



## Our 4 Priorities

Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP put the needs of regular Albertans first, with real solutions to make life more affordable for everyday people.

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“It's time Albertans saw the benefits of their resource wealth. Average families are being squeezed by high costs and declining public services. Alberta's NDP is on their side.”

– Brian Mason.

## Making life affordable

The Conservatives have offloaded the cost of public services onto the backs of regular people. Alberta's NDP is on the side of ordinary Albertans, demanding an end to health care premiums, reasonable tuition for students, and safe, affordable care for seniors. We're calling for rent controls and limits on

condominium conversions, to keep housing affordable and available.

## **Full value royalties**

The Liberals' and Conservatives' royalty plans benefit big international oil companies, but they sell Albertans short by billions of dollars a year. Alberta's NDP will follow the example set by Alaska and replace our bargain basement royalty system with a plan that benefits regular people, and delivers a full share for the resources they own.

## **Green energy plan**

Securing a prosperous future means looking beyond fossil fuels. Alberta's NDP has an ambitious plan to make Alberta a global leader in green energy. We would use increased royalty revenue to develop solar, wind, and geothermal alternatives in Alberta and invest in green energy research and economic development for the future.

## **Big \$\$ out of politics**

Political donations from big oil and other large corporations have a corrosive effect on democracy. Liberals and Conservatives, the primary recipients of those donations, put the needs of these donors ahead of the needs of ordinary families. Alberta's NDP would put an end to political donations from unions and corporations.



## **Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to treat the province's First Nation and Metis communities with dignity and respect**

Aboriginal Albertans have not been treated well by past governments. We will work with Aboriginal leaders and organizations in good faith to address their concerns and address their issues.

- Brian Mason

### **Liberals and Conservatives have largely ignored the particular needs of Aboriginal Albertans:**

- Health, social and economic indicators for First Nations and Metis people lag far behind those of other Albertans.
- Suicide rates are higher among Aboriginal youth than any other group of Albertans.

### **Alberta's NDP would:**

- Work collaboratively with Aboriginal organizations that provide necessary services for Aboriginal Albertans such as housing, education and clean drinking water.
- Re-open communication and negotiations with the Metis Nation of Alberta to develop a harvesting agreement that meets the conditions of Supreme Court decisions.
- Work with the federal government and local Aboriginal leaders to quickly and equitably settle unresolved land claims.
- Match federal funding for off-reserve Aboriginal housing
- Support employment targets regarding Aboriginal peoples' participation in the public sector, resource development, professional positions, and the trades.
- Respect treaty rights, particularly when resource development puts them in jeopardy.
- Provide stable, predictable funding and support for non-profit First Nation and Metis agencies that provide child welfare, employment and other necessary services for Aboriginal Albertans.





**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of family farmers trying to make an honest living while providing food for our province and our country.**

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of large corporations who are squeezing out family farmers.**

Farming communities are the backbone of Alberta, providing wealth and feeding hungry mouths across Canada and the world. The Conservatives and Liberals have forgotten about family farms in favour of big corporations and agri-businesses.

- Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big business and mega farms:**

- The Conservatives have spent tax dollars to lobby against the Canadian Wheat Board.
- Bill 46 was forced on all Albertans and will directly impact farmers by taking away their right to have a hearing on utilities projects going through their own backyards.
- Farm debt in Alberta has ballooned to \$18 billion.
- The Alberta-run Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization program is skewed against smaller, more diversified farms - making it very difficult for family farms to qualify for assistance.
- Smaller farms received only a small portion of the disaster relief funds. A large piece ended up in the bank accounts of big businesses that contribute to Liberal and Conservative election campaigns.
- In the current system, meat packers own a captive supply making it possible for them to manipulate the price by withdrawing from the market.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of family farms. The NDP would:**

- Support the Canadian Wheat Board.
- Provide funding and incentives for farms to produce environmental goods and services.
- Support public research in new varieties of grains and livestock and sustainable, organic agriculture.
- Fight for farmers rights to save and sell their seed.
- Support stable funding for general farm organizations.
- Institute a proper, long term disaster plan farmers can count on.
- Prepare agriculture to transition from high cost and increasingly scarce fossil fuels to other energy forms in order to insure food security.
- Give strong support for supply management and orderly marketing to ensure farmers receive their cost of production plus reasonable returns on investment and labour.
- Protect and preserve farmland for future generations.
- Work with farmers to deal with, and help to reduce, global warming.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to provide stronger support for arts and culture across the province. Liberals and Conservatives neglect arts and culture and fail to see its importance to Alberta communities.**

Promoting the arts means promoting our culture, our education, and our quality of life. Alberta can be a pioneer in nurturing a thriving cultural sector.

- Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives have neglected Arts and Culture**

**Arts and culture make important contributions to our quality of life and our economy. But the success of our arts community is largely in spite of government neglect.**

- Funding for the arts has not increased significantly in over 15 years. Funding for the arts is provided through a board stacked with patronage appointments. Culture is lumped into the same ministry that runs everything from the Human Rights Commission to provincial parks. Many Alberta artists have to struggle to make ends meet. Most artists live below the poverty line.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of Alberta communities**

Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are committed to helping build the province's arts scene so that it not only survives but thrives.

Artists that make a valuable contribution to the quality of life of our communities should be able to

make a fair living and should not have to move to Vancouver or Toronto to find better opportunities.

### **Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP would:**

- Create a separate Ministry of Arts and Culture to coordinate arts funding and programs, and offer stable funding to arts groups
- Improve the living and working conditions of artists by helping artists to establish thriving markets for their art, gain easy access to information about building their careers, and support collective bargaining in those sectors where the artists want it.
- Introduce \$30 million in new funding for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. Ensure the independence of the Foundation's board. End political patronage in board appointments.
- Allocate 1% of all large capital projects for the commission of arts projects.
- Increase fine arts curriculum in elementary and secondary schools.
- Expand and coordinate Alberta's network of museums, historical sites, galleries and libraries.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to increase the number of quality childcare spaces, and bring the costs down to an affordable level.**

**Liberals and Tories are on the side of private, for-profit childcare. They can't be trusted to put children and families before profits.**

Parents should be able to go to work confident that their children will be protected and nurtured in an accessible, affordable and safe environment. Quality childcare shouldn't cost an arm and a leg. Middle class families deserve better.

- Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of private, profitable childcare providers.**

**While the Liberals and Conservatives found time and resources to vote for a corporate tax cut, our province's child care system has been neglected.**

- A shortage of quality spaces, along with high rates at accredited facilities leave middle class families scrambling.
- Low wages in the sector force staff to take second jobs or change industries to survive, meaning high turnover, loss of continuity and knowledge.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of parents and children  
Alberta's NDP has a plan for child-care that works for families. Our plan includes:**

- Bring funding up to the national average (\$268 million) to create more spaces and cut fees in half.
- Use the federally allocated \$26 million for childcare to create 4,000 new spaces.
- Cap fees at \$25/day for infant care and \$9/day for after school care.
- Supporting the accreditation of childcare centres.
- Developing a childcare plan that addresses the childcare needs of 6-12 year olds as well as pre-schoolers.
- Improve the wages of child care workers to address shortages and turnover.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to eliminate the influence of big money on politics - that means ending political donations from business and union groups.**

**Liberals and Tories are dependant upon millions of dollars in donations from big oil companies and other large corporations. How can we trust them to look out for our environment when they are so tied to business?**

Those who pay the piper call the tune. Allowing big money to buy influence with cabinet ministers and politicians distorts our democracy. A party that accepts funding from big oil, big polluters and big landlords is on their side. I'm on the side of middle class Albertans. - Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of the big oil companies and other large corporations who donate to their parties.**

**In 2006, Liberals and Conservatives received over \$1.7 million from corporations - unlike the NDP, who received less than 3% of donations from businesses.**

- In 2006, the Conservatives took \$39,000 from Alberta's top eight polluters, while the Liberals took \$15,250. How can we trust these parties to look out for our environment instead of looking out for their donors?
- In 2005 the Liberals and Conservatives rewarded their corporate pals by teaming up to vote against an NDP motion that would have cancelled a \$370 million corporate tax cut.

- The Liberals and Conservatives have been reluctant to address long overdue increases to our royalty regime, changes that would ensure Albertans get the benefits of our energy resources without giving them away for a song. No doubt the reluctance has to do with the fact the parties accept hundreds of thousands in donations from big oil every year.

## **Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of banning big money from politics**

**Getting big money out of politics is not rocket science. Manitoba, Quebec and the federal government have already eliminated corporate and union donations. Alberta's NDP has a plan to:**

- Prohibit political donations from corporations and unions to political parties.
- Table legislation binding all leadership and nomination contests to the same disclosure rules and donation limits of federal political parties.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want more effective policing and greater emphasis on community policing and crime prevention.**

**Liberals and Conservatives have said nothing about Alberta's high crime rate, and the fact Alberta has fewer police officers per capita than most other provinces.**

Community policing works. It is about building relationships, preventing crime, and making connections with youth and others at risk. It's a proven model for reducing crime. - Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are ignoring the problem**

**While Liberals and Conservatives voted to give tax cuts to large corporations, Alberta's municipalities are struggling for money to hire more police officers.**

- Alberta is falling farther and farther behind the national average of officers per capita, and is now the third lowest among all provinces. The influx of new people coming to Alberta is straining police budgets, which are not keeping up.
- In 2006, Alberta's property crime rate (including breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, theft, possession of stolen goods, and fraud) was 25 per cent higher than the national average. The rate of violent crime was 16 per cent higher.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of effective crime prevention**

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to make sure more police are on the beat, preventing crime before it happens by building a bond with local residents and keeping a watchful eye on our communities. The NDP has a plan for better community policing:**

- Targeted funding for municipalities for community policing, with the money tied to hiring neighborhood officers - 800 new officers over the next five years to bring Alberta up to the national average for officers per capita.
- Establish response time targets when calls are made to report crimes.
- Establish a provincial body to investigate allegations of criminal wrongdoing by police. Police should not investigate themselves when allegations or complaints involving criminal misconduct are made.
- Effectively address the roots of crime through measures to reduce poverty - affordable housing, Headstart programs, a higher minimum wage, and learning and recreational opportunities for kids at risk.



