

Spring Session Report 2008

Official Opposition Exposes Government's Poor Handling of Education, Children and Youth Services and More



Harry Chase, Shadow Minister for Education, Children and Youth Services, and Tourism, Parks and Recreation

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

As the Shadow Minister responsible for Education, Children and Youth Services, and Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Harry had a full slate of vital issues to cover. Here are the topics Harry raised in the Legislature on your behalf:

Education

School Closures
Improving Public Education in Alberta
Education Property Taxes
Calgary Urban Campus Partnership
Kindergarten Programs
Modular Classroom Units for Schools
Learning Resources Centre
School Construction and Maintenance

Children and Youth Services

Child Care Services
Child Care Funding
Child Care Worker Wages and Benefits
Child Poverty
Children and Youth Services Caseworkers
Contracted Human Services Agencies
Social Services Agencies
School Nutrition Programs

Tourism, Parks and Recreation

Clear-cutting in Parks
Suffield National Wildlife Area
Policing in Provincial Parks
Off-highway Vehicle Use in Parks and Protected Areas

Environment

Sustainable Oilsands Development

People

Francophone Job-Seeking Services
Mental Health Services
Spring Flooding
Renter Assistance

Harry Chase in the Legislature

"The Calgary Board of Education continues to be faced with a nagging \$600 million and rapidly rising deferred maintenance problem due to this government's negligence.

The \$48 million the government recently announced to subsidize horse racing this year alone would have come very close to resolving the CBE's next three years' modernization plans. My questions are to the Minister of Education. Are ponies or pupils the priority of this government, which appears to be so willing to gamble on children's futures?"

"To the Minister of Health and Wellness: how much longer will people with mental illness have to wait before this government decides to take significant action on a mental health plan that was introduced four years ago?"

"Woodcroft Elementary, Ritchie Junior High, High Park Elementary, Windsor Park School, St. Clement School are just a few examples of Edmonton and Calgary schools which were set for closure in the last year. When schools close, it not only impacts students, teachers, and parents but also the community as a whole.

To the Minister of Education: why has this government forced school boards to close so many established schools when there are thousands of students in the province waiting for new schools...?"

"There is no excuse for child poverty in abundant Alberta... [H]ow can this government continue to justify token wage increases instead of establishing a realistic living wage, which would act as an effective tool in ending child poverty?"

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