

# Spring Session Report 2008

## Official Opposition Exposes Government's Poor Handling of Savings, Spending, Auto Insurance, Pensions and More



Laurie Blakeman, Shadow Finance Minister



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

As the Shadow Finance Minister, Laurie keeps a close watch on government spending priorities—with billions of your tax dollars at stake, it's a huge responsibility. But she's also very concerned with issues of social justice and human rights.

### Laurie Blakeman in the Legislature

"...[T]he subsidized seniors' residences in my riding alone are full and have waiting lists of five years, or 500 people. What specific actions is the government taking that will quickly create new subsidized seniors' apartment buildings across Alberta?"

*"On the one side, we have auto insurance companies making billions and billions and billions and billions of dollars, and on the other side – well, I guess, actually, it's probably the same side – we have the government helping them to increase their profits."*

*"My question is to the minister of finance. Why doesn't the government stick up for average Albertans instead of for insurance companies?"*

"As many women must choose to work in lower paying part-time jobs in order to care for their children, what can this minister do to help mothers who want to continue their careers and stay in the workforce and be responsible to their children at the same time?"

*"Can the minister explain why the choice has been made to jeopardize the future for Albertans by deferring savings at the same time that the government is reducing its tax revenue by billions of dollars?"*

"The Minister of Transportation says that his government will not enforce a bylaw passed by the city of Edmonton to protect local residents against excessive noise. One major cause of such noise is the use of engine retarder brakes on the western Anthony Henday Drive. Claiming ownership and control over the Anthony Henday, this minister dismisses the very real, very valuable concerns of Edmontonians."

Here are the topics Laurie raised in the Legislature on your behalf:

#### Finance

- Local Authorities Pension Plan
- Automobile Insurance
- Heritage Savings Trust Fund
- Public-Private Project Financing
- Asset-Backed Commercial Paper
- Financial Investment and Planning Advisory Commission
- Downtown Edmonton Arena
- Edmonton Remand Centre

#### People

- Assistance for Seniors
- Midwifery Services
- Access to the Alberta Legislature
- Homeless and Eviction Prevention Fund
- Women's Equality
- Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped
- International Drivers' Licences
- Rental Properties
- Seniors' Housing
- Noise from Anthony Henday Drive

#### The Alberta Liberal Caucus

2nd Floor, Legislature Annex  
9718 107 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1E4  
Phone: (780) 427-2292  
Fax: (780) 427-3697  
[liberal.correspondence@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:liberal.correspondence@assembly.ab.ca)