## Lowering drug costs



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to lower drug costs while improving the health care system.**

**Liberals and Conservatives accept large campaign donations from drug companies - they can't be trusted with Alberta's health care system.**

Everyone recognizes the problem of skyrocketing drug costs. Only Alberta's NDP have a practical plan to get drug costs under control.

- Brian Mason

### **Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of patients**

Prescription drug costs are the fastest growing portion of the health care budget. By getting those costs under control, we can ease the pressure on your wallet and the health care budget. Alberta's NDP would establish an Alberta Pharmaceutical Savings Agency, based on a model pioneered in New Zealand. The agency would constrain costs by bulk buying and substituting less expensive, generic drugs where they are of equal therapeutic benefit. Bulk-buying lowers costs by increasing competition between brand name and generic drug manufacturers - a step recently recommended by the Competition Bureau. The funds saved by health regions would be invested into better pharmacare coverage for seniors.

### **The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of drug companies**

- Since 2000, Alberta's public expenditures on prescription drugs have more than doubled. By comparison, New Zealand's drug costs have increased by only 20 per cent.
- Although New Zealand has one million more people than Alberta, the public health care system spent \$400 million less on prescription drugs in 2006 than Alberta. New Zealanders saved an

additional \$430 million in out of pocket payments.

- A recent study found that New Zealanders pay 50% less than Canadians for most prescription drugs.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP will ensure our economy is healthy and benefits all Albertans, not just big profitable businesses.**

**In order to collect big political donations, Liberals and Tories consistently put the interests of big corporations ahead of the needs of ordinary Albertans.**

At a time of great prosperity in our province, too many ordinary families are one or two paycheques away from homelessness. We need a plan for our economy that includes regular Albertans.

- Brian Mason

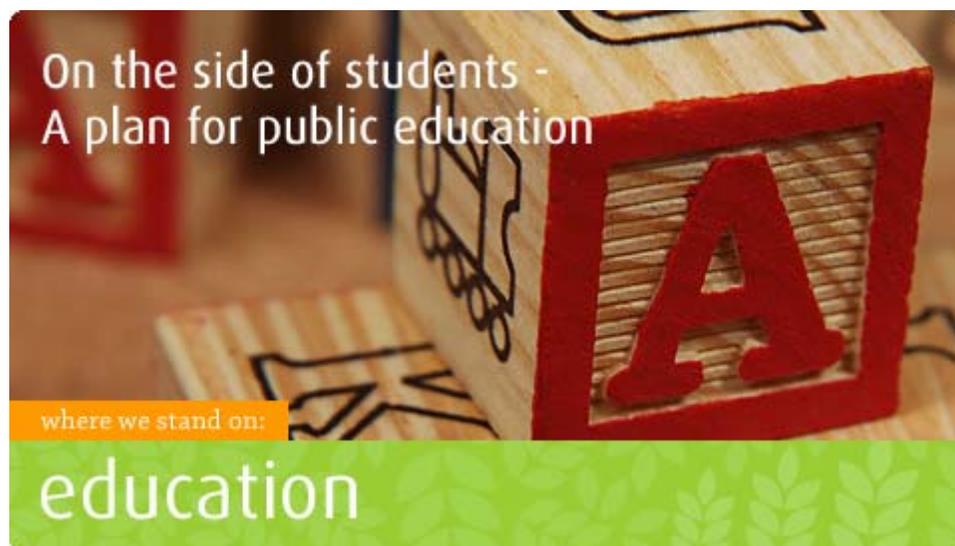
**The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big corporations:**

**The Liberals and Conservatives have plans for the economy that only benefit the large corporations who donate hundreds of thousands of dollars to their parties.**

- The Liberals and Conservatives have repeatedly ignored calls from Albertans to manage the pace of growth. They support the export of massive profits and jobs out of the province, leaving ordinary people to deal with the problems.
- The Liberals have not put forward a plan for the economy that considers the needs of ordinary families. They have only called for greater corporate political donations to their party from large corporations.
- Liberals and Conservatives can't be counted on to represent ordinary families because they are more interested in collecting greater political contributions from large profitable corporations.

