



CONSTITUENCY EVENTS

It's going to be a great winter in Edmonton-Strathcona yet again!
Please join us for some of these exciting events:

Ice On Whyte
Ice Carving Festival
Jan 13th - 23rd
Festival Park, 104st & 83rd Ave
www.iceonwhyte.ca

Mill Creek Adventure Walk
Feb 25th & 26th
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Mill Creek Ravine
www.winterlight.ca

Return of the Magic
Window Displays
Nov 9th - Jan 9th
Whyte Avenue (100 - 108 street)
www.oldstrathcona.ca

Jane's Walk
Community Empowerment Tour
May 9th
780 473 - 4182
www.oldstrathcona.ca

SUPPORTING THE ARTS COMMUNITY

In October I hosted Art from the Unknown. This yearly event provides free art gallery space to new and emerging artists who would not otherwise have the opportunity to show their work in a gallery setting. The weekend-long event included an opening night reception attended by 200+ people.

I would like to once again thank the over 30 visual and performing artists who participated. A special thanks also goes to the Paint Spot for their support.

It's never too early to apply for next year! Contact us at:

Main Floor, 10328-81 Ave
Edmonton, AB T6E 1X2
Edmonton.Strathcona@assembly.ab.ca
(780) 414 0702

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you are having problems with a provincial government agency, such as Alberta Works, AISH, WCB, or Student Finance, we may be able to help.

If you or a family member is celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, my office can arrange to have celebratory scrolls from me and other public officials mailed to you.

If you have documents that need to be signed by a commissioner of oaths, my office would be happy to provide these services for you. Please call for an appointment

Main floor, 10328-81 Ave
Edmonton, AB T6E 1X2
Phone: 780 414 0702

www.rachelnotley.ca



ART FROM THE UNKNOWN



www.rachelnotley.ca



EDMONTON STRATHCONA WINTER 2010

Rachel Notley

MLA

Season's Greetings!

It gives me great pleasure to be able to bring you my MLA Report for winter 2010. The last few months have been an exciting time for politics in Alberta. I am pleased to be able to share with you my activities in the legislature and in our constituency since my last report.

In addition to the extensive debate over the future of healthcare (see inside), I addressed a number of other issues of concern to Albertans. These included: speaking against the closure of an emergency mental health section at the Royal Alexandra Hospital; opposing funding cuts to PDD and Children and Youth Services (cuts that will result in many young adults, who still require support, falling through the cracks); and challenging the provincial government to join other provinces in working to improve our pension system. Over the summer I was also busy sitting on various legislature all party committees. One such committee reviewed our Freedom of Information Laws. My minority report calling for more transparency on this subject can be viewed online (<http://www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/node/2930>).

Over the past few months I have attended various cultural events, fundraisers and information sessions in our community. Of particular note were the well organized



events for Community League Day. It was also my pleasure to host over 400 people at my annual Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with the Whyte Avenue Art Walk in Gazebo Park.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at my constituency office to let me know your opinion on issues facing our community.

Have a Happy Holiday!

Rachel Notley, MLA

HEALTHCARE

NDP Opposition Introduces Private Member's Bill as Contrast to Government's Secret Privatization Agenda

The fall session was dominated by discussions on healthcare. Days before session began, a letter from ER doctors describing the imminent catastrophic collapse of our emergency room care was released to the public. We then learned that the Premier had been aware of this crisis since before the last election. Citing frustration with the government's refusal to address the problem, dissident MLA Raj Sherman spoke out and was ejected from the government caucus. After tolerating Alberta Health Services CEO Stephen Duckett's attempt to shut-down Alberta Hospital, close hundreds of acute care beds, and impose a hiring freeze in the middle of a serious staff shortage, the government called for his resignation only after his now infamous "cookie" comment. This prompted four AHS board members to resign in protest to perceived government interference in their decision making authority.

In the face of this unprecedented level of healthcare chaos, the most important revelation regarding healthcare came in the last week of session when a document was leaked to opposition parties revealing the government's long term plan to privatize healthcare. The document can be read online at (<http://www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/sites/default/files/leakedprvtznrpt.pdf>). In short, while government members claimed to be committed to public healthcare, in July of 2010 they met to plan what the document refers to as

"Phase 2" of the new Alberta Health Act. This plan includes allowing physicians to practice in both the public and the private sector simultaneously (widely considered by experts to be one of the key elements to expanding privately funded healthcare), delisting currently funded services and expanding services that can be paid for with private insurance.

First the Minister of Health claimed that he was unaware of the leaked document and any meetings regarding its implementation. He went on to say that the document wasn't really a plan, it was merely a summary of ideas brought forward from public consultations. Following these statements Brian Mason released another internal government document (called a Timing and Process Map), which outlined the planned timing for the roll-out of the new 2 part Health Act (<http://www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/sites/default/files/toryheathagenda.pdf>). The plan includes introducing Phase 1 of the Alberta Health Act in the fall and then introducing Phase 2 (described above) after the next election. In my view, neither of the Minister's assertions are supported by a common sense review of the documents described above. I invite readers to judge for themselves.

In contrast to the government's failure to address the healthcare crisis, the NDP Opposition Caucus introduced a private member's bill aimed at securing our public healthcare system. Bill 223 would, among other things, ban private insurance for public services, ensure access to long-term care beds for those medically assessed as requiring them and establish elected regional advisory boards (<http://www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/node/2923>). We also continued to remind government of the recommendations found in the NDP caucus report on the future of healthcare, which arose from our own province-wide hearings last winter. To see this reasonable plan for the future of our healthcare please visit http://www.ndpopposition.ab.ca/sites/default/files/documents-central/what_people_want.pdf



Artists & Guests @ Art from the Unknown 2010

ENVIRONMENT

Government Withdraws Controversial Plan to Remove Safeguards for Parks - For Now

Many of you joined thousands of other Albertans who took the time to voice articulate opposition to the government's new Parks Act. The act called for the gutting of current park categories, while giving the Minister increased discretion to create new categories and authorize commercial and industrial development within currently protected areas. In addition, the Act would have compelled regulators to compromise preservation against tourism and recreational objectives.

With your support, MLAs from all opposition parties were successful in calling for the bill to be withdrawn, an important victory for the environmental movement and the ecological integrity of our province. Parks supporters need to stay informed as the Minister plans to bring a revised Parks Act back to the legislature this spring.



Garneau Students Host 5000 Steps Fundraiser



Calling for Enforcement of Environmental Laws

IRRESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Industry Friendly Government Makes Albertans Liable for Unknown Environmental and Health Effects of Carbon Capture and Storage

In a move that could put Alberta taxpayers on the hook for incalculable sums of money, last month the government passed legislation accepting future long-term liability for all Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) projects in Alberta. The decision to relieve industry from its liability is in addition to the \$2 billion in government subsidies (taxpayer dollars) paid to industry for the development of CCS technology owned by industry.

This legislation comes just months after the respected Journal of the American Medical Association warned of potential serious health and environmental risks associated with storing carbon dioxide underground. It also comes as insurance companies world-wide are refusing to underwrite CCS liabilities due to the lack of scientific knowledge capable of predicting the likelihood of a CCS breach or its associated damages over time.

While speaking against this decision in the Legislature I continued to advocate for more immediate and cost effective efforts to reduce CO2. This included hard caps on CO2 emissions as well as further investments in renewable forms of energy, building retrofitting and public transportation.