



Sunday » October
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Ignored, again

Calgary Herald

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Seniors -Re: Cities deal a 'peace treaty'; Funding pact puts LRT extension back on track," Sept. 6.

While city hall may be happy receiving millions of dollars of the education portion of property tax bills mainly to fund a west LRT line, Alberta seniors have once again been left out of the equation.

The province once had a seniors' program which exempted Alberta seniors from having to pay the education portion of their property tax bills.

This program was taken away during tough financial times, but it was also made clear that it would be re-instated when economic times improved. That has never happened!

I am aware that a substitute program was put in place that has the province issuing thousands of cheques, many ranging from \$10 to \$50 to qualified senior homeowners.

We all know that it costs a business at least \$20 to issue any cheque, so what a waste of time and money.

The issue is that a portion of the education taxes belongs to Alberta senior citizens and not all of it should go to municipalities.

Mr. Premier, Alberta seniors know that a promise is a promise is a promise! It is fair to say that their patience is running out.

John Schmal, Calgary

John Schmal is a former alderman

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