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A Message from David Swann

As the snow slowly recedes and Albertans anticipate the coming warmth and greenery, your Alberta Liberal MLAs are hard at work in the Alberta Legislature, bringing your concerns to government and holding the Stelmach administration to account.

So far this spring, we've revealed how the government has failed to improve the health care system – in fact, their actions have not improved ER wait times or hospital capacity at all, and they've created over one billion dollars in health care deficits with no discernible benefit to Albertans.

We've also revealed government hypocrisy on belt-tightening. They're asking Albertans to sacrifice in this recession, and yet they've handed out tens of millions of dollars in bonuses to top-level bureaucrats who already earn extremely generous salaries. Not to mention massive increases in frivolous hosting expenses.

And we've seen that the government continues to fail the people when it comes to protecting our environment, with the revelations that the government has helped cover up pollution of the Athabasca river and the true extent of the number of birds killed in toxic tailings ponds.

There is some reason for optimism, too. We support the government's long-awaited land use strategy, and we'll push for its full implementation. And even though Alberta faces economic challenges, your Official Opposition will work hard to ensure that the government puts people first.

With budget debates looming large in Alberta, we're giving Albertans a chance to have their say on the budget. Visit <http://www.budget2009.ca> or call our toll free number, 1-888-886-2834. Leave us a message and let us know your thoughts on the government's budget priorities. You can even have us ask a question for you in the Alberta Legislature. This is a great way for Albertans to have their voices heard in this critical debate; please take advantage of this opportunity.

I hope you enjoy the beauty of spring and the summer to come. Please remember that the Official Opposition exists to serve the public, and that we are happy to bring your concerns and ideas to the Alberta Legislature. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Dr. David Swann, MD

MLA - Calgary Mountain View
Leader, Official Opposition of Alberta