

# Full Evaluation and Ranking Document of the Nine Alberta Political Parties in the 2008 Alberta General Election

Evaluation and Ranking Document Completed by  
The Foundation for Democratic Political  
Advancement (February 29, 2008)

Purpose: Determine a ranking of all Alberta (provincial) Political Parties in terms of the better representative of Alberta as a whole.

This determination is an outside perspective to give the residents, candidates, and parties of Alberta a different perspective on the 2008 Alberta General Election. The views in this Pilot Study are the views of the FDPA. Also, the Determination is an example of a different way to select candidates--through evaluation and ranking instead of voting.

The current Alberta political parties are:

PCAlberta

AlbertaLiberal

Alberta's NDP

Wildrose Alliance

Alberta Greens

Alberta Party

Social Credit Party

Communist Party of Alberta

Separation Party of Alberta

\*Note, though some of the political parties are outside of the mainstream Alberta politics, it is important from an objective standpoint, to be open to all ideas and perspectives. Ultimately, the evaluation and ranking results will determine the merit of the political parties.

Also, the FDPA and its members are in no way affiliated with any of the political parties in this pilot study.

The pilot study represents an independent assessment of the Alberta political parties based on objectivity, transparency, and non-partisanship.

## Methodology for Evaluation and Ranking of Political Parties:

Overall: Establish the basic priorities of the Alberta public as a whole, and use those basic priorities to evaluate and rank the political parties.

The basic priorities of the Alberta public as a whole:

Oil and Gas Royalties (fair distribution of royalties so that the industry remains competitive and yet the Alberta public receives the most return.)

Budget (sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of Alberta.)

Health: (improved and equality of service across Alberta.)

Education: (improved quality of public education.)

Housing: (increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases.)

Environment: (more responsible, sustainable management of the Alberta environment, and includes environmental impact of the oil and gas industry, and urban sprawl due to population pressure.)

Democracy reform (making the political system more representative of and accountable to the people of Alberta.)

Methodology for Evaluation and Ranking:

Rank each political party for each basic priority (and background of the political parties), and then rank overall based on a combination of the basic priorities.

Evaluate the policies the political parties in each section based on a comparison of the political parties in light of the basic priorities.

Two evaluation sub-sections will be adopted for each policy section:

Soundness of policy  
and  
Specificness of policy

Soundness section will have a score from 1-15.

Specificness sections will have a score of 1-5.

(The different weights reflect the significance of soundness of policy over the specificness of policy. Viz., there is no point overly awarding a specific policy which is unsound.)

**Information sources:**

Media articles and analysis of political parties.

Political parties policy statements, including policy promises.

Relevant questions answered by representatives of the political parties on a need basis.

Evaluation committee comprised of Stephen Garvey, CEO of the FDPA, Simon Brown, member of the FDPA, and Hillary Brown associated with the FDPA. Moreover, Colin McKenzie, an advisor for the FDA, acted as an independent, final reviewer of the evaluation and ranking results.

## Table of Contents:

### Evaluation of Alberta Political Party Policies

1. Royalties .....	8
2. Budget .....	14
3. Health .....	31
4. Education .....	45
6. Housing .....	58
7. Environment .....	65
8. Democracy reform .....	74
Overall Ranking and Assessment .....	82
Supplementary Documents .....	85

# Evaluation of Policies

# 1. Royalties

## PCAlberta

Increase revenue from oil and gas by 20 per cent (about \$2 billion).

Add a new tax on bitumen production.

Keep royalties at one per cent until project costs are recovered, then raise royalties on net profits to 33 per cent.

Introduce a new royalty that would rise with higher oil prices and higher royalties on high-producing oil and gas wells.

Adjusted the amount of royalties that the oil and gas sector will pay Albertans when oil and gas prices are high because Albertans own the resources

## AlbertaLiberal

Increase revenue from royalties by 20 per cent.

Implement royalty regime designed to provide competitive and appropriate return to Albertans and for the businesses who take risks.

Total revenue collected in royalties will rise 20 per cent from what would be collected under today's rules, with a re-balancing toward higher royalties from oil sands and more-manageable royalties from conventional gas.

Enact the accountability recommendations of the Royalty Review Panel and the Auditor-General to ensure the Department of Energy meets standards.

