fact-based fiscal and budgetary analysis.

## **RESTRICTIONS ON GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING AND SPENDING DURING THE ELECTION AND WRIT PERIOD**

This NDP government, and previous Conservative governments have abused public dollars to campaign with our money, for their own political gain. An Alberta Liberal Government will strictly regulate government spending announcements and advertising in the months leading up to the election (the "election period") and during the election (the "writ period"), to stop government from abusing their power and our money.



# AGRICULTURE

**Agriculture is the industry that built Alberta. It gave us our start over a hundred years ago and it's just as important to our economy and our way of life today. Agriculture is a major contributor to our GDP and the Alberta Liberals are committed to helping the industry thrive.**

## **PROTECT OUR WATER SUPPLY**

We will use evidence-based, expert opinion to inform and guide water and irrigation policy in Alberta. A prosperous and sustainable agriculture industry requires we manage our water supply well. Issues around water quality and supply for agricultural uses are now of such critical importance that public policy decisions in this area can no longer afford to be motivated by politics.

## **SOIL HEALTH**

Liberals will work with farmers to promote soil health and regeneration, boosting organic matter and reducing the use of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides by encouraging more producers to use multi-species cover crops where feasible.

## **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

To protect Alberta's livestock and meat industry we must acknowledge the serious risks posed by chronic wasting disease, an infectious and incurable brain disease found in deer, elk and moose, akin to Mad Cow Disease. We will adopt appropriate measures to control and eliminate the potential for it to be transmitted to livestock and/or human populations. We're already losing overseas markets for our meat products by not seriously addressing this danger.

## **MARKET ACCESS**

Alberta Liberals will work to expand market access for the agriculture industry. We will not let the NDP's risky oil-by-railcar plan jeopardize rail access for the agriculture industry.

## **LABOUR SUPPORT**

The Alberta Liberals will help address shortages in the agriculture labour market by making immigration a high priority in labour programming and immigration policy in part through reforms to Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program ("AINP").

# TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

**Alberta Liberals are committed to safe, affordable and efficient transportation in our province. We understand the need to put focus on both rural and urban needs. We will build new infrastructure, maintain existing infrastructure and make travel safer and more affordable for all Albertans.**

## **SUPPORTING PUBLIC TRANSIT**

Alberta Liberals are committed to investing in public transit and infrastructure. We know how critical public transit is in fighting climate change and the lifestyle of many Albertans. It is especially important as a cheap alternative to driving for low-income Albertans.

We will support projects like the Calgary Green Line and the Edmonton West Valley LRT projects.

## **ALTERNATIVE TO GREYHOUND**

The Alberta Liberals will closely monitor how the market reacts to this situation and step in to address gaps in a way that minimizes government overreach while protecting the rural way of life.

Greyhound's demise in Western Canada left a gap in our transportation service, especially in rural areas. However, we shouldn't rush to fill it head first. Government intervention could be ineffective, inefficient or even make things worse.

## **WINTER TIRE ROAD SAFETY**

Winter tires make our roads safer and save lives. That is why we will require all insurance companies in Alberta to provide drivers a discount for buying and installing winter tires. This will make our roads safer while saving Albertans money.

## **MANDATORY SEAT BELTS ON BUSES**

Let's prevent future tragedies by making bus seat belts mandatory in Alberta. New studies have shown that seat belts on buses do save lives.

## **FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR HIGH-SPEED RAIL BETWEEN EDMONTON AND CALGARY**

Dream big but do your homework. A high-speed rail between Edmonton and Calgary has incredible potential to grow our economy, create jobs and improve our lives.

However, the feasibility of such a project isn't clear. We would commission an exhaustive, extensive and up-to-date study of options for building a high-speed rail link between Edmonton and Calgary.

## **SAFER TRUCKING ON OUR HIGHWAYS**

The Humboldt Bus tragedy devastated us. We need to make trucking safer on our highways. An Alberta Liberal government will institute more stringent regulations for truck drivers and trucking companies.

# MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

**Alberta Liberals support our municipal governments. We will work to give local decisions makers more autonomy and support.**

## **RECOGNIZING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS**

Local Governments matter. That's why the Alberta Liberals have an ambitious plan to give local municipalities more autonomy and power.

