

CALGARY MOUNTAIN VIEW CONSTITUENCY NEWSLETTER

David SWANN MD, MLA



Dear Constituents,

SUMMER 2009

This has been a steep learning curve for me since taking on the leadership of the Official Opposition in December/08. Busy as it is, I've enjoyed the challenges and I've been eager to get some news to you about the key issues as I see them in Alberta today.

Firstly, my sincere thanks to all who supported me in my bid for leadership of the Liberal Caucus. I am honored indeed by the trust and hope you've placed in me for a strong alternative voice in the Legislature and for greater accountability from a government that spends over \$37 Billion public dollars each year.

In addition to being the Leader of the Official Opposition, I am also the critic for Health and Wellness, and for the Premier's Executive Council. I want to hear from you especially on these issues, as well as other concerns about public laws, resources and services. I am here to serve the needs of Calgary-Mountain View as well as to serve the province as leader. I'm still finding the balance between these important roles, so my apologies if I am difficult to visit while the Legislature is going on. I will be in my office more frequently over the summer, but will also be traveling the province to hear from citizens on the things they care about.

Increasingly I am hearing from people about economic uncertainty, jobs, especially in the conventional oil and gas business, and chaos in health care. I will continue, along with conscientious colleagues on all sides of the Legislature, to press the Stelmach government for a clear vision of where Alberta is going in the next 15-20 years from an energy, economic and environmental perspective with the goal of creating a more sustainable society.

I want to hear your views on how we, as provincial representatives, are doing for you, as parents, seniors, children and community members. These difficult times also present opportunities for change and for a new realization of what it means to be part of a caring community. If we so choose, we can in these times contribute both directly to our community health and indirectly to our political wellbeing by actively speaking, writing and meeting to demand honest, hard-working and smart government. That's what I have chosen to work at and I need your continued active involvement if Alberta is to become the province we all want.

I am thrilled by the challenge of leadership and by the many in Calgary-Mountain View, and beyond, that are working for an Alberta we can proudly leave to the next generation of Albertans. Please don't hesitate to email or call in your concerns and suggestions. I don't have all the answers but I can put you in touch with people who can help. Have a safe and restful summer!

Sincerely,
David

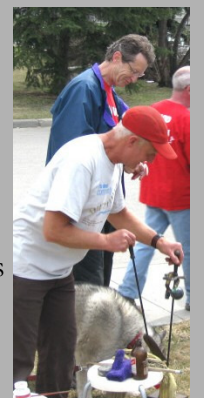
Bow River Clean Up a Success, Again!

Thank you so much to everybody who came out and helped to keep our beautiful river clean this May at the 42nd annual Bow River Clean-Up.

Our team of 45 volunteers picked up garbage along the banks of the Bow between 14th Street and Crowchild bridges in our 5th year of participation in this event.

A total of 74 groups, including ours, collected 11,000 lbs of garbage along the river.

It's always a pleasure to see community engagement in action.



Here we are checking out our finds!

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We'd like to send our newsletters more frequently and more environmentally - please send us your email address if you would like to receive our newsletter online calgary.mountainview@assembly.ab.ca



Update from the Legislature

Another session in the Alberta Legislative Assembly has come to an end. Here are some of the important issues I have been engaged with as your MLA.

Alberta's health care system has been so disrupted by the lack of clear plan combined with a lack input from the professionals striving to make it work. What is absent from the dramatic re-structuring has been the return to essential care – family doctors, adequate beds and nurses, long term care and prevention programs. Without these basic elements we are experiencing longer wait times, decreased quality and wasted expenditures.

“The changes this Premier has made to health care this past year have created anything but progress. Through this whole experiment the Premier and his minister have released no information and left the public and professionals guessing as to what is coming next...”

– Dr. David Swann- Alberta Legislature June 2, 2009

Bill 44 has created much consternation and concern in legislating the right – which has long existed in the School Act – of parents to be notified of curriculum covering contentious issues including sexuality and religion. The unfortunate effect of this is to create a chill on the teaching of controversial subjects. This risks entrenching dogmatism rather than honoring and trusting our public education to provide a full discussion of the many different ways of living and believing.

If you believe Bill 44 does not serve our children or public education please write to the Culture Minister Lindsay Blackett at:
#418 Legislature Building, 10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6
#29, 735 Ranchlands Blvd. NW, Calgary, AB, T3G 3A9
Email: Calgary.northwest@assembly.ab.ca

***What is the most pressing provincial issue for you today?
What do you think I (we) should be doing about it?***

Swann Hopes to Meet 10,000 Albertans this Summer

Calgary – David Swann, Leader of the Official Opposition, began his Leader's Tour of the province June 15th, 2009 in Calgary.

Swann's goal is to meet as many Albertans as possible.

“As Leader of the Official Opposition, one of my most important duties is listening to Albertans. I want to hear your concerns, your challenges, and your hopes for the future,” Swann says.

The first day of Swann's tour featured stops in Calgary, Red Deer, Leduc and Edmonton. Later this summer, Swann will try to visit every major festival, rodeo and significant community gathering in the province. He will also arrange one-on-one meetings with community leaders, doctors, nurses, social workers, seniors, youth, aboriginals as well as representatives from the energy industry, environmentalist groups, human rights activists, labourers, small business owners, farmers – citizens from all walks of life.

“I want to listen to everyone who has a story to tell or a dream to share,” Swann says. “We live in challenging times, but that's when Albertans are at their best. Together we can get the economy back on track, fix our health care system, protect the environment and build safer communities.”

“Albertans have the solutions to today's problems – they just need someone to listen and act.”

Why contact your MLA?

To raise questions or concerns about particular issues or provincial departments.

To use the Notary Public or Commissioner of Oaths services of your MLA.

To have a congratulatory scroll sent to senior family members celebrating significant birthdays or anniversaries (5 year intervals.)

To present a petition, have a tour, or sit in the Legislature.

Communities in your Constituency

Briar Hill	Riverside
Bridgeland	Rosedale
Crescent Heights	St. Andrew's Heights
Hillhurst	St. George's Heights
Houndsfield Heights	Sunnyside
Montgomery	Upper Hillhurst
Parkdale	West Hillhurst
Point McKay	Westmount
Regal Terrace	

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