## Alberta's NDP

Follow example set by Alaska and replace the royalty system.

Create an all-party, special committee of the legislature to investigate royalties and report back in three months.

Add a variable royalty structure that would increase the royalty revenues when oil prices pass a peak threshold.

Increase royalties on other non-renewable resources such as coal.

Establish an all party committee of the Legislature to study royalty rates and report back within three months.

Give the all party committee access to all relevant government information on royalty rates and the oil and gas sector.

Mandate the committee to examine the feasibility of Alaska royalty rates for Alberta.

Alaska has royalty rates 60% higher than Alberta, even though Alaska oil is more expensive to extract, and has to be shipped further to market.

If Alberta adopted Alaska royalty rates, it would generate over \$4 billion in extra revenue over the Liberal and Conservative plans (assuming \$100/barrel oil prices).

Scrap special penny-on-the-dollar arrangements for tar sands corporations - no other industry has such a sweetheart deal.

Use increased revenue of up to \$20 billion over ten years to promote green energy - fund environmentally friendly energy projects like solar, wind, and geothermal power at the household level, as well as energy conservation projects.

Stop the shipment of raw bitumen out of province to be processed elsewhere. Introduce legislation to ensure that all bitumen mined in Alberta is upgraded in Alberta.

## Wildrose Alliance

Implement an equitable royalty framework to ensure outside investment in Alberta.

Before it even considers royalty changes, the government needs to get its current royalty house in order. One of the findings of the panel often ignored in the media was that the government's understanding and maintenance of the current royalty system is incomplete and flawed. Evan Chrapko, one of panel members has been quoted as saying about the current royalty accounting structure, "we have record-keeping that works for Third World countries in the 1960s." This needs to be rectified before we can move forward.

Leave the conventional oil and gas royalty system as is. We are in a basin that consistently yields smaller and smaller pool discoveries. The cost per barrel of finding these pools is increasing. We must accept that Alberta is at a disadvantage regarding potential discoveries in conventional oil and gas and work to remain competitive in attracting capital.

We should not break deals currently in place without consultation with the industry. The report suggests that it is common place for governments to change deals with companies around the world. The Wildrose Alliance Party suggests that we should be what Albertans want us to be and that is deal-keepers. We can make changes only through consultation with those who are investing and Albertans themselves. Albertans want Alberta to be known as trustworthy. This is not just a moral obligation but a practical financial one. International investors will certainly think twice about putting money into this province if they know their deals with the government aren't worth the paper they are printed on.

After consultation and with contribution from industry, increase oil sands royalties on the front end by 1% in a progressive four year phase-in. When fully phased in, this would result in an increase of \$292 million per year by 2010 and \$438 million per year by 2016 when bitumen production will have risen to three million barrels per day (based on \$40 per barrel bitumen.) The phase in period will give industry proper time to adjust for the increased burden. The 1% would continue after projects payout as well, in essence be a Gross Overriding Royalty.

The Wildrose Alliance Party is convinced that if the report in its current form is

implemented that it will result in catastrophic consequences for all Albertans through our collective connection to the oil and gas industry.

## Alberta Greens

No policy listed

## Alberta Party

The change in royalties is primarily due to oil sands activity and in that regard it is not about the money it is about the environment - and what is happening to that environment at Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan.

The Alberta Party supports the status quo on royalty rates but the "royalty policy package" has to relate to other important issues as well - environment, jobs and the economy- those issues are being sorted out - let's not rush it! We are working on it. If you are just trying to keep score, the Alberta Party is not in favor of raising royalties!

## Social Credit Party

Better Royalty Rates: The Alberta Social Credit Government would replace the 1% royalty on oil sands development for any new ventures with a rate in-line with those for conventional oil production.

## Communist Party of Alberta

Increase energy royalties immediate to at least average world rates

## Separation Party of Alberta

No policy listed

## Evaluation analysis:

As mentioned the evaluation is based on a comparison of the parties' policies based on the basic priority for policy section. The basic priority for the royalty section is:

Oil and Gas Royalties (fair distribution of royalties so that the industry remains competitive and yet the Alberta public receives the most return.)