### **That includes:**

- Amending the Municipal Government Act to formally recognize municipalities and their councils as an order of government within their jurisdiction, and include new sections that spell out principles of municipal governance and municipal-provincial relations.
- Pressing for the formal recognition of municipalities and their councils as an order of government in Canada's Constitution Act, 1982, beyond them merely being the responsibility of the provinces.
- Granting Calgary and Edmonton new revenue generating powers, subject to limitations.

## **URBAN DRILLING VETO POWERS**

We will grant Alberta cities control over oil and gas drilling within their own municipal boundaries by allowing them to veto, approve or approve with conditions any drilling authorized by the Alberta Energy Regulator. This will give cities a greater ability to plan for growth and development.

## **RURAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

We will introduce a dedicated crisis response line and expanded mental health resources to specifically address the unique challenges of farm and rural life. Mental health is underfunded across the province, but this is particularly true for rural municipalities. We will ensure the mental health needs of rural Albertans are met.

## **RURAL INTERNET**

Alberta Liberals will work with the federal government to provide rural data utility internet services directly to rural homes and businesses using the electric grid. This will allow rural communities to participate in the booming information economy and diversify their workforce.

# POST-SECONDARY/ ADULT EDUCATION

**Our post-secondary education system is the gateway to our economic future. The Alberta Liberal forward-thinking strategy for post-secondary education will help Alberta compete for the high-paying jobs of tomorrow's economy. We will reverse the trend that has seen a 10,000-person decrease in technology and trade programs since 2015.**

We will also protect our existing programs and make post-secondary education more accessible to lower-income Albertans.

## **PROGRESSIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORTS**

The Alberta Liberals will make financial supports for post-secondary students more progressive. We will model our system on changes made federally and in Ontario to ensure the Albertans who need the most help receive the most financial assistance.

## **DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

We will work with universities to address the billion dollars in deferred maintenance currently faced by them.

## **ALBERTA UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS CAMPUS**

The Alberta Liberals will launch a committee to explore the creation of a campus for the Alberta University of the Arts. Currently, AUArts shares a campus with SAIT. We recognize the important role arts and culture plays in our society and our economy.

## **BOOSTING TRADE ENROLLMENT**

Alberta Liberals will work with industry to reverse the trend of shrinking trade enrollments. We will identify labour shortages—present and upcoming—and create education opportunities for both young Albertans and out-of-work Albertans looking for a new career.

## **GROW OUR STEM WORKFORCE**

Other jurisdictions are competing for new high-paying technology jobs with ambitious post-secondary education plans. If Alberta wants to compete, we have to do the same.

Alberta Liberals will expand the number of new post-secondary spaces to train the next generation of tech workers, increasing the number of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) graduates in Alberta by 25% within the next five years.

# POST-SECONDARY/ ADULT EDUCATION (CONT'D)

## **SUPPORT FOR STUDENT SERVICES**

Alberta Liberals support fair students fees which fund vital student services that enrich and improve campus life. We oppose making these fees voluntary.

## **SUPPORT STUDENT WORKERS THROUGH STEP**

We can improve the lives and training of student workers by transforming the Summer Temporary Employment Program (“STEP”) into a year-round program whereby employers are eligible to receive a \$7-per-hour wage subsidy to provide students with work experience in one of three four-month periods during the year.





# INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

**Alberta Liberals believe reconciliation with Indigenous peoples must be a sincere and conscious goal present in all aspects of government and society. We will work hard to build a relationship of respect with Indigenous peoples.**

## **REVISED EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

We will direct, in consultation with Indigenous people and organizations, revisions to the curriculum to accurately explain the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the injustices of the residential school system.

## **SCHOOL-BASED IMMERSION PROGRAMS**

We will provide funding for Indigenous language school immersion programs so more Indigenous Albertans can retain their language heritage.

## **REGIONAL INDIGENOUS CHILD PROTECTION OFFICES**

We will fund the start-up of new regional Indigenous child protection offices, to be organized by, gifted to and run by First Nations in Alberta. This bold strategy will help ensure Indigenous children are cared for by their own communities and organizations controlled by them, and stay connected to their communities and way of life.

## **INCORPORATE THE GLADUE PRINCIPLE FOR PROVINCIAL OFFENCES**

The Alberta Liberals will ensure the Gladue Principle applies to Provincial offences and violations of the law. This requires the court to take into account circumstances facing Aboriginal peoples. Where the crime is anything other than severe, the court should consider Aboriginal-based sentencing principles such as restorative justice.

