

MUNICIPALITIES

Ideas. Action. Purpose.

Support for Alberta's Municipalities

Alberta's cities and towns are key to the province's economic growth. To continue to build Alberta's success, government needs to make sure our municipalities are able to respond to the challenges of growth and renewal.

Recognizing that each community is unique, the Alberta Liberals would work in partnership with municipalities to determine and support local solutions to local needs.

Infrastructure

To assist municipalities with infrastructure renewal, we would establish an Alberta Municipal Infrastructure Council to focus and drive the commitment to eliminate municipal infrastructure debt, and collaborate with municipal governments to guide and implement the federal government's involvement in municipal infrastructure funding.

To further support municipalities, we would:

- Provide leadership and the financial framework to encourage municipalities to work effectively together on a regional basis, to solve common problems in an equitable manner,
- Expand the range of tax tools available to municipalities,
- Reduce the provincial education property tax to \$1.1 billion to provide municipalities with approximately \$300 to \$400 million in new tax room,
- Involve municipalities in redesigning the Municipal Government Act to facilitate full participation in the provincial budgeting process and ensure stable and equitable funding, and
- Through negotiation between the province and municipalities, develop a three-year rolling grant funding framework, to allow municipalities to better plan their infrastructure and other financing needs.

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Affordable Housing

The Alberta Liberals strongly believe everybody needs a home. To help municipalities resolve the affordable housing crisis, we would provide both funding support and additional legislative flexibility (see our Affordable Housing policy).

Urban Planning

Encourage and support urban design and public transit strategies that minimize environmental impacts, such as light rail transit.

Want to know more? Visit www.albertaliberal.com or call us at 1-800-661-9201.

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A Kevin Taft Government Would Fix Deteriorating Infrastructure

Calgary – Alberta Liberal MLA Harry Chase, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transportation, is alarmed by the Auditor General's report on the state of provincial infrastructure, and points to a Kevin Taft government as the solution.

"As the Auditor General's report makes very clear, the amount of deferred maintenance of public infrastructure, the maintenance not done when necessary or scheduled, has reached staggering levels, simply because this government has not done its job," says Chase. "As a result, public safety and public finances are both in danger. If Kevin Taft were Premier, an Alberta Liberal government would repair or build new infrastructure with the investments generated by Funding Alberta's Future, the Alberta Liberal resource revenue savings policy."

The Auditor General was sharply critical of the government's continuing failure to deal with the deferred maintenance. When the Financial Management Commission urged the deficit be addressed in 2002, the government promised action – but, as the Auditor General pointed out, "that never occurred" (Vol. 1 pg. 51).

"When the Auditor General raises concerns about the lack of funds set aside to address deferred maintenance spending, he isn't telling Albertans anything that they don't already know," said Chase. "Everyone sees the deteriorating roads and clogged streets of our cities, the overcrowding of recreational facilities and the sad state of schools."

Chase was particularly concerned by the Auditor General's conclusion that "public safety and effective program delivery may be at risk" (pg. 54) because of the deferred maintenance of infrastructure.

Chase connects the combined impact of this inaction with the government's failure to collect a fair share of Alberta's resource revenues, also discussed by the Auditor General's report. "Albertans have been hit with a double-whammy here – a government that failed to take in billions in revenue from our oil sands, and a government that carried on deferring vital maintenance despite the future cost. They had no plan to maintain and upgrade Alberta's infrastructure, and Albertans are living with their failure every day. We, on the other hand, have such a plan."

"Albertans are fed up with the government's incompetence and deception. The Government's only solution to their failures in infrastructure funding is public private partnership (P3s) – but this is a false choice that will still lead to years of debt. We need well managed, sustainable funding of public infrastructure," Chase ends.

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Kevin Taft, Leader



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Caucus Calendar

- Thursday, 25 October 2007 12:00 pm
Keynote Address: Kevin Taft at Calgary Chamber of Commerce
- Saturday, 27 October 2007 10:00 a.m.
Chat With Chase
- Thursday, 1 November 2007
MLA Outreach: Lethbridge
- Thursday, 8 November 2007
MLA Outreach: Grande Prairie
- Thursday, 15 November 2007
MLA Outreach: Fort McMurray

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The Heart of a Western Tiger

Kevin Taft wants to transform Alberta into the heart of a Western Tiger - an economic superpower. [Click here to read about Kevin Taft's plan.](#)



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[Funding Alberta's Future Guide](#)

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