### Summary notes:

1. PCAlberta: Royalty policy either sound or unsound; poor specificness—"until project costs are recovered" is open to interpretation, thereby vague.
2. AlbertaLiberal: Royalty policy either sound or unsound; less specific than PCAlberta.
3. Alberta's NDP: unsound Royalty approach except for proposed examination of Alaska royalty system, and proposed all party royalty commission—but why not Alberta citizen royalty commission? Also, the Alberta's NDP has very vague proposals for royalties.
4. Wildrose party: unsound royalty proposal, because it favors the oil and gas industry over the Alberta people; very specific proposal.
5. Alberta Greens: no policy listed for royalties, and even after inquiring for one via email from the Alberta Greens.
6. Alberta Party: unsound approach to royalties, because the policy does not really say anything, except for keeping the rates the same.
7. Social Credit Party—indeterminate whether or not its proposal is sound—though slightly more coherent than the PCAlberta and AlbertaLiberal's policies. Though vague proposal.
8. Communist Party of Alberta: indeterminate whether policy is sound or unsound; says less than for example the PCAlberta party's policy. Also, policy is not entirely specific.
9. Separation Party of Alberta: no policy listed for royalties, and even after inquiring for one via email.

## Ranking of Royalty Policy Section:

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. PCAlberta	7.5/15	2/5	9.5/20
2. Social Credit	8/15	1/5	9/20
3. Communist Party	5/15	3.5/5	8.5/20
5. Wildrose	1/15	5/5	6/20
6. AlbertaLiberal	4.5/15	1/5	5.5/20
6. Alberta Party	0/15	5/5	5/20
7. Alberta's NDP	1/15	1/5	2/20
8. Alberta's Greens	0/15	0/5	0/20
9. Separation Party	0/15	0/5	0/20

## Percentage Ranking of Royalty Policy Section:

Note, soundness has three times more weight than specificness.

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. PCAlberta	50%	40%	47.5%
2. Social Credit	53.3%	20%	45%
3. Communist Party	33.3%	70%	42.5%
5. Wildrose	6.6%	100%	30%
6. Alberta Liberal	30%	20%	27.5%
6. Alberta Party	0%	100%	25%
7. Alberta's NDP	6.6%	20%	10%
8. Alberta's Greens	0%	0%	0%
9. Separation Party	0%	0%	0%

## 2. Budget

### PCAlberta

Increase level at which families are eligible for Family Employment Tax Credit.

Committed to increasing the bitumen to be upgraded in Alberta.

\$100 million for rural development projects.

\$6 billion a year to build, maintain and repair schools, hospitals, highways, urban transit, universities, colleges, parks and senior care facilities.

Provided \$11.3 billion over ten years to municipalities so they can plan in advance to manage growth by building roads, transit, housing and other infrastructure

Delivered a 20-year strategic plan to catch up on high priority infrastructure projects, and to provide Albertans with the confidence that needed health, education and post-secondary facilities and transportation systems will anticipate future growth

Our plan will commit an average of \$6 billion a year to build, maintain and repair the schools, hospitals, highways, urban transit, universities, colleges, parks, and seniors care facilities that our growing population needs

As part of a \$100 million plan, provided \$18.2 million so far to 21 rural development projects that contribute to the growth and prosperity of rural Alberta—including initiatives such as medical internships in rural Alberta and stewardship of wildlife lands

Increased funding to women's shelters and sexual assault centres

Increased the tax credit for charitable donations

Increased monthly benefits for AISH clients from \$1000 to \$1050 per month effective April 1, 2007 with a second increase of 3.6% effective January 1, 2008, bringing the monthly supplement to \$1088. The AISH program helps 36,000 disabled Albertans deal with the cost of living

### AlbertaLiberal

Invest 30 per cent of royalties in a resource revenue saving plan.

Build the Heritage Fund into a permanent income fund for Alberta and use that to lower taxes.

Eliminate infrastructure debt by 2014.

Re-regulate electricity with a priority on residential, agricultural and smaller commercial users.

Encourage building of bitumen upgraders.

Establish aboriginal development fund to provide no-interest loans for the development of aboriginal-owned businesses.

Invest 30 per cent of royalties to build permanent prosperity for Alberta's future by:  
building the Heritage Fund into a massive, permanent income fund for Alberta, allowing permanently low taxes;

eliminating the infrastructure debt by 2014;

establishing an uncapped endowment fund for post-secondary education; and

creating a \$500 million endowment fund for the arts, social sciences and humanities.