## **ADDRESS RACISM IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

We will study and implement solutions to make our justice system fairer, including amending the Jury Act, RSA 2000, c J-3, to make juries more diverse and representative of the community.

## **FIRST NATION REPRESENTATION IN THE LEGISLATURE**

We will add six new seats to the Alberta Legislature for Indigenous Peoples representation: four for First Nations, and two for Métis Councils.

Indigenous peoples are grossly underrepresented in the Legislature and face unique challenges in our society. By creating more Indigenous representation in the Legislature, we better work towards reconciliation, and allow Indigenous governments and the provincial government to work more closely together.



# INDIGENOUS RELATIONS (CONT'D)

## ADDITIONAL INDIGENOUS-SPECIFIC POLICIES

### The Alberta Liberals will:

- Specifically commit to respect First Nations' Treaty rights.
- Negotiate resource-sharing agreements with First Nations in advance of negotiated Treaty land entitlement agreements.
- Increase supports for urban Indigenous youth.
- Implement mandatory training for all civil/public servants—in consultation with First Nations and Indigenous authorities.
- End the practice of “carding”—police randomly stopping Indigenous people and people of colour and demanding their I.D., without lawful probable grounds to do so.

# CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Most businesses act in good faith, looking to foster mutually-beneficial relationships with consumers. However, some businesses are predatory and attempt to take advantage of consumers. Our consumer protection laws need to stop these businesses from taking advantage of Albertans without putting undue burden on the vast majority of good-faith businesses.**

## **ENDING BILL CHARGES**

We would prohibit provincially-regulated businesses from charging monthly fees for paper bills and statements and lobby Ottawa to follow through on a previous commitment to do the same for federally-regulated businesses. Consumers are being ripped off by monthly fees for paper bills and statements.

## **SUPPORTING CONDOMINIUM DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

We will fast-track the creation of an online tribunal modeled on British Columbia's Civil Resolution Tribunal to resolve condo disputes and small claims matters. Dispute resolution options for condominium residents in Alberta are lacking. Matters that could be solved by a tribunal are often sent to the courts instead. This costs everyone involved more time and more money.

## **PROTECTING RENTERS**

Alberta Liberals will protect renters by amending the Residential Tenancies Act to require landlords to provide \$750 in relocation benefits to tenants displaced by a building disaster or structural failure.

## **COMPREHENSIVE LICENSING OF DAY HOMES AND DAY HOME OPERATORS**

Alberta Liberals will enact strong legislation to protect our children with high standards that will require criminal background checks, training, and mandatory inspections for day homes. Two children have died in Calgary alone in recent years in day homes. That's two children too many. This is absolutely unacceptable. Currently, there is no licensing or regulation of day homes.

## **FAIRNESS FOR MOBILE HOME OWNERS**

Mobile Home Owners deserve the same rights as everyone else. However, under current legislation there is a lack of clarity around responsibility and no clear dispute resolutions system.

As Government we will legislate, in consultation with mobile home owners, the creation of a dispute resolutions board, and create defined ministerial responsibility for this portfolio. We will work with municipalities to create clarity around mobile home legislation.

# LABOUR

**Alberta Liberals believe in fairness for workers. Albertans work hard and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect and to be adequately compensated. We will work hard to strike a balance between the needs of workers and businesses to ensure all Albertans prosper.**

## **BAN DOUBLE-BREASTING**

Double-Breasting is a practice that enables unionized employers to escape the obligations of their collective bargaining agreements and to operate non-union. We will amend the Labour code to end this practice.

## **SUPPORT STUDENT WORKERS THROUGH STEP**

We can improve the lives and training of student workers by transforming the Summer Temporary Employment Program (“STEP”) into a year-round program whereby employers are eligible to receive a \$7-per-hour wage subsidy to provide students with work experience in one of three four-month periods during the year.

## **REVERSE NEW “BANKED OVERTIME” RULES**

The NDP also recently changed the rules governing “banked overtime.” Previously, workers could bank up to 3 months’ worth of overtime and could use this to cover vacation or study periods. With the new rules, workers can now demand all overtime be paid out at overtime rates. This destroys the flexibility both employers and workers rely on, especially in the retail and service sectors.

## **CONSULT ON EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AND LABOUR LAWS**

The recent changes to Alberta’s labour laws were rushed and done without proper consultation. We would undertake a proper and thorough stakeholder consultation on the Employment Standards Code and the Labour Relations Code.

