

## **The Prentice Plan**

***Choose  
Alberta's  
Future***



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*MESSAGE FROM JIM PRENTICE*

My story starts out much like most Albertans'. I was born into a big family who taught me that with hard work, integrity and perseverance you can accomplish anything.

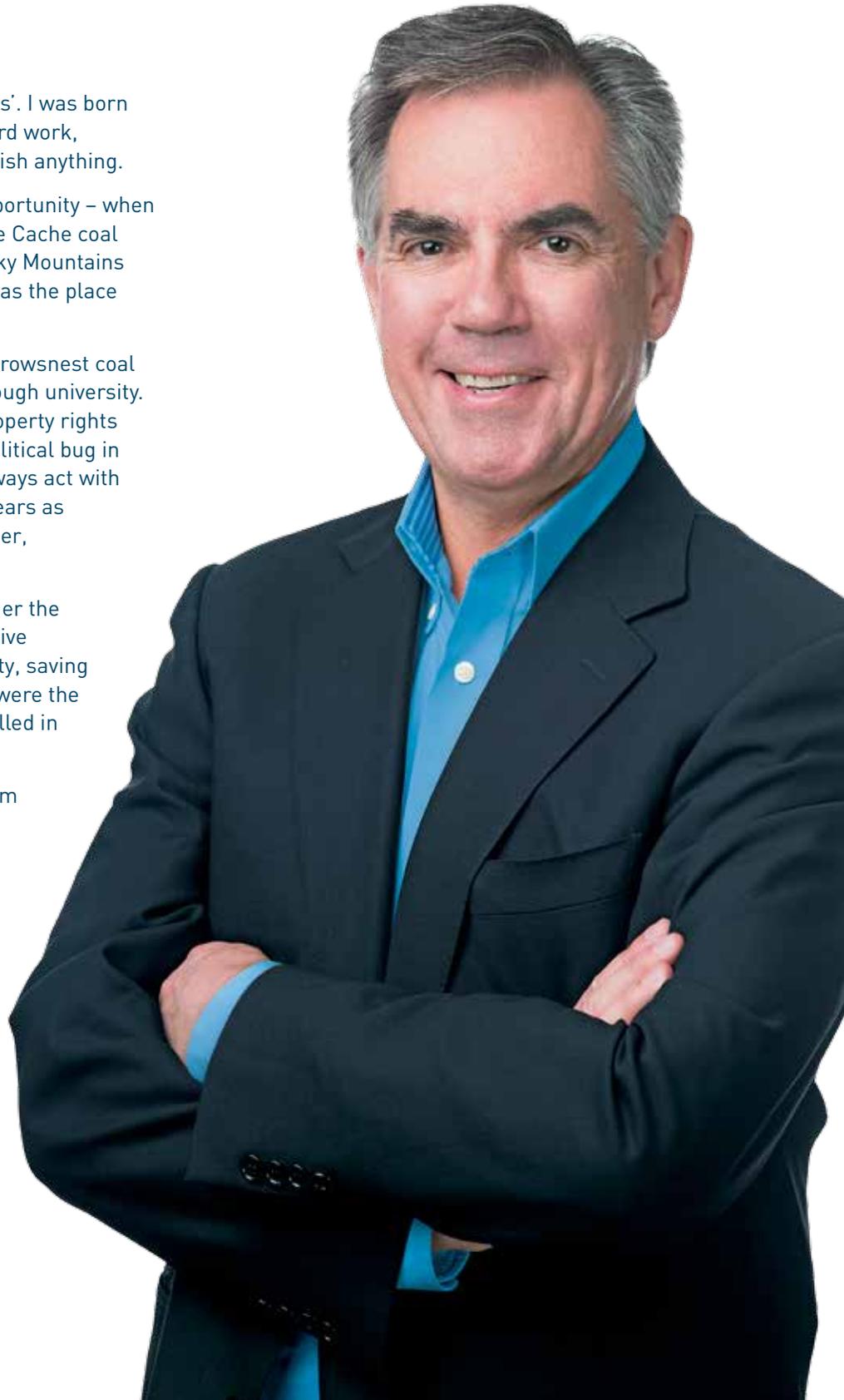
My family moved to Alberta – the land of opportunity – when I was 12, for my father to work at the Grande Cache coal mine. As a young boy looking out at the Rocky Mountains from the family station wagon, I knew this was the place for me. I knew I would never leave it.