Ensure ethical standards for Heritage Fund investments.

Unleash "the Western Tiger" by encouraging the building of bitumen upgraders in Alberta and elsewhere in Western Canada, to keep economic benefits on our side of the Canadian border.

Re-regulate electricity, with a priority on residential, agricultural, and smaller commercial users, to restore access to efficient, reliable electricity, and to save Albertans a lot of money.

Designate areas experiencing rapid growth as 'Growth Plan Areas.' Growth Plans will govern future development decisions in each area.

Establish the Aboriginal Development Fund to provide no-interest loans for the development of Aboriginal-owned businesses.

Implement a fiscal and royalty regime designed to:

provide a competitive and appropriate return to Albertans, the owners of the resources;

ensure a thriving Alberta-based energy industry, with a competitive return for the businesses who take the risks;

support the long-term sustainability of resource extraction;

urgently address environmental issues; and

deliver maximum value-added wealth generation in Alberta and Canada, within environmental, economic, and social constraints.

Retire the infrastructure debt by 2014, using a portion of royalties (as mentioned earlier).

Fix our roads, and address the problem of inadequate highways.

Finance the building of needed hospitals, schools, and other public facilities, and properly maintain existing infrastructure.

Avoid public-private partnerships (P3s)—debt by another name—for core infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and roads.

Honour the 10-year Municipal Sustainability Initiative for the life of the agreement. The cumulative value of that agreement to Alberta's

cities, towns, counties and municipal districts will not fall below \$11.3 billion.

Amend the Alberta Act to constitutionalize municipalities and school boards, clarifying and securing their jurisdiction over areas of local responsibility.

Enact a Big Cities Charter to give Calgary and Edmonton clearly spelled-out powers with respect to local matters and the authority to act independently within those areas of responsibility.

Identify high-growth areas in Alberta and establish regional planning mechanisms within those areas to develop and implement growth plans, to focus and guide future development.

Restore regional agriculture offices to create a "one-stop shop" for rural Albertans for information and consultative services on all provincial matters.

Properly fund the Farmer's Advocate office, and hire experts in oil and gas development to advise rural Albertans on their rights.

Review the Surface Rights Act and Expropriation Act to strike a fair balance between landowner and industry interests in locating oil and gas wells and pipelines on privately owned land.

Adequately fund the Surface Rights Board and the Land Expropriation Board.

Work closely with farmers and industry to strengthen farm worker safety standards.

Provide Workers' Compensation Board programs for farm and ranch workers.

Encourage vegetable and fruit production for local markets.

Establish a provincial organic certification agency, and encourage and support the growing and marketing of organic products.

Continue to support a strong and viable Canadian Wheat Board and ensure that farmers' voices are heard in any changes being considered.

## Alberta's NDP

Mandate basic value-added and upgrading for all bitumen mined in Alberta to be done in the province.

Add an interim per barrel tax on all bitumen exported outside the province.

Establish a bitumen pricing system.

Develop a labour retention strategy so that our businesses can run at full capacity

Better manage the pace of development in the oil-patch to mitigate effects of the uncontrolled growth

Support increased oil royalties, using some of the funds created to promote a green energy industry - preparing Alberta for the day when oil and gas reserves are depleted

Build and maintain crucial infrastructure necessary for our economic growth and social services

Support the Canadian Wheat Board.

Provide funding and incentives for farms to produce environmental goods and services.

Support public research in new varieties of grains and livestock and sustainable, organic agriculture.

Fight for farmers rights to save and sell their seed.

Support stable funding for general farm organizations.

Institute a proper, long term disaster plan farmers can count on.

Prepare agriculture to transition from high cost and increasingly scarce fossil fuels to other energy forms in order to insure food security.

Give strong support for supply management and orderly marketing to ensure farmers receive their cost of production plus reasonable returns on investment and labour.

Protect and preserve farmland for future generations.

Work with farmers to deal with, and help to reduce, global warming.

## Wildrose Alliance

Raise personal tax exemption to \$20,000.

Reduce corporate taxes from 10 per cent to eight per cent.

