



### Message from Dave

Dear Friends and Members

Our recent AGM in Red Deer had the theme and title “NOW...MORE THAN EVER”. When I first saw it I wondered “Why are we bringing back the campaign slogan from 1979?” However, it truly is a theme for today in our party. Now More Than Ever Alberta needs you, our government needs you, our party needs you and right here in Edmonton Whitemud I need you! Now More Than Ever

*NOW, MORE THAN EVER Alberta needs you, our government needs you, our party needs you and right here in Edmonton Whitemud I need you!*

the challenges facing our province, our government and our party are real and difficult.

The world is in a recession and, however reluctant, Alberta has no choice but to participate. While we have been and are well positioned to ride out the recession there are still sacrifices which need to be made. There is no question that we cannot just proceed as though there has been no impact. Are we well positioned? Well, over the past years we have paid off \$25 billion in debt, saved \$17 billion in the Sustainability Fund, added \$8 billion to our Heritage Savings and endowments and built over \$40 billion in capital projects to create infrastructure for the current and future economy and quality of life of Albertans. No other jurisdiction in North America can match that accomplishment. Regardless of what the critics might say, the boom was not wasted. In Alberta current operating expenses are not turned into debt for future generations.

We do have challenges. Health costs have been increasing at a rate in excess of 10% per year. The health system continues to do more things for more people. New processes, new drugs and top notch professionals consistently add to the capability of the system to do more. In result, over the last 15 years we do more hips, more hearts, more MRI's and more of virtually every procedure. That is a good thing for those that need it. But if we are going to have a sustainable system that provides quality care on a timely

basis regardless of the ability to pay we have to focus on wellness so that fewer people actually need the acute care system. We need to make appropriate decisions about the acute care delivery system. We need to ensure that our health care professionals and technicians can work to the full extent of their capability. And we have to make sure the system is patient centred. Changes are being made. Change is always difficult. We will not get everything right. There are different perspectives on whether what is happening in each area is right. I need your input, ideas and feedback. Your government has made many tough decisions: on health, on oil and gas royalties and on land use planning including the need to plan for transportation and utility corridors. We are looking forward to the future of education and a knowledge based economy less reliant on carbon energy. We are working to help bridge the difficult times some Albertans are having in *Dave continued page 3...*

### Table of Contents

- 1 Message from our MLA Dave Hancock
- 2 2009 A Year of Accomplishments Dan McKinley - President
- 2 AGM Report
- 4 Edmonton Whitemud Needs You!

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Winter 2009  
Volume 13  
Issue 1



### 2009 PC AGM Report

The Edmonton Whitemud PC Association was well represented at the recent PC Alberta AGM in November. A full slate of fifteen voting delegates, as well as a number of other participants, travelled down to Red Deer to talk about policy, the party and politics.

The meeting kicked off on Friday night with speeches from candidates for the party executive. The candidates all brought fresh energy and ideas to their campaigns and it is clear from their enthusiasm that the party has a vibrant future. Our very own Steve Smart was re-elected as Regional Director for Edmonton SW. Congratulations Steve! Friday wrapped up with a rousing speech from the Premier. On Saturday delegates discussed fifty policy resolutions submitted by policy resolutions suconstituencies across the province. The resolutions demonstrated a keen desire to advance our economy and improve quality of life for Albertans.

*AGM continued page 3...*



*Dave responds to questions from elementary school students*

### President's Message

As we approach the holiday season it is time for us to reflect on the activities of the association over the past year and to take stock of our accomplishments. All in all 2009 has been a very active year with a busy meeting schedule and the sponsorship of a number of significant events.

In June we once again hosted our annual Lobster Boil which was attended by a near record number of our supporters. This is an important fund raising event for us and has grown into a signature event for the Edmonton region. Next spring the Dave Hancock Lobster Boil will be held again at OTS Park on June 3, 2010. Further details will be coming. Please note the date in your calendars.

