December 13, 2006

Stelmach sets new Alberta agenda

New government structure will focus on building a stronger Alberta and improving Albertans' quality of life

Edmonton... Premier Designate Ed Stelmach has laid out the five priorities for his new administration. The priorities will focus Cabinet and government caucus on improving the quality of life for Albertans through better government planning and management of expenditures.

"As Alberta's premier, my goal is to do what is right for our province and for all Albertans," said Stelmach. "Together, we can do great things."

The new Alberta agenda is designed to:

- govern with integrity and transparency;
- manage growth pressures;
- improve Albertans' quality of life;
- build a stronger Alberta; and,
- provide safe and secure communities.

"Alberta's strong economy allows us to help improve the quality of life for the people of this province," said Stelmach. "Like every Albertan, I want this province to be the place where our children and grandchildren choose to live."

Stelmach's agenda highlights plans to increase access to post-secondary education, implement a comprehensive health workforce strategy, address the funding needs of municipalities, show progress on Alberta's rural development strategy, and complete a land-use framework among other key actions. As one of the first initiatives out of the starting gate, Stelmach announced his intention to create a housing task force to increase the availability of affordable housing.

New government structure

To deliver on these plans, Stelmach announced a restructuring for government, reducing the number of ministers from 24 to 18. He outlined four Cabinet Policy Committees to replace the six Standing Policy Committees. A new body, the Treasury Board Secretariat, will be created and mandates of a number of ministries will be reshaped to better coordinate government activities.

"This new structure will enable government to better focus on the priorities, improve planning and coordination and help move the agenda forward," said Stelmach. "This will be a new way of governing, with more discipline and accountability. The overall goal is to better serve Albertans, providing more effective government - not more government."

Highlights of the new structure include the following:

- A new President of Treasury Board will be responsible for the Treasury Board Secretariat and managing and providing discipline to the government's expenditures, capital planning, internal audit and the use of public-private partnerships for capital projects. The minister will also be responsible for a new Service Alberta ministry which will merge the responsibilities of Government Services and Restructuring and Government Efficiency, and deliver coordinated government services to Albertans
and Alberta government departments. As well, the minister will be responsible for the Personnel Administration Office.

- Recognizing the important role post-secondary education plays in Alberta's transition to a technology-rich economy, the responsibilities of Advanced Education and Innovation and Science will be combined in a new Advanced Education and Technology ministry;
- A new Employment, Immigration and Industry ministry will better link economic development and immigration with labour force planning.
- The responsibility for affordable housing moves from Seniors and Community Supports to the new ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to facilitate the partnership with municipalities in providing affordable housing.
- A new Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture ministry adds lottery funding programs from the Gaming ministry and the tourism and film programs from Economic Development to the renamed Community Development ministry.

Stelmach will be sworn in as Alberta's 13th Premier on December 14.

-30 -

Backgrounders: Overviews of Stelmach's priorities and new government structure are attached.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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Backgrounder

December 13, 2006

Highlights of Stelmach's five government priorities

Key actions for each of the priorities include:

Govern with integrity and transparency

- implement democratic reforms including all-party committees of the Legislature
- consult Albertans on key issues such as the provincial budget
- improve the transparency and accountability of government agencies, boards and commissions

Manage growth pressures

- create a housing task force to increase the availability of affordable housing
- address Alberta's labour shortage
- develop a long-term capital plan
- develop a made-in-Alberta immigration strategy
• complete a land-use framework
• continue progress on the Water for Life strategy and activities to protect Alberta's air, water and land
• develop a comprehensive energy strategy
• expand the highway system capacity throughout Alberta

**Improve Albertans' quality of life**

• implement a health workforce strategy and make the health system more productive
• promote wellness
• expand long-term care and improve standards of care
• develop a plan for provincial parks and recreation areas to accommodate population growth
• introduce a community spirit program for charitable giving
• ensure government policies reflect the varied needs of the disabled community