Allow income-splitting for Albertans who care for dependent family members.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will recognize agriculture as one of Alberta's most important industries and will strengthen the industry by always acting in the best interests of Alberta farmers.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support the family farm.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will work towards a freer market driven system of agriculture.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support the elimination of all indirect taxes and tariffs on farm inputs.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will place a priority on reducing provincially controlled input costs for farmers and will call upon the federal government to do its part in reducing the costs of inputs.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support an end to freight rate discrimination.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support marketing programs for Alberta agricultural products, nationally and internationally.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support active ongoing research into environmental protection for agriculture such as holistic resource management.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will oppose international agriculture subsidies as they are damaging and restrictive.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will recognize the practice of agriculture as a cornerstone of human civilization and will encourage environmentally sound, economically viable and humane agricultural practices.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will remove subsidies from unsuitable agricultural land and encourage its return to natural prairie, forest or wetland.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will encourage research and education to help farmers sustain the productive capability of the land.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will review all public land leases and their use.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop an effective and financially viable long-term agriculture safety-net program.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will encourage and pursue private sector value added opportunities for Alberta's agriculture sector and will create an economic atmosphere in Alberta that encourages entrepreneurs to start value-added businesses in our province.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support Alberta producer market choice by extending the right to choose to sell grain independent of the Canadian Wheat Board or to sell through the Canadian Wheat Board voluntarily.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will review the current crop insurance program with producers.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will recognize that roads that are heavily used by those involved in the agriculture sector are as vital to Alberta's economy as paved highways and will therefore ensure that the heavily used roads are included in the highway plans and road repair strategies.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish an agricultural mentoring and apprenticeship program that will match graduates of agricultural education programs with active farmers interested in mentoring new farmers.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will allow agriculture produces to choose an optional year end for CAIS program calculations to coincide with production cycles or tax accounting.

#### Budget

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a zero based budgeting program in all government departments. The program will require justification of all funds spent each year; not a standard percentage increase as presently exists.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a mandatory yearly balanced (projected and actual) budget provision for the Province.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will not borrow any funds for current government financial obligations.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will pass Truth in Budgeting legislation that ensures all provincial finances are fully, accurately and honestly reported under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support the Auditor General's Office to help identify and prevent waste and to help ensure value for money.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will prevent the government from spending taxpayer's money without prior Legislative approval by eliminating the use of Special Warrants.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require crown corporations to be directly accountable to a committee of the Legislature for their financial management and budget plans.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will reward provincial government departments and agencies that operate efficiently and under budget to retain up to 35% of their budget surplus for use in future year's capital and/or operating expenses.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will use surplus funds to pay debts owed by the Alberta Government.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will limit growth in government spending to the rates of inflation and population growth of Alberta.

#### Crown Lands

A Wildrose Alliance Government will review access to crown lands and resources.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will ensure that crown corporations are subject to local zoning and land-use by-laws.

#### Domestic Trade

A Wildrose Alliance Government will work to remove inter-provincial trade barriers.

#### Employment Insurance

A Wildrose Alliance Government will opt out of the Canada Employment Insurance program and replace it with an Alberta Employment Insurance program for Albertans.

#### Energy

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support a free market approach to energy production to provide abundant energy at competitive prices for Albertans and export.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support education and research into energy-efficient homes, businesses and government offices.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require building and land use-planning codes to have high-energy conservation standards.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will encourage the recovery of waste energy through co-generation, such as providing heat for buildings from cooling water at power plants.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will recognize the importance of the energy resource sector to the province and will strive to reduce the industries cost of doing business.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will create a new position on the EUB with the responsibility to represent surface and land owners rights on the board.

#### Financial Responsibility

A Wildrose Alliance Government will cut red tape and the regulatory burden by 1/3 within three years.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will make major capital spending and land-use decisions openly in the Legislature, and not behind closed doors.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute complete financial disclosure of all provincial finances including the Heritage Trust Fund, government crown corporations and all government investments. The disclosures will be made in the Legislature with a complete accounting available to Alberta citizens.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish a waste Buster website to help identify report and stamp out government waste.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will eliminate government subsidies to businesses that give some companies an unfair advantage over their competitors.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will grant the Provincial Auditor full access to all Government funded companies, crown corporations and subsidiaries of crown corporations.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a merit system within government departments that will reward individuals for service levels, initiative and efficiency.