Years later, I worked under the bins at the Crowsnest coal mine for seven summers to pay my way through university. After graduating, as a lawyer I fought for property rights for farmers and ranchers. When I got the political bug in the 1970s I promised my parents I would always act with integrity. It is a promise I kept with me for years as a volunteer, then as a federal cabinet minister, and to this day.

I joined the PC Party about 40 years ago under the leadership of Peter Lougheed. The progressive conservative principles of fiscal responsibility, saving for the future and caring for the vulnerable were the same ones shared by all Albertans and instilled in me by my parents.

Unfortunately, over the years we strayed from those core principles. As a result, Albertans were disappointed in their government and in the PC Party. So was I. We must acknowledge the mistakes of the past, and put things right. If we make the responsible decisions today, if we restore our core values, we will secure a better future for all Albertans.

*Jim*



## ALBERTA IS AT A TURNING POINT

It's amazing how far we've come in 110 years as a province. Settling a rugged landscape, overcoming dust-bowl years and depression. Persevering through booms and busts. Building communities that rally together in crisis and celebrate together in triumph. Emerging as a unique and powerful member of Canada and the global community.

It's a journey we can take pride in and, yet, a story that is only just beginning.

Right now, we are faced with serious challenges. A collapse in oil prices and \$7 billion gap in our finances has highlighted problems in the way our public finances are run. We have been using energy revenues to pay for our day-to-day expenses. This approach is unpredictable and, frankly, unsustainable.

Spending and expenses have gone up. Revenues have gone down. And we aren't putting money into savings. Any family or business will tell you that you can't operate like that for long.

Alberta is at a turning point. We have a choice to make. We can ignore the problems and keep going down this path or we can take charge of our destiny and choose Alberta's future.

In order to get off the oil price rollercoaster, we need to change the way government spends, saves and funds the services that matter most – like health and education. This means we need to take immediate action, and plan for the long-term.

This isn't a new problem, and some of this Albertans have heard before. Too many politicians looked at these difficult decisions and said "not me, not now" or they paid lip service and didn't follow through. As a result, Albertans were disappointed and the issues weren't solved.

I will be clear with Albertans what it will take to get us back on track. We will not simply do what is popular or what is easy, we will do what is necessary. Our realistic, balanced plan lays out action to strengthen our finances, save more, protect jobs, and keep our economy moving.

We will ensure open and accountable reporting on our progress so that Albertans can be confident and informed about where their tax dollars are going.

As much as we face some immediate challenges, Albertans are optimistic – and for good reason. We live in a province full of opportunity and potential. We are an educated people with exceptional skills and talents. We have resources that are in demand - resources developed responsibly and marketed worldwide. We take care of each other, when times are good and when we are struggling.

And we always carry with us the spirit that built this province we love: we are resilient and we are strong. We are Albertans.



## A PLAN FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

### STRENGTHEN OUR FISCAL FOUNDATION

We can't secure Alberta's future without fixing the structural problems in our fiscal foundation.

If you compare Alberta's finances to a family budget, our day-to-day costs have been growing faster than our paycheck. And we've been using our bonus from oil revenues and our savings to cover the difference. But, as we've seen, that's an unreliable system because we can't always count on that same oil bonus, and the programs and services that matter most are put at risk.

It's simply not good enough to keep veering from boom to bust in our economy and finances. We must fix the underlying problems. It won't be easy, but it will be worth it. Because, once we get back on track we will have doubled our savings, brought our spending back in line and made our revenue sources more stable.

### Break the Boom and Bust Cycle

A strong fiscal foundation starts with a balanced budget. A balanced budget sends a signal to credit rating agencies and businesses that Alberta is a safe place to invest and create jobs.

But, with a \$7 billion deficit year over year we won't be able to balance the budget with spending cuts or by revenue increases alone. We need both - and in the right balance - so we don't tip our economy into a recession.

**We will balance the budget by 2017 – even if oil prices don't rebound.** We will lessen the impact on jobs, families and communities through a balanced approach.

Over the next three years we will save more oil revenues, reduce government spending and use new revenue to break the boom and bust cycle.

**\$8.6 Billion**  
Reduce Government  
Expenses

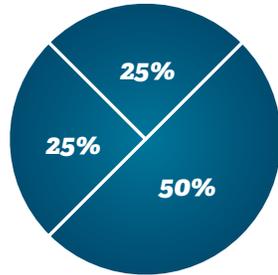
**\$6.1 Billion**  
Raise  
Revenues

**\$3.6 Billion**  
From Contingency  
Fund

**Action:** Continue to maintain Alberta's AAA credit rating and the strongest balance sheet in Canada.



**1. Save More of our Oil Revenues**



Starting in 2019/20, oil revenues will be directed as follows:

- 25% oil revenues ► Contingency Fund and Pay Down Debt
- 25% oil revenues ► Heritage Fund
- 50% oil revenues ► Operating Expenses

Once the debt is paid down, 50% of oil revenues will go to savings.