The constituency association continued with its sponsorship and organization of our annual pancake breakfast in July. This is a significant community wide event and is a chance for us to connect with the Whitemud community as a whole. Over a 1,000 people attended this annual event and to meet Dave Hancock. The breakfast was also allowed us to support the activities of E4C, an important community service group.

In September of this year the association decided to make a submission to the Alberta Election Boundaries Commission. This Commission will have a significant impact on our residents as the Edmonton Whitemud riding is almost double the population of the average riding in the province. The submission had to be prepared within very short time constraints and was received with appreciation by the Commission. We plan on

making further submissions to the Boundaries Commission in the coming months so as to ensure that the interests of the residents of the constituency are fully represented.



*Dan McKinley  
President*

The Annual General Meeting of the party was held in Red Deer on November 6th to 7th. Edmonton Whitemud submitted a resolution to the AGM that "the Alberta Government should proceed quickly to forestall the shipment of unrefined bitumen to other jurisdictions by taking whatever appropriate action is necessary" that passed after a vigorous debate. The resolution encourages work to further the government's recently announced Bitumen Royalty-in-Kind program that will keep jobs and revenues in Alberta. This resolution is the result of a significant process undertaken by our Policy Committee who meet and debate potential resolutions and who presented the results of their deliberations at our own AGM last June.

Our board meetings continue to have interesting and informative speakers and to be well attended. Any member or prospective member of our association is welcome to join us at any board meeting. Meeting dates and speakers are on our website at edmontonwhitemud.com. We look forward to a further year of successes in 2010.

Dan



*Dave continued...*

the economy and in the community as a result of the economic downturn.

Our Premier, Ed Stelmach, has led strongly by ensuring that we face the difficult decisions squarely and make decisions using careful and thoughtful analysis that are data driven and reflect the values of Albertans. He has also indicated that when decisions are made that do not reflect that type of decision making, or are not adequately explained, or are shown to be wrong, we must be ready to make the necessary change. An example is the Alberta Hospital Edmonton where, after the benefit of input from many of you, the Premier moved to set up a committee of informed community members with Fred Horne, MLA Edmonton Rutherford, as his direct liaison to the committee. The committee's purpose is to review the decision made by Alberta Health Services and make sure that before any implementation, any changes are in the best interest of the patients and patient care.

Over the next year it will not get easier! As Alberta starts to climb out of the recession your government will still need to take the necessary steps and budget to make sure that what we do for Albertans today is paid for by Albertans today and that we do not mortgage our children's future. Yet we still need to build the infrastructure for tomorrow, both physical infrastructure – the roads, utilities, schools and hospitals, and human infrastructure – healthy, educated citizens, to make sure that our place is ready and our people are ready to take advantage of the opportunities and the exciting future that we have as a people and as a province.

This requires continued strong leadership from our government and from our Premier. The endorsement of our Leader at the AGM was essential. Now is the time for determination and concerted effort. And it requires all of us to play a strong role in ensuring that we make the right decisions for the right reasons. And so Now More Than Ever I need you. You have supported me and you have supported our party through thick and thin. To be effective as your representative, to make sure that we are going the right direction and making the right decisions for the right reasons I need both your support and your critique. Please

- renew your membership
- take an active role in public policy discussions
- come to our Board meetings to listen to speakers
- engage in discussion about our preferred future
- participate by writing to the newspapers and responding to blog posts
- contact me, let me know when we are doing well and when we can do better



Now More Than Ever I need you.

Dave



*Dave at Premier's Pancake Breakfast 2009*



*Dave with His Highness the Aga Khan*

***AGM continued...***

The AGM also included a much anticipated vote on Premier Stelmach's leadership. After a number of tough policy decisions in a challenging economic climate, the Premier came through, garnering 77.4 per cent approval from the voting delegates.

The work doesn't stop in Red Deer. We need to carry the enthusiasm back to our constituency. We are fortunate to have a number of new folks come forward wanting to join our board. Believe me, this is so encouraging and exciting for me. We need to continue the work in our constituency and grow our constituency association so that we can win the next election.