**Build a stronger Alberta**

• develop a long-term sustainable funding arrangement with municipalities
• continue progress on the rural development strategy
• improve high school completion rates and increase access to post-secondary education
• develop a long-term strategy for technology commercialization and economic diversification
• enhance Alberta's international presence and trade relations, especially with the United States

**Provide safe and secure communities**

• establish a policy and safe communities task force to recommend ways to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system
• continue to implement the prevention of family violence and bullying initiative
• implement a provincial traffic safety plan

-30 -

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**Backgrounder**

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**Stelmach administration's new government structure**

Premier Designate Ed Stelmach's new structure for the Alberta government is as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Premier (Executive Council)</th>
<th>• Maintains responsibility for policy coordination and the Public Affairs Bureau.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. President of the Treasury Board Minister of Service Alberta Responsible for Personnel Administration Office</td>
<td>• A Secretariat, separate from Finance, will support the Minister as Chair of Treasury Board who will be responsible for expenditure management. Includes the Office of the Controller (now in Finance), capital planning (now in Infrastructure and Transportation) and internal audit (now in Executive Council). • Service Alberta combines the functions of Government Services with Restructuring and Government Efficiency to better serve Albertans and provide more coordinated services within the government. The ministry will also be responsible for government vehicles and air transportation (now in Infrastructure and Transportation) and for the Personnel Administration Office.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Advanced Education and Technology</td>
<td>• Merges the functions of the existing ministries of Advanced Education and Innovation and Science.</td>
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<td>3. Municipal Affairs and Housing</td>
<td>• Maintains functions of Municipal Affairs along with responsibility for affordable housing programs (now in Seniors and Community Supports). • Also responsible for libraries, community and voluntary sector services (now in Community Development).</td>
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<td>4. Energy</td>
<td>• In addition to current responsibilities, the ministry will take over responsibility for bio-fuels (now in Agriculture, Food and Rural Development).</td>
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<td>5. Health and Wellness</td>
<td>• Maintains current functions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Employment, Immigration and Industry</td>
<td>• The ministry will include the existing programs provided by Human Resources and Employment. • Takes over immigration programs (now in Human Resources and Employment; Economic Development and Advanced Education). • Also responsible for economic development programs (now in Economic Development), rural development (now in Agriculture Food and Rural Development) as well as the Northern Alberta Development Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Education</td>
<td>• Maintains current functions.</td>
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<td>8. Children's Services</td>
<td>• Maintains current functions.</td>
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<td>9. Environment</td>
<td>• Maintains current functions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Agriculture and Food</td>
<td>• Maintains current functions with the exceptions of rural development which moves to Employment, Immigration and Industry, and the bio-fuels program which moves to Energy.</td>
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| 11. Finance             | • Maintains current functions of economic policy, revenue and development of the budget.  
|                         | • Treasury Board support and the Office of the Controller move to the newly-created Treasury Board Secretariat. |
| 12. Infrastructure and Transportation | • Maintains current functions with the exceptions of government vehicles and air transportation which move to Service Alberta. Responsibility for capital planning also moves to the Treasury Board Secretariat. |
| 14. Seniors and Community Supports | • Maintains current functions, including seniors housing, with the exception of affordable housing programs which move to Municipal Affairs and Housing. |
| 15. International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations | • Maintains current functions of International and Intergovernmental Relations and absorbs responsibility for Alberta's international offices and trade (now in Economic Development) and Aboriginal Affairs (now in Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development). |
|                         | • The Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission will report to the Minister. |
| 18. Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture | • Maintains functions of the current ministry of Community Development and takes on responsibility for lottery funding programs (now in Gaming) and tourism and film programs (now in Economic Development). |

**Cabinet Policy Committees**  
(and corresponding ministries)

**Community Services**

Health and Wellness; Seniors and Community Supports; Children's Services; Education; and Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

**Government Services**
Managing Growth Pressures

Employment, Immigration and Industry; Advanced Education and Technology; Infrastructure and Transportation; Municipal Affairs and Housing

Resources and the Environment

Environment; Sustainable Resource Development; Agriculture and Food; Energy

-30 -

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