## **Brian Mason and the NDP Opposition are on the side of working Albertans: Alberta's NDP would:**

- Develop a labour retention strategy so that our businesses can run at full capacity
- Better manage the pace of development in the oil-patch to mitigate effects of the uncontrolled growth
- Support increased oil royalties, using some of the funds created to promote a green energy industry - preparing Alberta for the day when oil and gas reserves are depleted
- Build and maintain crucial infrastructure necessary for our economic growth and social services



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to use our wealth to build strong, healthy public schools. Liberals and Conservatives voted for tax cuts to profitable corporations at the same time schools were laying off staff. Both parties accept donations from large corporations - the same organizations pushing for private ownership of school buildings.**

Every child should be able to learn and receive the best possible education. Education unlocks opportunity for our young people, for newcomers to Canada, and for Albertans of all ages. Providing schools in new neighbourhoods and preserving them in older communities is a priority for Alberta's NDP - Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives voted for tax cuts to big oil companies and other large corporations rather than properly fund education.**

**While the Liberals and Conservatives voted for tax cuts for their political supporters, the neglect of Alberta's education system has created problems:**

- The lack of appropriate funding has led to class sizes larger than recommended by the Alberta Commission on Learning
- In 2005, 28 of Alberta's 62 school boards (43%) ran a deficit
- In 2005, school boards charged families a total of \$40 million in fees for teaching resources.
- There is a significant backlog of work to be done in building repair and maintenance.
- The financial position of school boards has weakened due to funding formulas that don't cover salary increases.

- School districts are being forced into considering lease arrangements (public, private partnerships) for new buildings, even though these arrangements were rejected in other provinces for costing more and providing less public control.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of students, parents, and educational staff who want to improve education.**

**Alberta's NDP would:**

- Implement Learning Commission recommendations by imposing caps on class sizes.
- Ensure schools have the necessary support staff - including teacher librarians and counselors, teacher aides, and clerical and maintenance staff.
- Fund full-day kindergarten and half-day junior kindergarten for vulnerable children and all children whose parents choose this option. Improve opportunities for special needs students - provide adequate funding for fulltime aides.
- Make high school completion a priority by providing students with the support they need to stay in school and reach their educational potential.
- Eliminate fees and fundraising for learning essentials, like computers.
- Phase out funding for private schools and bring charter schools under the jurisdiction of school boards.
- Provide healthy and nutritious breakfast and lunch programs where needed.
- Make sure parents of 6 - 12 year olds have access to affordable after-school care where they need it.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to ensure that our environment, water and natural spaces are maintained for the benefit of current and future generations of Albertans. Liberals and Conservatives accept huge campaign donations from big oil and other large corporate polluters. They can't be trusted to put the environment ahead of the needs of their big donors.**

Alberta's land, water, air and climate should not be for sale to the highest bidder. We have to protect our environment for the sake of our children and grandchildren  
- Brian Mason

**The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big oil and other large polluters**

**Liberals and Conservatives have proven themselves over and over again to be bad stewards of our environment. Their competition for corporate fundraising dollars puts them in conflict with the need to enact strong laws to protect our planet.**

- The Conservatives passed a Climate Change Act that allows greenhouse gas emissions to increase
- The Liberal record isn't any better - they voted against NDP amendments for real greenhouse gas regulations and reduction targets - putting the interests of big oil ahead of the interests of our environment.
- Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of our planet

- Alberta's environment is steadily being eroded. High water consumption for the tar sands and unmitigated resource development isn't just affecting the health and environment of Albertans. It is affecting the world through high greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

### **Alberta's NDP would implement:**

- Stronger greenhouse gas emissions regulations and enforcement in the oil-patch
- More effective environmental compliance and oversight of land reclamation in the oil-patch
- A water management plan to ensure that current and future needs are balanced
- No additional resource development on our lakeshores and lake beds
- A "Green Energy Plan" to invest increased oil and gas royalties into green energy projects, with an emphasis on moving Alberta away from coalpower.
- A land use framework that curbs urban sprawl and safeguards valuable farmland and habitats in the vicinity of our cities and towns.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP believe in using the wealth created by fossil fuels to build an energy industry that sells clean, environmentally friendly power.**

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big oil and big polluters. They accept large financial contributions from big profitable companies and they do not seriously promote green energy.**

Alberta's NDP has a plan to transform our current energy gold rush into the foundation of a healthy and sustainable energy future. It's a plan that protects our economy and our planet.

- Brian Mason

**The Liberals and Conservatives both accept hundreds of thousands of dollars per year from big oil companies and other polluters**

When push comes to shove, they will side with their profitable corporate backers who don't want to pay more for the right to extract our oil and gas.

Furthermore, the large, profitable energy corporations who bankroll the Liberal and Conservative parties don't want to diversify away from fossil fuels.

