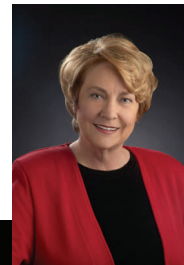


# Spring Session Report 2008

## Official Opposition Exposes Government's Poor Handling of Seniors' Issues, the Environment, Policing, Safety and More



**Bridget A. Pastoor, Shadow Minister for Municipal Affairs and Seniors and Community Supports**

During the first sitting of the Legislature since the election, Bridget Pastoor lived up to the Official Opposition's commitment to hold the government accountable for its actions.

Bridget is the Shadow Minister responsible for Seniors and Community Supports, Municipal Affairs and International and Intergovernmental Relations. The issues Bridget covers often have profound, direct impacts on the quality of life of thousands of Albertans. Here are the topics Bridget raised in the Legislature on your behalf:

### Seniors and Community Supports

Long-term Care  
Seniors' Lodge Assistance Program  
Funding for Nonprofit Agencies  
Supportive Living Facility Standards  
Radioimmunotherapy Drugs

### Children and Youth Services

Persons with Developmental Disabilities Program  
Kindergarten Programs  
Aboriginal Children in Care

### Municipal Affairs

Capital Region Municipal Planning  
Inter-municipal Development Plans  
Metropolitan Regional Planning  
Lethbridge High Level Bridge

### Environment

Energy-efficient Affordable Housing  
Protection of Wildlife  
Land-use Framework  
Biofuels Industry  
Bioenergy Project Subsidies

### Public Safety

Police Officer Supply  
All-terrain Vehicle Safety  
Emergency Preparedness



### Bridget Pastoor in the Legislature

"Staffing in long-term care facilities continues to be a problem in our province. Whether it's staff to resident ratios or the levels of the training, this government needs to ensure that seniors have respect and dignity as they live and die in long-term care facilities.

My questions would be to the Minister of Health and Wellness. Will the minister legislate clear, measurable, minimum requirements for the number of nursing staff and staff to resident ratios in long-term care facilities and, to avoid a 'no' answer, if not, why not?"

***"The Auditor General's report on seniors' care noted that there was a total decline of 251 available long-term care facility beds in rural health regions...Why are we seeing these decreases in rural spaces when constituents in places such as Wetaskiwin have pleaded with the government to rectify the chronic shortage of long-term care beds in their area?"***

"Now many agencies, from the Canadian Paraplegic Association to the sexual assault centres, are struggling to pay the rent just to keep the doors open.

There is no disputing that rents are out of control, but this government has done nothing. What is this minister prepared to do to help nonprofit agencies survive?"

***"Could the Solicitor General explain how the policing needs of the Lethbridge Regional Police Service and our other small municipal policing agents can be met with a hundred additional police officers when two-thirds of these positions are accounted for in our two largest cities?"***

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