**2. Reduce Government Spending**

**Action:** Honour public sector contracts now in place, but as they expire negotiate new contracts based on our fiscal reality.

**Action:** Gradually – over three years – restrain our spending across all ministries.

**Action:** Bring the cost of Alberta’s public services in line with the national average over the next three to four years.

<b>REDUCING EXPENDITURES</b>	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	<b>TOTAL</b>
Business as-usual Government Spending (with wages increases and growth pressures).	43.93	45.11	46.00	<b>135.04</b>
Budget 2015: Actual Consolidated Operating Expense	42.03	42.16	42.26	<b>126.45</b>
Budget 2015: Reduction in Government Spending	1.9	2.95	3.75	<b>8.6</b>

### 3. Stable Revenue for Public Services

We have incredibly talented and hard-working nurses, doctors, teachers and other public sector workers. Albertans want to be confident these frontline workers will continue to get the resources they need, and that the services they provide are funded from more stable and sustainable sources.

**To ensure this, we must stop depending on energy revenues to fund our day-to-day services.** If we want stable public services, we need to find stable ways of paying for them.

We will make fundamental changes to the tax system. But we will maintain the lowest overall taxes and the most competitive tax system in Canada. And we will minimize the impact on lower- and middle-income families.

**Action:** Reform our income tax system. New tax brackets will be fair and competitive and make Alberta's income tax system more progressive. Gradually – over three years – taxes will increase on taxable income over \$100,000

The chart below shows the increase in total personal Alberta taxes by income level – including the health contribution levy – but not including alcohol and tobacco tax increases. Even with these increases, Alberta's personal tax levels are well below other provinces. The same individual in each of these provinces would have to pay the additional amount listed in taxes this year.

ALBERTA'S TAX ADVANTAGE				
	Alberta approx. additional annual taxes	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Ontario
Individual earning \$60,000	\$161	<b>\$900 more</b>	<b>\$1,700 more</b>	<b>\$2,100 more</b>
Individual earning \$100,000	\$361	<b>\$1,000 more</b>	<b>\$3,100 more</b>	<b>\$4,600 more</b>
Couple with 2 children earning \$100,000	\$238	<b>\$1,900 more</b>	<b>\$1,200 more</b>	<b>\$3,500 more</b>
Couple with 2 children earning \$120,000	\$288	<b>\$1,600 more</b>	<b>\$1,800 more</b>	<b>\$4,000 more</b>

We will be open and clear with Albertans about how their tax dollars are being used. In the budget we laid out a detailed five year plan for Alberta's finances and infrastructure and a ten year vision to diversify and strengthen our economy.

**Action:** Report on Alberta's finances on a fully consolidated basis in a format supported by the Auditor General of Alberta, starting in 2015/16.

**Action:** Issue a report card on Alberta's savings every six months.

**Action:** Provide public reporting in advance of any international travel for government staff.

### Cut Government Waste and Duplication

We took immediate action to cut government waste. And we will continue to reduce the size and cost of government responsibly over three years so that precious resources are dedicated to frontline services – where they belong.

Reducing government spending will not be easy – but it must be tackled. Government will have to absorb the cost of population growth and inflation and be more innovative and efficient.

What we've done to cut government waste:

- ✓ Saved \$3.1 million by closing unnecessary International Offices.
- ✓ Cut salaries of Premier, MLAs and Premier's Office staff.
- ✓ Reduced the size of cabinet.
- ✓ Sold government planes.
- ✓ Hiring freezes, except for frontline positions.
- ✓ Review all agencies, boards and commissions – ensure they are performing, fix the ones that aren't working, and eliminate the ones that are no longer necessary.

Cutting the waste and duplication from Alberta Health Services:

- ✓ Freeze salaries of management employees in 2015/16.
- ✓ Tighten controls on severance – it is the last option, not the first.
- ✓ Reduce sick leave costs of approximately \$190 million annually.
- ✓ Eliminate 1,695 administration positions in Alberta Health System, including through attrition and retirements.
- ✓ Better staff scheduling to lower overtime costs.