Only Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP can be trusted to look out for the needs of our economy, and our environment.

**Brian Mason and the NDP are on the side of the environment**

Alberta's bountiful energy resources have created a lot of wealth for our province. However, successive governments with ties to big oil companies and other polluters made bad use of those resources. They

have given away resources for a song, denying revenue to Albertans that could have built schools, hospitals, and better roads. And they have allowed the Alberta economy to be solely focused on oil and gas, ignoring the need to diversify. They have left ordinary Alberta families at the mercy of a boom and bust economy.

Brian Mason and the NDP have a plan to reduce our dependency on polluting fossil fuels. By increasing the amount energy companies pay to extract resources, the NDP has a plan to create a \$20 billion fund for the creation of a green energy economy, including:

- Kick-starting renewable energy projects. These would include solar, wind and geothermal initiatives.
- Create the Alberta Renewable Energy Corporation (AREC). As a crown corporation AREC would develop larger scale projects, foster research and market development.
- Give Albertans the choice to support green energy through net-metering and interest-free home retrofit loans.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of patients. The NDP will improve health care services while keeping costs down. Liberals and Conservatives accept large campaign donations from private insurance and drug companies - they can't be trusted with Alberta's health care.**

We've seen repeated attempts to introduce for-profit health care and every time the people of Alberta say no. For-profit medicine takes money out of services and puts it into dividends for shareholders. Patient care comes first - and always will with the NDP.

- Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of the for-profit health care insurance and drug companies who donate to their parties.**

**After massive and irresponsible cuts to health care in the 1990s, the system is struggling to recover. Alberta continues to see higher costs and lower quality service.**

- Alberta is short 1,500 nurses and 1,000 doctors - a number that will grow to 1,500 in the next three years. At the same time many foreign medical personnel have passed qualifying exams to practice in Alberta, but are unable to find a residency space which they need to complete their training. Similar shortages exist with nurses and other medical staff.
- Delays in starting construction on the Calgary's new south hospital have added \$1 billion to the cost and aggravated the shortage of beds.
- Spending on prescription drugs as a percentage of health care costs has doubled in the past 20 years. But Liberals and Conservatives won't adopt Brian Mason's proposal to save money through bulk buying

of prescription drugs.

## **Brian Mason and the NDP are on the side of quality patient care**

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP led the fight against repeated attempts to introduce for-profit health care. Brian Mason wants to deal with rising costs and shortage of services by focusing on innovation and efficiency within the public health system.**

- Control prescription drug costs by establishing an Alberta Pharmaceutical Savings Agency. The agency would constrain costs by bulk buying and substituting less expensive, generic drugs where possible.
- Fix the shortage of doctors and nurses. Financial barriers for students interested in becoming medical professionals need to be removed. More residencies should be available for international medical students.
- Shorten wait times in hospitals by setting targets for health regions, and by better funding for long term care moving seniors from hospital beds to more appropriate long term care settings.
- Create community-based, primary health care clinics to divert patients out of emergency rooms - alleviating the long waits experienced there.  
Enhanced home care services to make the transition from hospital to home quicker and easier and reduce return trips to the hospital.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to protect middle-class families from soaring rent increases and a housing market too rich for young families to buy into. Liberals and Conservatives have done little but propose half-measures designed to protect the ability of big landlords to gouge tenants, making huge profits off other people's misery.**

Alberta's housing market isn't meeting the needs of middle class families. By failing to support real rent guidelines and first time homeowner supports, the Liberals and Conservatives are once again taking the side of corporate friends over the rest of us.

- Brian Mason

### **The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big landlords**

**The Liberals and Conservatives both accept large donations from big landlords who profit from gouging renters. So it's no surprise that the Conservatives have refused to take action and the Liberals have flip flopped and offered half measures. With the Liberals and Conservatives in the pockets of their corporate donors, we can't count on them to protect us.**

- The Liberals flip-flopped on housing increases, scrapping their weak position with a plan that will do even less for renters. They think 10% rent increases are acceptable, and want to limit rent guidelines to one year only. But analysts predict rents will continue to skyrocket for several years, meaning the Liberal policy won't stop renters from being gouged.
- As long as Liberals and Conservatives continue to accept big donations from big landlords, they can't

be trusted to look out for the interests of renters.