## **TIMELY PAYMENTS FOR WORKERS**

The Alberta Liberals support shortening the 10-day pay-delay period to five days. This will ensure employers pay employees the wages they’ve earned in a timely fashion.



# LABOUR (CONT'D)

## FARM WORKERS' RIGHTS

Alberta Liberals will uphold the recently-gained and hard-fought inclusion of waged, non-family employees of farms and ranches under Alberta's occupational health and safety and workers' compensation legislation.

## MINIMUM WAGE

Alberta Liberals will not roll back the \$15/hour minimum wage. We support the concept of a living wage and believe the minimum wage helps to achieve that goal.

## BAN "TIP SKIMMING"

We will ban the practice of "tip skimming" by restaurant management





# ARTS AND CULTURE

**We view arts and culture as a celebration of life that forms the basis of our strong standard of living, enriches the lives of all Albertans, and makes our province an attractive place to invest in. They're also an important contributor to the province's economy.**

The Alberta Liberals also recognize the significant challenges that many artists face when pursuing employment as an artist. The Alberta Liberals are committed to maintaining current funding for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

## **FILM & TV INDUSTRY TAX CREDITS**

The current grant-based system is too complex and is not retaining and attracting film & TV productions. Alberta Liberals will add tax credit system to the existing grant-based system and streamline applications.

Alberta's natural beauty, and its highly-trained workforce and facilities, make it a natural destination for filmmakers, yet our film industry's potential hasn't been met. It's time to change that.

## **STATUS OF THE ARTISTS LEGISLATION**

Alberta Liberals support Status of the Artists Legislation to formalize Alberta's commitment to the arts and artists and make clear we support the important role they fulfill in our society and our economy.

## **MONTH OF THE ARTIST**

The Alberta Liberals will proclaim an annual Month of the Artist in Alberta, and recognize the importance and value of this educational initiative in encouraging greater public awareness and recognition of artists and the arts.

## **ALBERTA UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS CAMPUS**

The Alberta Liberals would launch a committee to explore the creation of a campus for the Alberta University of the Arts. Currently, AUArts shares a campus with SAIT. We recognize the important role arts and culture plays in our society and our economy.

# NEW CANADIANS

**New Canadians are vital to Alberta. Immigrants help us unlock our economic potential and the diversity they create enriches the multicultural fabric of our nation. The Alberta Liberal plan will help new Canadians settle into their life as Albertans and unlock their economic potential.**

## **UPGRADING FOREIGN CREDENTIALS**

Alberta attracts some of the most talented and educated immigrants in the world. Yet too often these new Canadians are not working in their field of expertise. This wastes their potential and hurts our economy. That is why we the Alberta Liberals will work with professional organization and immigrants communities to make it easier for new Canadians to upgrade their foreign credentials to Alberta standards.

## **SETTLEMENT FUNDING**

The Alberta Liberals will provide an increase to settlement funding. Helping new Canadians settle in our province makes good economic sense. Settlement programs will help them integrate and become productive, tax-paying members of the community.

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

Language is often the most significant barrier for new Canadians. We will address this by increasing funding for ESL education and establishing a telephone service that allows new Canadians to speak to government agents with the help of a translator



# AGLC POLICY

## ENDING DISTRIBUTION MONOPOLIES

Currently Alberta Liquor Gaming and Cannabis (“AGLC”) has a monopoly over the distribution of cannabis. This has exacerbated a supply shortage that could cost Alberta 1,800 jobs and cost retail applicants \$13 million.

We will end the distribution monopoly and renew the issuing of Cannabis Licenses.

Likewise, we will end the AGLC liquor distribution monopoly. This archaic model is rooted in Prohibition from a hundred years ago. We live in 2019, not 1929.

## RELAXING LIQUOR LAWS

Most Albertans drink responsibly but there are overly restrictive regulations that treat Albertans like children, not adults. We think Albertans should be free to use liquor responsibly. We will roll back arbitrary restrictions.

### We will:

- Allow for liquor at festivals.
- Make it easier to acquire a liquor license for special events.
- Allow you to enjoy liquor in moderation at picnics in public parks.
- We will reduce restrictions on activities at events where liquor is served.

## BOOSTING BREWERIES

We will also lift restrictions on breweries to make them more competitive. We will allow them to sell their products directly to restaurants, bars and consumers.

