



Dave Hancock

Keeping in Touch

MLA | EDMONTON-WHITEMUD

Winter 2012

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Dave and Mayor Mandel share the spirit of the season at the 630 CHED Santa's Anonymous delivery day, when citizens delivered 25,000 toys to less fortunate children.

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

As I met with constituents and colleagues during the holiday season, I couldn't help but notice a quiet sense of confidence for the year ahead.

Premier Alison Redford has hit the ground running with an aggressive agenda and a new team around the cabinet table. Premier Redford's fresh start began by outlining the government's plans for Alberta's future in the face of the unstable global economy in the State of Alberta address www.alberta.ca.

Our government is building better relationships as we saw during Premier Redford's recent trip to Washington, Ottawa and Toronto where she demonstrated not just to Albertans, but to the world her thoughtful approach, modest intellect and confidence in steering Alberta through these unpredictable economic times.

Alberta has subsequently renewed and solidified its agreements and partnerships with British Columbia and Saskatchewan through the ongoing work of the New West Partnership.

As government's focus continues to be on maintaining economic growth, our new Premier has made it clear that people matter the most. People who have the opportunity to maximize their skills and participate will drive our economic growth and establish our quality of life.

I'm pleased to continue to be a voice for Edmonton at the cabinet table, and am honoured to serve as Minister of Human Services - a ministry that provides social support and services for the province's most vulnerable Albertans. By putting these

programs together under one ministry we can achieve better outcomes for those whose circumstances require a bit more support than others. Broadly, it includes areas such as career and employment services, income supports, the old ministry of Children and Youth Services, and homelessness among others. My mandate is to create a comprehensive policy framework identifying the expectations we have as Albertans for our society, and work collaboratively with the private sector, volunteer and non-governmental organizations. I also strive to work within government to create opportunity and operate with compassion so that every Albertan can participate and succeed as citizens to the best of their ability and live as Albertans with dignity.

In Edmonton-Whitemud, our community continues to grow. We have, as a community, built playgrounds and a recreation centre, planted trees, landscaped and improved or recovered natural areas and built schools.

My wife, Janet, Principal of Lillian Osborne High School, has the privilege of working with many of the young people in the community and seeing them grow and develop into outstanding citizens. We are both looking forward, as many of you are, to the year ahead. Sure, there is much work to be done, but together we can achieve great things.

From my family to yours, Happy New Year!
All the best in 2012.



New Impaired Driving Legislation

The fall session of the Legislature ended in mid-December with the passing of some tough legislation for impaired drivers. Our government's approach to the *Traffic Safety Amendment Act* focuses on three main areas:

- targeting repeat offenders
- building on existing penalties from .05% to .08% blood alcohol levels, and
- tightening rules for new drivers

Alberta's new impaired driving law has tougher penalties and targets for repeat offenders who drink and drive. As a result, there will be fewer collisions and needless deaths or life-changing injuries.

I have received calls and e-mails from a number of constituents concerned about the new law. They typically express the view that we should be going after the real offenders, that the law will impact

the restaurant and hospitality business, and that people will be unaware of their personal limit.

While I respect input and concerns of those who contacted me, I have absolutely no doubt that most Albertans are very supportive. We must reduce the scourge of alcohol on our roads.

For years we have been spending your money on campaigns which say "Don't Drink and Drive!" They don't say "have one or two and drive!" They don't say "know your limit!" We have instilled in our kids the rule that there must be a designated driver - who does not drink. Young adults know this.

People seem to think that the current law is limited to over .08 per cent. It is not. The law is that you cannot drive while your ability to do so is impaired. Impairment can start well before .08 per cent. Currently police use discretion under

.08 per cent to charge if they believe a driver is impaired, or to issue a 24 hour suspension.

The new rules will simply increase the suspension. The goal is to make certain that all of us are very conscious of the effect alcohol is having on drivers and to make that judgement earlier, while we still can.

Too many people think they are okay to drive when they are not! Why not enforce the existing rules more? We have provided more resources for policing and there is more enforcement - but there cannot be police on every corner or at every bar or restaurant. We need societal change if we want to make sure our loved ones are safe on our streets and arrive home safely.

The comparison below illustrates the tighter rules for driving under the influence:

DRIVERS WITH BLOOD ALCOHOL OVER .08%

Previously

Alberta had licence suspensions, but not vehicle seizures for drivers above .08%.