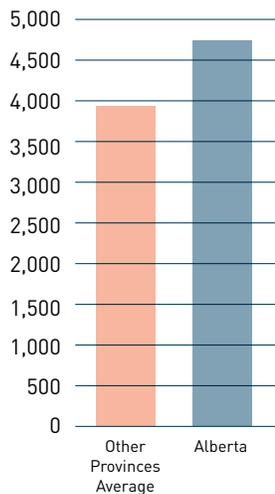
## Focus Dollars on the Front Lines in Health

Albertans spend more per person on health programs and services than the rest of Canada. But don't always get the best results for that investment.

We have dedicated nurses, doctors and caregivers who work hard and do their best for patients. At the same time, for the tax dollars we invest, health care is not always timely, easy to use or giving us the best outcomes.

When you spend so more each year and don't see better results, the solution is not to increase spending. We will find efficiencies in administration and trim the bureaucracy so that dollars can be dedicated to frontline services. At the same time, we will find ways to improve the quality and performance of our health system.

**Provincial Government Per Capita Health Expenditures**



### BRING DECISION MAKING TO THE FRONT LINES

Alberta is a diverse province – no city or community is the same as the next. So health care decisions should not be made on a one-size-fits-all basis. That's why we are moving decision making closer to the front lines.

**Action:** Focus on regional decision-making in health care. Establish 8-10 operational districts. Each district will be aligned with a local advisory council to give the community a say on how their health care is delivered.

### GET BETTER VALUE FOR OUR TAX DOLLARS

The health care system plays an important role in all our lives – from beginning to end, with countless milestones in between. Albertans must be assured that their health care meets the highest standards.

**Action:** Improve safety standards and quality of care in health facilities by strengthening the system to monitor, audit and ensure compliance.

**Action:** Review of the largest hospitals to improve efficiencies and costs through acute care hospital benchmarking.

**Action:** Expand programs to support the mental health needs of children.

## REDUCE WAIT TIMES IN HOSPITALS AND EMERGENCY ROOMS

With a growing and ageing population we have significant pressures on our health system. People are waiting far too long, especially in our emergency departments.

Right now we have too many acute care spaces being used by people waiting for placement in continuing care. We've started to act on this problem – staffing additional continuing care spaces in the community – and we will continue to invest in delivering care faster, more efficiently and with a focus on the patient first.

### Wait Time Reduction Action Plan:

- Invest in emergency department expansions - including the South Health Campus and Peter Lougheed Center in Calgary and the Royal Alexandra, Grey Nuns and Misericordia hospitals in Edmonton.
- Invest in additional surgical capacity.
- Ensure access to afterhours care through Primary Care Networks.
- Opening up more continuing care and restorative care spaces for seniors and others with complex needs, to free up acute care beds.
- Use the full skills of all our health professionals by enabling paramedics, nurses and optometrists to do more.



## SAVE FOR THE FUTURE

### Double Savings in the Heritage Fund

The Heritage Savings Trust Fund is unique in Canada and intended to safeguard Alberta's future. It was established by a PC government: by Premier Lougheed in 1976.

But since 1987, we have let our commitment to the Heritage Fund lapse. We will put that right.

Alberta's energy resources are the birthright of all Albertans – present and future.

**Action:** Invest oil revenues in the Heritage Savings Trust Fund, doubling the size of the Fund by 2024/25.

As with any family savings plan, our perseverance will pay off. Steadily, consistently and responsibly saving in the Heritage Fund will leave a lasting legacy for generations of Albertans – as it was designed to do.

Investments in research and innovation are investments in future generations. The resulting discoveries and ideas give birth to new products and industries that can create countless opportunities for our children, grandchildren and future Albertans.

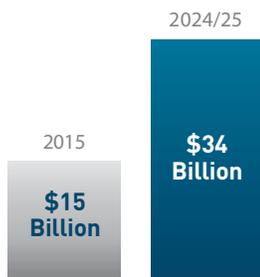
**Action:** Provide stable funding for research and innovation.

The people of Alberta are our strongest asset. Building upon past investment initiatives offers the potential to invest in lasting social improvements that increase in value and strengthen our society.

**Action:** Make lasting social investments like Heritage Scholarships for young people.

**Action:** Invest in health, education and heritage infrastructure.

#### Heritage Savings Trust Fund



### Financial Security and a Debt-Free Future

Much like a family's emergency funds, the contingency fund is there to help handle budget shocks and difficult situations. In the short-term it will be used to help pay operating expenses until the budget is balanced. **Over time, Alberta's debt will be paid off entirely.**

**Action:** Draw on the Contingency Fund to help pay operating expenses until 2017/18.

**Action:** Starting in 2017/18 (once the budget is balanced), use a portion of energy revenues to replenish the Contingency Fund to its original \$5 billion and to pay down Alberta's debt overall.