## **Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of middle class families**

**While Alberta's economy continues to overheat, Alberta families find themselves no further ahead. Renters and first-time home buyers are finding themselves shut out. We need to restore sanity to rents and real estate prices. Alberta's NDP would:**

- Immediately implement temporary rent guidelines, limiting rent increases to inflation plus 2%. Landlords could apply for larger increases to cover major repairs and renovations.
- Implement a program to support first time homebuyers, as recommended by the housing task force.
- Close the loopholes that allow the conversion of apartments to condominiums, putting renters out of their homes.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want all Albertans to enjoy the benefits of the province's prosperity. Liberals and Conservatives favour the priorities of big corporations over low income Albertans.**

No one need starve or be homeless in a province as rich as Alberta. We have the means to ensure that disabled Albertans, and those working in low income jobs have the minimum necessities of life.  
- Brian Mason

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of disabled and low income Albertans**

**By providing security and dignity to the most vulnerable members of our society, we can make a better province for all of us. Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP would take positive steps to reduce poverty.**

- Gradually raise the minimum wage to \$10 an hour, and index it to the cost of living thereafter.
- Implement rent guidelines and close loopholes around condo conversions, so landlords cannot unreasonably put people out on the street.
- Make sure AISH and social assistance rates allow people to meet the basic necessities of life by tying rates to a Market Basket Measure.
- Increase Alberta Works earnings exemptions to the same level as those in the AISH program.
- Ensure provincial contracts and grants enable organizations to provide a living wage to their employees. Work with municipalities to encourage them to establish a similar policy.

**The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of large profitable**

## corporations

- Alberta's economy is growing rapidly, but some Albertans are being left out of the boom.
- Low wages are still facts of life for many. One in five workers makes less than \$12 per hour. For those relying on support from the provincial government, the small amount they receive is not enough to help them break out of poverty.
- Most recipients of the Alberta Works income support program have jobs. But the money they receive from the government is not enough to make ends meet. If they manage to increase the hours they work or their wage rate, they often find they are no further ahead because any earnings increases are offset by reduction of income-support payments and other benefits. They get neither a hand-out nor a hand-up.
- While AISH recipients received only a small \$50 per month increase in 2006, large corporations received a generous \$370 million tax cut. Liberals and Conservatives voted for the tax cut against the Alberta NDP's attempt to cancel it.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to enhance the rights and safety of working people. Mason is the only leader we can trust to make the lives of working people a little easier. Liberals and Tories accept hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from big corporations and other employers who oppose fair labour laws. They can't be trusted to look out for working people.**

Alberta's labour laws were written with the needs of big oil companies and other large corporations in mind. In a province as rich as Alberta, we can ensure that middle class families enjoy a fair share of the boom. That means fair wages and balanced labour legislation.

- Brian Mason

### **The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big corporations and other employers:**

- Alberta has the worst labour laws in Canada. We have a low minimum wage, it's almost impossible to start a union, health and safety standards are poorly enforced, and employers are allowed to hire children as young as twelve!
- Liberals and the Conservatives accept hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from the very businesses that enjoy such unbalanced rules. Those parties cannot be trusted to put the rights of working Albertans ahead of the interests of their donors.
- In the two years since the strike at Lakeside Packers, nothing has been done to prevent a similar situation from happening somewhere else.
- The Liberals have openly requested even larger campaign donations from the very same businesses that benefit from weak labour laws. They can't protect workers and solicit employer

donations at the same time.

## **Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of working Albertans:**

### **Alberta's NDP would:**

- Increase minimum wage to \$10/hour so working Albertans have a chance to survive skyrocketing costs.
  - Amend the regulation that allows 12-year-olds to work in restaurants. Twelve-year-olds should not be used as labour in the service sector.
  - Introduce 'First Contract' legislation similar to BC, Quebec and Manitoba, so that once workers decide to join a union, their employer can't engage in union busting.
  - Change the Labour Code to give construction workers the same rights as employees in other sectors.
- Hire more WCB inspectors to ensure we have safer work environments



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want a more balanced approach, one that protects our environment, and ensures resource development will continue to fuel our economy into the future.**

**Liberals and Conservatives accept hundreds of thousands of dollars in political donations from energy companies who want to mine sensitive ecological areas. They can't be trusted to put the environment ahead of the needs of their campaign donors.**

Our wildlife and natural spaces have suffered because Liberals and Conservatives put the needs of big oil first. If we continue along the same path of destruction and exploitation, it will be too late. Our natural areas need to become a priority again.

- Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big oil and other polluters:**

- Alberta's natural areas have been neglected and put at risk with rapid rates of expansion and extraction of our natural resources at any cost.
- Liberals and Conservatives have aligned themselves with land developers, resource companies and industry resulting in the sacrifice of our natural areas and lack of integrated land and water use planning.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of our environment.**

- Put wildlife, water, air and natural areas back on the priority list. This includes implementing recovery plans for our threatened and endangered species while protecting the natural spaces

where they live.

