

MOVING ALBERTA
forward 



**CARING FOR OUR SENIORS,
CHILDREN & THE VULNERABLE**

WILDROSE
OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

CARING FOR SENIORS, CHILDREN & THE VULNERABLE

Alberta remains one of the most prosperous places in the world with a quality of life that is second-to-none. However, not everybody is fortunate enough to enjoy some of the comforts and privileges the rest of us take for granted. Wildrose recognizes the many instances of seniors, children and

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individuals with physical or mental disabilities who need support to enjoy the quality of life they deserve. Support services have to be more flexible and responsive to the changing nature of people's lives.

Seniors of all ages and health conditions are invaluable to communities and deserve to be treated as such. Wildrose believes all Albertans

have an obligation to provide seniors with the support and care they need and deserve. Government programs and initiatives should assist, rather than hinder, parents' ability to provide for and spend more quality time with their children. When a family is in crisis, it is critical to protect children involved and, where appropriate, support parents so they can maintain a healthy relationship with their children. These beliefs will guide how Wildrose manages programs for Albertans.

Albertans with disabilities should be empowered to lead dignified, healthy and fulfilling lives with as much independence as possible. The innumerable contributions of these individuals – and the community of support around them – enrich our province and strengthen our society.

Finally, Wildrose recognizes the needs and respects the rights of our First Nations and Metis people. We will work with First Nations and Metis leaders when creating and implementing policies affecting their communities.

POLICIES

SENIORS CARE

- » *Invest an additional \$50 million per year in homecare and annually increase homecare funding thereafter to keep up with enrolment.* This will empower Albertans to continue living in the comfort of their own homes and communities while freeing up hundreds of badly needed acute care hospital beds
- » *Provide expanded home care and palliative care services to assist chronically and terminally ill patients with supportive home environments as an option to institutional care. Support long-term care facilities that will help address the needs of our aging population*
- » Explore the feasibility of a 'Kinship Palliative Care' program where family members who might otherwise be employed in the workforce are moderately compensated for providing end-of-life care for their loved ones
- » Ensure all seniors care facilities are meeting high meal quality standards and providing a minimum of two baths per week
- » *End the "Divorce by Nursing Home" 80-kilometre rule so married couples can continue living together*



CARING FOR CHILDREN

- » Make government child care grants more flexible in what type of child care they can be used for, and maintain a child care approach that prioritizes support for parents with the highest financial need
- » Introduce substantive family law reforms that improve compliance with both maintenance and visitation orders
- » Review child intervention policy and processes, the foster care system and group homes to ensure that objective decision-making, safety, training, compensation, and caseload levels are set at the highest standards possible
- » ***Ensure foster parents and adoptive parents are treated with the utmost respect and receive the financial support needed to perform the critical service they provide***

- » The role of the Child and Youth Advocate should remain independent, and the government should fully support the office's mandate by increasing funding at least to the level of inflation and ensuring that access to department information is quick and complete



SOCIAL SUPPORTS

- » *End the financial hardship faced by AISH recipients when they turn 65 years old by ensuring that their pre-65 income and prescription coverage is maintained*
- » Implement five-year funding agreements to community agencies in all areas of continuing care, disability supports, and children's services. These agreements would be subject to reporting on measurable outcomes tracked by key performance indicators
- » Index and increase funding for Family Community Support Services (FCSS) to the rate of inflation.
- » Reverse Prentice's tax credit cut on charitable donations
- » Allocate a significant portion of the revenues generated from gambling to treat and prevent gambling addiction