## PROTECT ALBERTA JOBS

The collapse of oil prices has hit Alberta hard. It seems everyone knows a friend, relative or neighbour who feels at risk of losing their job.

In a global economy where jobs can be moved anywhere, the last thing we should do is increase the cost of doing business. We need to give companies the incentive to stay in Alberta and employ Albertans.

Ninety-five per cent of corporations in Alberta are small businesses, employing less than 50 people. Economist and tax expert Jack Mintz from the University of Calgary has pointed out that a one per cent increase of the corporate tax could cost Alberta billions in investment and 8,900 jobs.

**Action:** Cut government waste to focus dollars on the jobs of classroom teachers and frontline health workers. Alberta Education achieved a 9% reduction in administration costs in the 2015/16 budget, and these cost savings were moved to support frontline costs.

**Action:** Maintain the lowest small business taxes in Canada and maintain our competitive corporate tax advantage so investors and job creators will stay in Alberta.

**Action:** Continue to invest in infrastructure even if the economy slows in order to keep people working and take advantage of market construction prices.

**Action:** Build on Alberta's strengths and advantages to strengthen our economy across all sectors.

## INVEST AS WE GROW

Alberta is a growing province. Even with the economy slowing down, we are expecting 80,000 new Albertans this year. The last time government cut costs to fight a deficit, it stopped investing in infrastructure and we fell behind. Our plan invests in the needs of our growing province.

### Invest in Schools, Health Facilities, Roads and Transit

#### BUILD AND MODERNIZE SCHOOLS

Investing in education infrastructure is not just about building schools, it's about building futures.

*\$5 Billion  
(Over 5 years)*

**Action:** Complete the construction of over 200 new and modernization school projects.

**Action:** Deliver more than 160 new modular classrooms this year.

**Action:** Show progress on projects through an online report card.

#### BUILD AND EXPAND HEALTH FACILITIES

We will invest the necessary funds to expand capacity and build new health facilities.

*\$3.4 Billion  
(Over 5 years)*

**Action:** Fund health care capacity expansion projects in Calgary and Edmonton.

**Action:** Support construction of health facility projects throughout Alberta.

*1,100 children are born in Alberta every week.*

*Last year 300 people moved here every day.*

*For every 100,000 new people, there are 15,000 new students, who need 28 new schools, every year.*

## Investing in health infrastructure across Alberta:

### North:

- Redevelopment of the Royal Alexandra Hospital
- Planning for a comprehensive renovation and options for capacity expansion at the Misericordia Community Hospital
- Business case development for a Brain Centre within the University of Alberta Hospital
- Completion of the Northern Alberta Urology Clinic at Kaye Edmonton Clinic South
- Expansion of critical care and the surgical suite at the Stollery Children's Hospital
- Commencement of a new template design for a hospital in Whitecourt.
- New urgent care centres in Beaverlodge and Sylvan Lake, based on a new template design that will be repeatable, scale-able, and cost-effective
- New continuing care centre in Fort McMurray
- Funding for ongoing projects to redevelop or replace hospitals in Edson, Grande Prairie, High Prairie, and Fort McMurray

### South:

- A new cancer centre at South Health Campus, as Phase 1 of a two-site model for cancer care in Calgary; future expansion of cancer services at Foothills Medical Centre will be planned within the Foothills site master plan
- Peter Lougheed Centre women's services and vascular renovations
- McCaig Tower capacity expansion and renovations
- A new urgent care centre in Airdrie, based on a new template design that will be repeatable, scale-able, and cost-effective
- Red Deer obstetrical unit renovations
- Raymond and Taber Health Centres, Lethbridge Chinook Regional Hospital, and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital

## KEEP ALBERTA MOVING

Having a modern, integrated transportation network helps us get more goods to market – increasing our economic activity and creating jobs. It also helps families get home safer and improves quality of life.

**Action:** Complete the twinning of Highway 63 between Grassland and Fort McMurray to improve safety and increase economic activity.

**Action:** Continue construction of the Edmonton and Calgary ring roads.

*\$6.7 Billion  
(Over 5 years)*

**Action:** Twin Highway 19 between QEII and Highway 60 near the Edmonton International Airport. This will address safety, add southbound capacity on the QEII and support continued economic growth.

**Action:** Develop a long-term transportation strategy that includes a plan for a sufficient road and transit networks across Alberta.