#### Forestry

A Wildrose Alliance Government will permit only ecologically sound and economically sustainable forestry management methods.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will enhance long-term forestry management and planning to provide greater stability for working families by establishing a working forestland base.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will create a market-based stumpage system that reflects global market realities and local harvesting costs.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will invest in research to promote good forest stewardship.

#### Heritage Fund

A Wildrose Alliance Government will recognize that the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund belongs to the people of Alberta not the government.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will set up the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund as a separate crown corporation thereby limiting the involvement of the government of the day.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will limit withdrawals from the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund for government purposes by requiring authorization via a binding referendum on all such withdrawals.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a policy of providing from the earnings of the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund a tax-free dividend to each person who has been a citizen of Alberta for one year. The amount of the dividend will be based upon a formula set out in the provincial constitution and will be issued on a set date each year.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will model the managing principles of the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund after the Alaska Permanent Fund.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a policy of depositing a set percentage of government natural resource income each year into the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will build up the value of the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund with the goal of using a portion of the interest earned by the fund to eliminate Alberta personal income taxes.

#### Open Tendering

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require that all Government purchases be made through an open tender process.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will have open tendering on government contracts that allow fair competition for businesses and to provide better value to taxpayers.

#### Pension Plan

A Wildrose Alliance Government will withdraw from the Canada Pension Plan and create an Alberta Pension Plan. The Alberta plan will offer the same benefits at a lower cost while giving Albertans control over the investment fund.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will regard pensions as a provincial responsibility as is permitted and evidenced by the Quebec Pension Plan.

#### Privatization

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support free and profit oriented enterprise. The role of government is not to own and operate a business when a competitive business market exists. Historically taxpayers have experienced significant financial losses from government involvement within competitive private enterprise.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute privatization of crown corporations.

#### Subsidies

A Wildrose Alliance Government will phase out all government subsidies.

#### Taxation

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a flat fixed percentage rate Provincial Income Tax of 7% with a basic personal exemption of \$20,000.00 with deductions for recognized charitable donations.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will oppose the application of unfair and industry specific taxation such as the National Energy Program from the federal government. All industries should be treated equally and fairly within the taxation system.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will work with the federal government to ensure that our tax treatment of stock options and capital gains is globally competitive.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support the direct assessment and collection of taxes by each level of government as they require allowing taxation to be open, visible and easily identified.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will actively work to disentangle and eliminate the duplication of government authorities and services.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will fight for Alberta's fair share of federal tax dollars through a more equitable distribution of federal transfer payments and contracts.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will eliminate many nuisance taxes and user fees.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will ensure that dedicated taxes go to the dedicated sources. For example: hotel taxes will be used to enhance tourism and gasoline taxes will go toward road maintenance and transportation services not into the general revenue fund.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will phase out taxes on investment and productivity to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish a per child income tax deduction for parents or guardians.

#### Taxpayer Protection Act

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require approval of provincial and municipal tax increases through a binding referendum.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will collect the Alberta personal income tax as is already done for Alberta corporate income tax.

#### Technology

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish a Premier's Council on Technology to help bridge the digital divide and recommend strategies to enable Albertans to participate in and benefit from employment and opportunities in the technology economy.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support the extension of high-speed, broadband Internet access to every community in Alberta through wireless technology, cable, phone lines and fiber optics.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will put more computers in schools and more resources into enhancing computer literacy.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will make Alberta a world leader in E-government giving all citizens and businesses better on-line access to core services 24 hours a day seven days a week.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will use on-line procurement technology to lower operating costs and maximize taxpayers value-for-money on all major government purchases.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will cut the cost of paper flow by digitizing government data, forms and information.

## Tourism

A Wildrose Alliance Government will negotiate cooperative control of the National Parks in Alberta with the Government of Canada.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support tourism as a major growth area of the Alberta economy and will work to stimulate tourism with a plan to improve the tourist operator's ability to successfully compete for visitors from around the world.

