
A plan for the future

October 24, 2007

Premier Stelmach shares his plan for Alberta's future***Building communities, greening growth and creating opportunity form basis of plan***

Edmonton... Premier Ed Stelmach delivered his plan to address growth pressures while protecting the environment, preserving a high quality of life for Albertans and securing future prosperity in a televised address.

“We have the ability to build a future where prosperity goes hand-in-hand with opportunity, a world-class quality of life, and a deep respect for the environment we’ve inherited,” said Stelmach. “And I want you to know your government has a solid plan to make this happen by building communities, greening growth and creating opportunity.”

The Premier’s address also referenced a new framework for resource royalties that recognizes Albertans as owners of the province’s natural resources while providing stability, predictability and adjustment time for the companies that invest in Alberta’s economy. The framework also recognizes the need to get the most from traditional energy sources and develop new sources of energy such as the oil sands and coal-bed methane.

“The new framework will enable Alberta to plan for a secure future,” said Stelmach. “Decades from now, when our conventional energy resources are gone, our children must be left with an economic foundation for their prosperity.” Details of the royalty resource framework will be announced October 25.

In a clear commitment to keep pace with a changing Alberta, the government will implement a 20-year capital plan to respond to immediate pressures and ensure longer-term needs are anticipated and addressed. Transportation systems, health and seniors facilities, schools and universities, affordable housing and recreation and cultural opportunities will be part of the capital plan.

The government will enhance and better coordinate existing services to support the well-being of children, seniors and those most in need. It will also look for ways to provide additional support for community volunteers.

Stelmach foreshadowed a new strategy to reduce crime and bolster law enforcement. “We must take criminals off our streets - and keep them off. Equally important - we must address the factors that give rise to crime, such as drug and alcohol abuse.”

To preserve Alberta’s environmental heritage, and protect our water, land and air, government will work with industry to find innovative solutions. For the first time, government will assess the overall environmental impact of industrial development in order to set regional limits.

The plan commits to adding value to the province’s traditional strengths in energy, agriculture, forestry, tourism and health sciences. “The diversification of our economy will be driven by the creativity and innovation of Albertans,” said Stelmach. “We’ll support them by encouraging investment and research

that transforms new technologies such as life sciences, material engineering, and nanotechnology into commercial successes.”

The 19-minute televised address was broadcast throughout Alberta. The cost for production and airtime was \$124,000. The video and text are posted on the government website at www.alberta.ca.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

Tom Olsen
Office of the Premier, Communications
780-422-4905

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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