## MAINTAIN OUR INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Meeting our province's growing needs is about more than just building new facilities. There are over 1,900 public, separate, francophone and charter schools; over 1,000 health care facilities; 1,600 other public facilities and 31,000 kilometres of highway in our province that we all depend upon, especially across rural Alberta.

**Action:** Triple the budget for provincial infrastructure maintenance and renewal over the next five years.



## A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM

Education is the great economic equalizer. No matter where a child was born, or into what economic circumstance, in Alberta every child has access to a world-class education system. Our schools exist to give children the tools they need to be successful in an increasingly competitive and complex economy.

All children in Alberta should have equal opportunity to succeed. That's why we will invest and support them in their early years and throughout their education. If we do this, they can get a good head start in life.

### Invest in Early Childhood Development

**Action:** Implement Alberta's Early Childhood Development initiative, including an integrated early learning system.

**Action:** Add three new Parent Link Centres that provide free parenting and play programs to meet the unique needs of families.

### Support Student Success

**Action:** Develop a strategy for higher student achievement including: curriculum changes, coherent grading, 21st century competencies such as innovation, communication and critical thinking.

**Action:** Shift diploma exam weighting from a 50/50 to a 30/70 weighting where school-awarded grades will be worth 70 per cent.

**Action:** Dual-credit partnerships: students can now take high school trades and skills courses and get credits at a post-secondary institution.

**Action:** Promote safe, dignified and respectful education environments.

### Invest in Teacher Excellence

Our teachers play a vital role in preparing our children to complete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and we will give them the tools and support they need to do so.

**Action:** Preserve front line teaching positions.

**Action:** Invest in training and support for Alberta teachers with a focus on math as an essential skill.

**Action:** Work with educators to ensure professional teaching standards address the diverse needs of students in the 21st century.

**Action:** Provide support and mentorship for new teachers.

### Improve Access to Post Secondary Education

We will increase access and reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education in Alberta.

**Action:** Enhance financial aid (scholarships, grants and awards) and student loans for post-secondary students, including apprentices.

**Action:** Develop a long-term plan to ensure stable funding for institutions.

**Action:** Ensure apprenticeship training is better aligned with labour market demands.

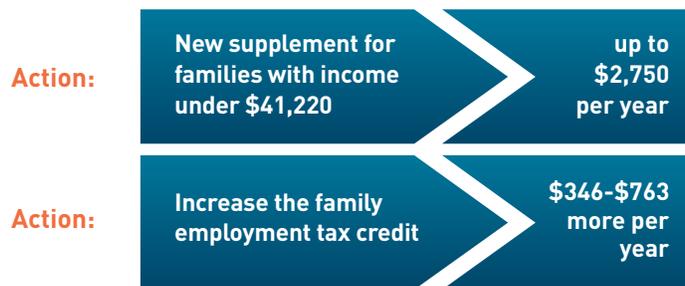


## SUPPORT ALBERTA FAMILIES

### Alberta's Working Families

For decades, people have been drawn to our province by the promise of making a better life for their families. We must ensure that we protect hard-working Alberta families trying to raise their children throughout this downturn in our economy.

Lower- and middle-income families will receive an additional \$110 million through enhanced and new benefits.



### Vulnerable Albertans

Caring for each other has always been part of this province's defining character. And a duty to support our most vulnerable is government's most important responsibility. No matter what economic or societal challenges we face, we must never fail at this responsibility to support and protect vulnerable Albertans.

**Action:** Increase support for persons with disabilities, including PDD, families of children with disabilities and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder initiatives.

**Action:** Maintain support for AISH – the highest among provinces.

**Action:** Increase Legal Aid funding.

**Action:** Ensure the Michener Centre stays open and operational to support the needs of its residents.

**Action:** Ensure support for youth, women's and homeless shelters and sexual assault services.

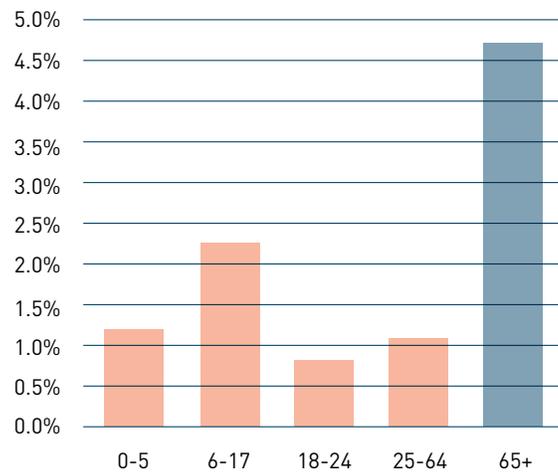
**Action:** Protect child care subsidies for lower-income families.