Under the new law

- Immediate licence suspensions are sustained until the criminal charge is resolved
- Mandatory ignition interlock is installed after criminal conviction (over .08%)

1st offence

- Sustained licence suspension
- 3-day vehicle seizure
- 1-year mandatory ignition interlock

2nd offence

- Sustained licence suspension
- 7-day vehicle seizure
- 3-year mandatory ignition interlock

3rd offence

- Sustained licence suspension
- 7-day vehicle seizure
- 5-year mandatory ignition interlock

DRIVERS WITH BLOOD ALCOHOL BETWEEN .05% AND .08%

Under the new law

Increasing sanctions against drivers suspected of being impaired are included in the new law. These drivers are not and will not be subject to Criminal Code prosecutions.

1st offence

- 3-day licence suspension
- 3-day vehicle seizure

2nd offence

- 15-day licence suspension
- 7-day vehicle seizure
- "Planning Ahead" course

3rd offence

- 30-day licence suspension
- 7-day vehicle seizure
- "Impact" course

NEW DRIVERS

Under the new law

All Graduate Drivers Licence (GDL) drivers are already subject to zero tolerance for blood alcohol and receive a 30-day suspension.

GDL drivers found with blood alcohol

- 30-day licence suspension
- 7-day vehicle seizure

Novice drivers

- Night-time driving restrictions
- Only one teenage passenger unless it's a family member or a fully licensed driver over 18 is supervising
- These changes target problem-area drivers in the first 6 months after graduation from Learner to Probationary Driver



Building Community

In this newsletter you will see pictures of presentations of Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) cheques. The program provides matching grants to community organizations working to build a better neighbourhood. In Edmonton-Whitemud we have contributed to the construction of many playgrounds, some community halls, skating rinks, and other enhancements to improve the quality of life in our community.



Dave presents \$100,000 to the Terwillegar Community League to off-set costs of building playgrounds at Esther Starkman and Monsignor William Irwin schools.

Community Initiative Program (CIP) grants are also available to provide programming enhancement or support. These grants often support children and youth sport, music or drama trips. They also support purchases of computers or other equipment for schools or community organizations. In Edmonton-Whitemud over \$426,000 in CFEP and \$150,000 in CIP grants have been spent or committed to support the building of our community.



On September 17, Dave Dorward, Dave, Bruce Flesher, along with Councillors Bryan Anderson and Don Iveson opened the doors to Edmonton's newest community-based sports facility for volleyball, basketball and gymnastics.

Election this Spring!

Bill 21, *The Election Act Amendment Act*, passed in the fall session sets the timeframe for a fixed election period. An election will be held between March 1 and May 31 every four years commencing 2012. Of course, elections can be called by the Lieutenant Governor at any time if a government is defeated. In that event the four year period would reset and occur in the designated period four years after the election is held.

Health Quality Council Gets Inquiry Powers

Bill 24, the *Health Quality Council Act*, formally establishes the Health Quality Council and legislates it to report to the Legislature. This ensures that the public gets the information directly and on a timely basis rather than when government might determine it should be released. This is a new level of assurance and transparency necessary to build trust in the health system. The Health Quality Council will have the full power of an inquiry commissioner under the *Public Inquiries Act*, but will have the additional necessary authority to keep personal health information private when it is appropriate to do so.

Inspired Education Plays Lead Role in New Education Act

Thank you to all the students, parents, grandparents, teachers, education and community leaders, and others who shared stories, artwork, conversations, tweets and presentations to ensure the province clearly gains Albertan's opinions and insights that reflect the current and future needs of students in classrooms around the province.

Our government has just concluded a public consultation on the draft legislation that stemmed from work which I began as Education Minister, through the Inspiring Education initiative.

The new legislation shapes the future of education for our children and will ensure that we continue to have "the best education system in the English speaking world" as recognized by the Prime Minister of Great Britain in speaking to Canada's parliament.

Every Albertan must have access to education relevant to the emerging knowledge economy not only to achieve their potential but to help create and to participate in Alberta's opportunity.



Did You Know?

Every hour, Alberta spends \$1.7 million to maintain and improve our health care system.

Alberta has accounted for 45 per cent of Canada's job growth so far this year.

There are 400 organizations, including municipalities, housing management bodies, non-profit and private sector organizations to ensure housing for Albertans in need.

Albertans are among the best-educated people on the continent. By age 24, 75 per cent of Alberta high school graduates are working on or have completed a post-secondary program.



Child and Youth Advocate Act

Another major accomplishment in the Fall Session was the passage of the Child and Youth Advocate Act. This Act transforms the existing office of the advocate into an independent officer of the legislature like the Auditor General, the Ombudsman, Ethics Commissioner, Privacy Commissioner and Chief Electoral Officer.

