

# Spring Session Report 2008

## Official Opposition Exposes Government's Poor Handling of Health Care, the Environment, Energy and More



Dave Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Alberta Liberal Caucus, Shadow Health Minister

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

As Shadow Health Minister, Dave's questions naturally revolved around the health care system. But as seen below, he also spoke out for the protection of Alberta's environment and urged the government to address the continuing and critical shortage of affordable housing. Here are the topics Dave raised in Question Period:

### Health Care

Public Health System Reform  
Health Care Spending  
Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute  
Calgary Health Region  
Funding  
Tobacco Reduction  
Smokeless Tobacco  
Nursing Shortage  
Health System Restructuring  
Health System Governance  
Health Care Privatization  
Health Risk Study of Fort Chipewyan  
Health Workforce Shortages  
Ground Ambulance Services  
Community Health Councils  
Cancer Services  
Ambulance Services



### Environment

Calgary Water Supply  
Reclamation of Oilsands Tailings Ponds  
Draft Land-Use Framework  
Effluent Discharge into Athabasca River  
Water Quality of Athabasca River  
Environmental Responsibility

### People

Secretariat for Action on Homelessness  
Renter Assistance

### Dave Taylor in the Legislature

"We know for a fact that water is contaminated, but instead of fixing the problem, this government whines about being treated unfairly. Now the MLA for Sherwood Park, a senior cabinet minister, says that environmental headlines are threatening everything in the Industrial Heartland and harming the province.

***"The situation in Calgary is a perfect example of this government's failure to properly manage our health care system. The Calgary health region has built and continues to build new health care facilities, but because it hasn't been given proper operational funding, the region is left with a whole lot of shiny new beds that sit unused in their shiny new buildings."***

To the Minister of Environment: is it the position of this government to blame environmentalists for Alberta's national and international reputation as a polluter? Is it everybody else's fault but yours?"

***"When the weather takes a turn for the worse, like it has the past few days, we need to turn our attention to those Albertans who are homeless. Every year they suffer, yet every year their numbers grow, and the actions taken by the government accomplish very little. If government action was successful, then the numbers of homeless people wouldn't be growing every year."***

"To the health minister: how does the minister plan to deal with the fact that one-quarter of, or 6,400, nurses will be leaving nursing within five years because they are burning out over their exhausting work conditions?"

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