## Transportation

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a program of upgrading the provincial transportation systems to provide a viable network that will join all regions within Alberta resulting in enhanced domestic and international agricultural and business export opportunities.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will mandate that all revenues generated by the provincial gasoline tax will be used for transportation purposes such as road upgrading and public transportation.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will focus resources on improving Northern and rural transportation.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop a comprehensive transportation strategy that recognizes the interdependence of national, provincial and municipal responsibilities in maintaining Alberta's transportation infrastructure.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop a cooperative dialogue with municipalities on transportation.

## Alberta Greens

### Integrated, Green, Province Wide Transportation Infrastructure Investment

Integrate rural and urban commuter hubs.

Integrate walkable communities with public transit.

Invest in greener transportation options like high speed rail and the rail line to Fort McMurray.

### Green means Prosperity – Keep Alberta Prosperous

Diversifying Alberta's energy economy is the first step towards continued prosperity. The wealth we now enjoy should be a platform for building an economy that is durable over the long term.

We will ensure support for renewable resource technology such as solar, wind and geothermal energy.

In particular, Alberta is perfectly situated to become a world leader in geothermal energy. If there is one thing Albertans know how to do well; it is drill holes in the ground. We need focus on what we are good at.

Lower business production costs

The Alberta Greens would provide incentives for local, value-added business such as bitumen upgrading.

We would produce, and implement, a plan of action which would include cumulative land use measurement, in order to decrease the impact on our forests, towns and wildlife, of natural resource development. Integration of development between sectors has proven to increase profits.

We would also provide incentives for green business practices leading to long term savings for investors, and a world-class, cutting edge technological sector.  
[www.albertagreens.ca](http://www.albertagreens.ca) 13

The forerunners of the last industrial revolution commanded the last century. The next industrial revolution has proven to be Green. Alberta can lead the way.

## Alberta Party

Under the principle of no net increase of any taxes in Alberta, municipalities will be permitted to broaden their tax base.

Amend the Municipal Government Act to provide for the principles of Direct Democracy at the municipal level.

### TAXATION

Alberta will collect its own provincial income tax.

Property taxes on the principle residence will be deductible from gross income in calculating taxable income for Alberta provincial personal income tax.

In the interest of accountability an Alberta Party government will increase the use of dedicated taxes.

Reduction of taxes and tariffs on agricultural inputs.

Freedom of choice in marketing of cereal products.

Recognizing the rural roots of Alberta's cultural heritage, the Alberta Party will develop a comprehensive policy that links agricultural economic stability and rural development.

Heating in Alberta is a matter of survival. Natural gas is not an absolute free market commodity in that regard. We will create a program that makes utilities accessible and affordable up to and including re-regulation.

## Social Credit Party

9.1 Disclosure of Provincial Finances: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute complete disclosure of all provincial finances including the Heritage Trust Fund,

government crown corporations and all government investments. These disclosures would be made in the Legislature with a complete accounting available to all

9.2 Balanced Budget: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute mandatory yearly balances (projected and actual) and budget provisions for the provincial government.

9.3 Budget Surpluses: The Alberta Social Credit Government would deposit a fixed percentage of budget surpluses into the Heritage Savings Trust Fund.

9.4 Government Spending:

9.4.1 Zero Based Budgeting: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a zero based budgeting program in all government departments. The basis of this budgeting system would call for a justification of all funds spent each year, not simply a standard percentage increase as presently exists.

9.4.2 Merit System: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a merit system within government departments rewarding individuals for initiative and efficiency.

9.4.3 Growth Limitations: Be it resolved that a Social Credit Government would halt the never-ending increase in the size and scope of government.

9.5 Tax Reform:

9.5.1 Elimination of Nuisance Taxes: The Alberta Social Credit Government would eliminate many of the "nuisance" taxes and user fees, such as hotel tax.

9.5.2 Dedicated Taxes to Source: The Alberta Social Credit Government would ensure that dedicated taxes go to their sources. Gasoline taxes, for example, would go to road maintenance and other transportation services and not into general revenue.

9.6 Accounting for Assets: The Alberta Social Credit Government would reform their accounting whereby all government purchases of capital (land, buildings and equipment) would be accounted for as an asset and depreciated yearly as an expense instead of expensing the entire cost in the year of purchase.

9.7 No Water Tax: The Alberta Social party opposes any tax on water.

9.8 Political Tax Contribution Limits: The Alberta Social Credit Government would restrict political contributions. Only contributions from individuals would be allowed.