With a broader mandate, authority and power of investigation the Advocate will ensure children and youth have a strong voice, and that the child protection system constantly improves as a result of that voice and from incidents of serious injury or death in care. The Act also provides for a Quality Council which will advise me as minister of any areas of continuous improvement by reviewing systemic issues or incidents in any area of child protection, intervention or assistance. Children are vulnerable and can be neglected or in danger. We must not only do everything we can to protect those in need - we must assure Albertans that the system and the people in it, working for government or in agencies or volunteer or non-governmental organizations, as foster parents, or otherwise involved with children are appropriately skilled and are providing the best support possible. We must assure that Albertan children are safe!

The Act also makes it clear that people working collaboratively for the safety, health and education of children and youth are able and expected to share information appropriately in the interests of the child and others who may be affected by the child.

Too often we have seen information inappropriately "frozen" by people who did not believe they could share due to the provisions of the FOIP Act or the Health Information Act. While clearly private information cannot be made public, those working in the interests of the child must do so with the benefit of all necessary information. I believe this will be a good addition toward ensuring a collaborative wrap-around approach to supporting children who need help.



In one of the fastest growing constituencies in the province, Dave understands that building new communities includes many new amenities like schools, public transit and recreation centres. It also includes integral park and playground spaces for children. Through the Community Facilities Enhancement Program, the province matches fundraising efforts for these vital cornerstones, including the Hodgson Community League, which received \$250,000 for a new park.



As part of Dave's legacy to promote literacy, he commissioned local author Dave Poulson to write a children's book through the proceeds of the Success by Six Golf Tournaments. The book *I wish I could be like Tommy Blake*, was launched during Read In Week 2011.



Protection Against Family Violence Amendment Act (PAVA) Proclaimed

Family violence persists in our society. Too often a family lives in fear, even when they have taken steps to have the perpetrator of the violence removed from the home.

Now, with the passage of amendments to the PAVA we can reduce the incidence of violence by providing greater protection with stronger penalties against those who breach a Protection Order. Those amendments came into force in November. An additional amendment was included in the *Child & Youth Advocate Act* allowing arresting authority to police where they believe an offence (breach of protection order) has been committed. This amendment was proclaimed effective December 15.

Police can now arrest a person breaching a protection order either at the scene or later if they have reasonable and probable grounds to believe the offence was committed.

These changes have come about because in too many tragic circumstances a perpetrator has returned and tragedy has resulted. These new tools will help police protect families in need.

Our government is committed to ensuring that everyone lives free of violence. We continue to learn from each incident so we can better protect people in our community.

Most importantly we have to be more aware and recognize the signs of family violence and provide timely help.

By working together we can make a difference. When someone you know is living with violence you can help. But it's hard to know what to do. Now you can find out. Call the Family Violence Information Line 310-1818 24 hours or visit www.child.alberta.ca/home/593.cfm.



Naresh Bhardwaj, Gene Zwodesky, Janice Sarich, Debbie Walker, executive director, Dave, Carl Benito and John Holmlund, fundraising chair, announce Alberta's investment in the Jerry Forbes Centre for Community Spirit. Once constructed, this Center will be a working hub for charitable organizations sharing resources. It will provide affordable and dynamic office and warehouse space to non-profit organizations in need – and become a legacy of goodwill for decades to come.



Dave enjoyed visiting Brookside, Esther Starkman School, Monsignor Fee Otterson School and Mosignor William Irwin School.



Caring for Seniors

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2012 Minister's Seniors Service Awards. These awards are presented annually in recognition of Albertans who volunteer their time to support seniors in our province.

Every year, Edmonton-Whitemud residents give their time and energy to help seniors in our communities. These gifts significantly enrich the lives of so many seniors so please consider nominating one of these unique and unselfish volunteers today.

Nominations are open until February 29, 2012. Organizations and individuals of any age can be nominated for a Minister's Seniors Service Award, and winners will be recognized at a special ceremony during Seniors Week 2012, from June 4 - 10.

To nominate someone who makes a difference in the lives of Alberta's seniors, visit www.seniors.alberta.ca/awards/service_awards.



Dave brings greetings on behalf of the Alberta Government at the opening of the Terwillegar Playground while hundreds of children from the surrounding neighbourhoods enjoy the new equipment.

Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Scrolls

Is someone you know in Edmonton-Whitemud celebrating a special occasion? Dave would be pleased to arrange for a commemorative scroll to honour the milestone. Please call Dave's office at 780-413-5970 at least six weeks before the event.

Birthdays (5 year intervals)

- 65+ MP, MLA
- 75+ Prime Minister, Premier
- 80+ Lieutenant Governor
- 90+ Governor General
- 100+ Queen

Anniversaries (5 year intervals)

- 25 + Prime Minister, Premier, MP, MLA
- 50+ Governor General, Lieutenant Governor
- 60+ Queen



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