- Phase out mining, logging and drilling in protected areas.
- Meet the U.N. target of protecting at least 12 percent of Alberta's land area, ensuring all ecological areas are adequately represented.
- Work with local communities to promote the Yellowstone to Yukon Corridor, to maintain biodiversity in the Foothills Natural region.
- End privatization of provincial park operations, which has proven costly and inefficient.
- Ensure that tar sands clean-up and environmental protection happen while the resources are extracted.
- Establish a network of protected areas throughout the tar sands region.
- Place a moratorium on water withdrawal licenses until a Watershed Management Plan and conservation objectives are formulated for the Athabasca and Oldman Rivers.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP supports tuition levels that ordinary families can afford.**

**Liberals and Conservatives have ignored rising tuition levels and inadequate funding for post secondary education.**

Ordinary families are finding it increasingly difficult to send their children to college, university or trades schools. We need to improve access to post secondary education by creating more spaces and reducing tuition fees.

- Brian Mason

**The Liberals and Conservatives are neglecting post secondary education**

**In 2006, Liberals and Conservatives received over \$1.7 million from corporations - unlike the NDP, who received less than 3% of donations from businesses.**

- Since 1990, tuition rates have tripled, and yet in 2006 the Conservatives passed legislation removing caps on tuition - allowing the cost of education to rise higher.
- The Liberals have no plan to reduce tuition levels.
- Base operating grants to universities and colleges are not keeping pace with inflation, forcing post-secondary institutions to cut programs, lay off staff, increasing tuition, and eliminate student services.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of students**

**Alberta's NDP will build a strong post-secondary education system where**

**education is affordable to all. The NDP would:**

- Reduce tuition fees to 1999-2000 levels, and fully fund a tuition freeze thereafter.
- Reduce the student loan interest rates to prime and find ways to reduce administrative costs on student loan payments.
- Generate additional provincial grant, bursary and scholarship opportunities thereby reducing dependency on student loans.
- Create an endowment for social sciences, arts and humanities research.
- Work to ensure that Cabinet Ministers and MLAs meet with post-secondary institutions, Governors and Student Unions regularly to learn about, and respond to their concerns.
- Increase the availability of post-secondary spaces at existing institutions and support the creation of new facilities, particularly in rural areas where it can be difficult to access post-secondary education.
- Support initiatives to build additional student housing.
- Extend accreditation options to building trade unions to create more apprenticeship spaces.



**For years, Brian Mason has been the only leader standing up to big oil companies and demanding Albertans get a bigger share of royalties.**

**The Liberals and Conservatives both accept bargain basement royalty rates, lower than almost every other country in the world, because those parties accept hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign donations from big oil companies.**

Albertans deserve better than bargain basement royalty rates. Big oil companies are paying pennies on the dollar for the billions they make from the tar sands. Had the Liberals and Conservatives not grown so dependent on political donations from the oil and gas sector, we could have been getting a larger share years ago.

- Brian Mason

**The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big oil companies:**

- In 2006, Liberals and Conservatives received over \$1.7 million from corporations - unlike the NDP, who received less than 3% of donations from businesses.
- The Liberals and Conservatives support royalty plans that give billions to big oil companies, while leaving crumbs for ordinary Albertans.
- The Liberals and Conservatives both support setting tar sands royalties at pennies on the dollar. That means almost two billion dollars in lost revenue to the people of Alberta every year.
- Even after the Liberal or Conservative royalty plan is implemented, Albertans will collect lower royalties than almost every other country in the world. Only Ireland collects lower rates than Alberta.

## **Brian Mason is prepared to take on big oil corporations**

### **Alberta's NDP would:**

- Establish an all party committee of the Legislature to study royalty rates and report back within three months.
- Give the all party committee access to all relevant government information on royalty rates and the oil and gas sector.
- Mandate the committee to examine the feasibility of Alaska royalty rates for Alberta. Alaska has royalty rates 60% higher than Alberta, even though Alaska oil is more expensive to extract, and has to be shipped further to market.

If Alberta adopted Alaska royalty rates, it would generate over \$4 billion in extra revenue over the Liberal and Conservative plans (assuming \$100/barrel oil prices).

- Scrap special penny-on-the dollar arrangements for tar sands corporations - no other industry has such a sweetheart deal.
- Use increased revenue of up to \$20 billion over ten years to promote green energy - fund environmentally friendly energy projects like solar, wind, and geothermal power at the household level, as well as energy conservation projects.
- Stop the shipment of raw bitumen out of province to be processed elsewhere. Introduce legislation to ensure that all bitumen mined in Alberta is upgraded in Alberta.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want to improve the level of care in seniors' homes.**

**Liberals and Tories are on the side of private, profitable corporations who operate seniors' homes. They can't be trusted to do the right thing.**

Seniors spent their lives building this province and planning for their retirement. They did their part, but a lack of planning has left seniors short-changed. Costs for continuing care are going up, services are going down and standards are still not being enforced.

- Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of private, profitable seniors' home operators.**

Two years after the Auditor General's landmark report on the appalling conditions in long-term care centres, very little has changed. The inability to plan and an ideological commitment to privatization have let seniors down.

We can't trust the Liberals and Conservatives to fix the system because they are dependent on political donations from private, profitable seniors' home operators like Extendicare.