## Seniors

Every generation of Albertans has helped shape our great province, and in return we have a duty to ensure they can live in comfort, care and dignity as they age.

That means taking steps to meet the needs of a growing seniors population – from how we plan our public spaces, to how we deliver health care, to ensuring people can access affordable housing and the supports they need.

**Average Annual Population Growth by Age Category 2014-2026**



Sources: Statistics Canada and Alberta Treasury Board and Finance

### Our approach will be guided by three principles:

1. Help ageing Albertans stay at home and stay independent for as long as possible.

**Action:** Enhance home care capacity.

2. When a senior can no longer live at home, ensure access to affordable living spaces in their own communities.

**Action:** Open 464 continuing care beds and 2,612 supportive living spaces.

3. Ensure all Albertans can depend on safe and secure long-term care.

**Action:** Upgrade sprinkler and fire safety systems in 75 seniors lodges – improving 4,700 units over three years – and in 30 other seniors facilities with 1,750 continuing care spaces.

**Action:** Require minimum staffing standards for seniors lodges – a minimum of two staff members present at all times.

**Action:** Implement a strong and effective elder abuse prevention strategy.

## A LONG TERM PLAN TO SECURE ALBERTA'S FUTURE

### DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY

Alberta has so many advantages across the province. We are a hub of innovation for health care, technology and biotech. We house banks, national corporate headquarters and high tech companies. From Fort McMurray to Cardston and everywhere in between, we have fertile farmland and an abundance of natural resources Canadians and the world need.

**Action:** Promote the advantages of doing business in Alberta to attract investment and jobs to the province.

**Action:** Introduce a Cultural Plan over the next three years: leverage our cultural and tourism resources.

### Alberta as a Leader in Innovation and Technology

**Action:** Help entrepreneurs commercialize their products and services.

**Action:** Improve the quality of the SuperNet, especially in rural Alberta.

**Action:** Help Alberta-based entrepreneurs access the venture capital they need.

### Alberta as a Leader in Agriculture

There are over 50 million acres of agricultural land in the province. Alberta's agriculture industry drives \$77 billion in economic activity each year.

**Action:** Expand opportunities for entrepreneurs to use established facilities such as the Leduc Food Processing Development Centre and Agri-Value Processing Business Incubator for product development, key research, innovation and commercialization.

**Action:** Promote consumer confidence in Alberta as a leader in farm animal health and welfare, plant health and safe food products.

The average age of agriculture producers in Alberta is 54 and increasing. To ensure the sustainability and growth of our agriculture system, we need to attract and retain new producers.

**Action:** Focus programs on attracting the next generation of agriculture producers to Alberta and supporting them as they enter the industry.

### Invest in Clean Technologies

Being a leading energy producer comes with a responsibility to be a leader in environmental and clean energy technologies. Investment in these innovations creates high value green jobs of the future.

**Action:** Update the mandate of the Climate Change Emissions Management Corporation to accelerate technological investment and partnerships to address specific environmental challenges such as venting and flaring reduction technologies, engineering solutions to GHG emissions and carbon reduction technologies.

**Action:** Drive innovation and the development of clean technologies across key Alberta sectors – in energy, forestry, agriculture and transportation.

## EXPAND OUR MARKETS

Trade between Alberta and the United States helps drive our economic activity – valued at over \$200 million per day. Close to 90% of Alberta's exports are destined for the United States.

Based on an evolving and increasingly competitive global economy, we need to diversify our trading relationships. We must expand our reach into more markets around the world, becoming a sophisticated marketer of energy, agricultural products, forest products and petrochemicals globally.

**Action:** Position our agriculture industry for growth by encouraging innovation and enhancing access to international markets, especially in the Asia Pacific Region.

**Action:** Leverage emerging opportunities from the Canada-EU Free Trade Agreement to further open the world's largest market for our products and services.

**Action:** Reduce interprovincial trade barriers and promote free trade within Canada.

**Action:** Work closely within the New West Partnership – representing a market of nearly 10 million people and economies worth half trillion dollars across British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**Action:** Expand Alberta's market access and petrochemical capacity to become a preferred global supplier, particularly of energy and natural resources.

**Action:** Expand export infrastructure in Canada so that our businesses and industries can efficiently deliver their products to market.

## PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS

Private ownership is a fundamental principle of our democracy and economy. We respect the property rights of all Albertans.

**Action:** The introduction of Bill 1, the Respecting Property Rights Act, repealed previous property rights legislation that concerned landowners across the province (Bill 19). The Respecting Property Rights Act is a solid base from which to start to rebuild a lasting commitment to these key rights.

**Action:** The Alberta Land Stewardship Act (Bill 36) will also be reviewed to ensure the land use planning process does not infringe on property rights.

The Prentice Plan makes a clear commitment to ensure that government does not have – and never will have – the right to take away land for public purposes without providing full, fair and proper compensation under Alberta's Expropriation Act.

## PARTNER WITH MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities play a crucial role in the everyday lives of our citizens. They are the level of government closest to Albertans.

**Action:** Partner with Edmonton and Calgary to ensure their capacity to provide growing populations with the services and infrastructure they need through new city charters.

**Action:** Help municipalities fund their infrastructure needs – including transportation, transit and libraries.

**Action:** Continue to support the long-term recovery of municipalities affected by the 2013 southern Alberta floods. And strengthen the prevention, mitigation and preparedness efforts for future public safety and disaster management.

## TRANSFORM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Over time, our province's relationships with Aboriginal people have been tested. As we all seek to live together in this great province and prosper as a community, we need a respectful approach focused on the success of all people.

**Action:** Improve the First Nations Engagement Strategy to strengthen relationships with Aboriginal leaders and communities to support Aboriginal people.

### Education

**Action:** Increase the number of First Nations, Metis and Inuit education professionals. Ensure professional standards for teachers and principals require a knowledge of Aboriginal culture.

**Action:** Work with First Nations Chiefs on a made-in-Alberta partnership between the province and First Nations Education Authorities to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal children.

### Employment

**Action:** Increase the number of Aboriginal post-secondary students and apprentices.

**Action:** Develop action plans and long-term initiatives to match Aboriginal people with employment and apprenticeship opportunities in Alberta.

**Action:** Establish Alberta Aboriginal Construction Career Centres that will support Aboriginal training and employment in trades careers. They will deliver employment training, job coaching and counselling with a focus on construction trades.

### Health

**Action:** Improve integration of health services on reserves through partnerships with the federal government and First Nations communities.

## PRESERVE ALBERTA'S ENVIRONMENT

For over a decade, Alberta has led the way in key areas of action on climate change. But we know we can reach higher – for the good of our environment, our economy, our international reputation and, most importantly, our society.

**Action:** Commit to achieving ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions through a comprehensive climate change strategy.

**Action:** Flood mitigation: more than 500 hectares of wetlands and about 36 kilometres of riparian areas will be restored or enhanced, mostly in southern Alberta.

**Action:** New steps to reduce tailings ponds and to regulate the use of water from the Athabasca River as part of ongoing efforts to reduce the environmental impact of oil sands development.

- Limit the amount of tailings that can be accumulated.
- Enforce firm thresholds that will trigger remedial action to prevent harm to the environment.
- Ensure tailings ponds are ready to be reclaimed within 10 years of the end-of-mine life of the project.

**Action:** Implement the Water Conservation Action Plan.

- Enhance and clarify a lake health governance system.
- Implement science-based standards for baseline water well testing near hydraulic fracturing operations.
- Work with municipalities to improve the sustainability of their water systems.

**Action:** Complete the Trans Canada Trail in Alberta by 2017.

# Choose Alberta's Future

## **THIS IS THE FUTURE WE CAN HAVE, IF WE MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES TODAY.**

In 2025, one million more of us – a total of five million – will call Alberta home.

A home where we have better public services, and get better value for our tax dollars. Wait times are down and quality of health care has improved because we forced the administration and bureaucracy to find efficiencies and focus resources on the frontline.

We are not worried about the next oil price bust, because we are no longer dependent on energy dollars to fund core programs. Instead, we can be confident in stable funding for the public services that matter most. And our energy dollars are being saved for the future to build a lasting legacy for our children and grandchildren.

The next generation of Alberta teachers, engineers, scientists and doctors are among the best in the world. They had access to a world-class education system and the support they needed in their early years.

We have built an economy where we all prosper, no matter what the price of oil. We are achieving our true potential in all industries, breaking barriers and making new discoveries. We are leaders in health technology, agriculture and green jobs.

The best part of this strong, stable economy is that no one was left behind in the process. We supported hard-working families and protected vulnerable Albertans.

**On May 5, let's choose Alberta's future.**