The big private operators like the system the way it is. Poor care, low wages, and miserable conditions mean greater profits. That's why they invest in the Liberal and Conservative parties - to make sure nothing changes.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of seniors**

The Auditor General's 2005 report into long-term care was a scandal for the province. The fact that nothing has changed is an outright shame.

### **Alberta's NDP have an action plan, including:**

- Introducing province-wide measurable and enforceable standards for care. These must include best practices for nursing ratios and resident complaint mechanisms.
- Legislating standard qualifications for health care aides who provide most of the day-to-day personal and nursing care to residents
- Stopping the conversion of long-term care facilities to assisted living facilities - with lower standards and higher fees
- Establishing community-based teams of mental health professionals to offer quick response to patient crises and to offer family support improving facility inspections. If they are not unannounced, with publicly posted results and strong accountability measures -- they don't do any good.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP want the resources from the tar sands to be refined here in Alberta, instead of shipping them (and the jobs they represent) to the U.S.**

**Liberals and Conservatives are happy to let the resources flow out of province unrefined because that's what makes the highest profits for their supporters in big oil.**

Shipping raw bitumen to the states has to stop. It represents the loss of jobs, the loss of revenue to the province, and the loss of our ability to pace our current prosperity. Our energy resources won't last forever - we need to make the most of them.

- Brian Mason

### **The Liberals and Conservatives are on the side of big oil**

During his run for the Leadership of the Conservative party, Ed Stelmach said shipping bitumen was like "stripping the topsoil off your farm and selling it."

But after getting elected-he promptly flip flopped and allowed more pipeline construction to go ahead.

The Liberals' solution is to ship bitumen east and west instead of south - meaning the jobs and prosperity still leave Alberta.

Both the Liberals and the Conservatives are beholden to big oil companies who contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to their parties each year. Those donors make huge profits by shipping unrefined resources south. As long as they take money from big oil companies, neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives can be trusted to stick up for middle-class Albertans.

## **Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on our side**

One third of all bitumen (raw, unrefined oil from the tar sands) is shipped to the US via pipelines for upgrading. That represents a loss of jobs for Albertans and a loss of resource royalties for the province. It also means we have to strip our resources harder and faster to get the same economic output.

Only Brian Mason and the Alberta NDP support a policy of upgrading all bitumen in Alberta. Our province fought hard to get control of our resources - now we need to take advantage of it.



**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP will ensure our scarce water resources are managed to balance the needs of our economy and population and with the need to maintain environmental stability.**

**Liberals and Conservatives will continue to mismanage our water resources to the benefit of big business and to the detriment of our aquatic eco-systems.**

We have to ensure that Alberta families have access to safe drinking water. We need a long term vision to ensure our water needs are balanced to meet the current and future demands of our families both now and for generations to come.

- Brian Mason

**Liberals and Conservatives are failing to safeguard of our water supply**

- Alberta's water supply has shrunk by over 20 percent in the last century. Global warming threatens Alberta's future supply of water.
- The current Water For Life policy is silent in terms of management and only states that a hierarchy must be put in place, but does not mandate a timeline or action.
- A comprehensive environmental review of our aquatic ecosystems still has not been done to ensure that current and future water allocations do not threaten the ecosystem.

**Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are on the side of proper water management**

**Alberta's NDP would do the following to preserve our water supply:**

- Support a comprehensive water survey that documents total water availability in Alberta
- Implement a comprehensive wetlands protection plan
- Mandate commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential water conservation best practices.



## **Child care, pay equity, safe communities, and proper funding of shelters are issues of concern to Alberta families. Brian Mason and Alberta's NDP are the only party fighting for these issues.**

Alberta's NDP is committed to achieving the full equality of women in every walk of life. Our children, our families and our community depend upon it.

- Brian Mason

### **Alberta's NDP would:**

- Reduce childcare fees and increase the number of affordable spaces available thereby shortening wait times.
- Establish an integrated childcare plan that acknowledges the afterschool needs of children aged 6-12 (and their parents/guardians) and improve wages and benefits for childcare workers.
- Increase funding for women's shelters and enhance support for abuse victims seeking affordable long-term housing.
- Create more secure housing options for women in need with additional supports for women who are leaving the sex-trade.
- Eliminate wage discrimination in public sector and government contracts.
- Support community policing initiatives in an effort to make our communities safer.
- Advocate for high quality, low-cost, education-centred child care and early intervention programs.

### **Liberals and Conservatives have neglected women's issues:**

- In 2006, Alberta women's average hourly wage was an average of \$5.46/hour less than men.
- Half of all working Albertan women are classified as low wage (less than \$15/hour).
- There is a shortage of affordable childcare options and spaces.

- Alberta women are less likely to receive a benefits package at work or belong to a union.
- Over 15,000 women and children were denied service at women's shelters in 2006 because there wasn't room.