9.9 Progressive Individual Taxes: The Alberta Social Credit Government will create a more equitable tax collection based on ability to pay by restoring to Alberta the progressive system of income taxes as exists in all other Canadian jurisdictions.

9.10 Comprehensive Efficiency Review: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute independent, annual efficiency reviews in all government departments to maximize efficiency and minimize government waste.

9.11 Corporate Taxes: The Alberta Social Credit Government will balance corporate taxes to a level commensurate with the income generated from individual taxes.

9.12 No Education Tax for Low Income Property Owners: The Alberta Social Credit Government would eliminate education taxes for low-income property owners. Eligibility would be determined by a means test similar to one used for the Alberta Seniors' Benefit. Albertans.

Communist Party of Alberta

Repeal barriers to unionization

- Raise minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour
- Implement a 32 hour work week with no loss in take home pay
- Provide full rights for foreign workers to unite, not divide workers

□ Diversify sales of energy resources to domestic and foreign customers pledged to peaceful use

□ Use a portion of oil revenues to diversify the economy, end dependence on energy extraction

□ Research and development in post-carbon technologies

Acquire public ownership in energy corporations

## Separation Party of Alberta

18. Alternate taxation to be phased in.

We will research the economic viability and ask Albertans that they seriously consider two forms of alternate taxation to be phased in:

- (a) a corporate and personal flat-rate tax of 10% on income from all sources - NO EXEMPTIONS AND NO DEDUCTIONS; or
- (b) a Consumption Tax (an end-user tax) of 5% - NO EXEMPTIONS AND NO DEDUCTIONS.

In keeping with the reform of our taxation system, any increase in taxes would have to be decided by referendum.

13. Reward service levels, initiative and efficiency.

The Separation Party of Alberta will institute a merit system within government departments rewarding individuals for service levels, initiative and efficiency and encourage all public sector departments to follow our lead.

14. Government grants and subsidies.

We would re-evaluate all government grants and subsidies.

15. Improved business-labour-government relationships.

We support any program and initiative that enhances:

- (a) cooperation between business, labour and government to ensure that Albertans compete effectively in the global marketplace;
- (b) health and safety in the marketplace;
- (c) and gives workers and employers greater flexibility in Employment Standards and allows individual workers to voluntarily determine their membership in labour

organizations;

(d) and makes the Workers Compensation Board more responsive to workers and employers needs.

16. Financial penalties on Cabinet Ministers who exceed budget.

A Separation Party of Alberta government would impose financial penalties on Cabinet Ministers who exceed their department's budget.

17. Eliminate duplication of government services.

We will re-evaluate and eliminate the wasteful duplication of government authorities and services.

1. Broad-based tax reform.

We will create an economic climate in which businesses can thrive and grow, and with their success create quality job opportunities for all Albertans free from the burdensome bureaucratic red tape which entangles them at present. This will be done by broad-based tax reform, lower personal and business taxes, maintaining mandated balanced budgets and "Zero Based" budgeting in all government departments; thereby ensuring a stable monetary policy and the elimination of wasteful spending and unnecessary regulations.

2. Interest-free loans to municipalities.

To enhance the status of municipalities we are committed to provide them with interest-free loans:

(a) to develop and maintain their infrastructure requirements; and

(b) to develop and own their own utility services, such as natural gas and power, as long as their residents approve of such developments by referendum.

4. Maintain \$1 billion sustainable emergency disaster relief fund originally proposed by the Separation Party of Alberta.

We would institute a program to set aside the sum of \$1 billion in a sustainable emergency disaster relief fund to meet unexpected disasters, the program to be funded by interest earned from the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund and natural resource revenue.

5. Eliminate hotel tax.

We support the elimination of the hotel tax and believe that the private sector is better able to promote their tourist industry.

6. Eliminate tire tax.

We support the elimination of the tire tax and believe that the private sector is better able to promote their recycling industry.

7. Eliminate mandatory marketing boards/commissions.

We support the elimination of all mandatory marketing boards and commissions and will allow producers to form voluntary marketing and export associations in a free and unfettered market economy.

#### 8. Alberta Treasury Branches.

We will continue to support the operation of the Alberta Treasury Branches and will promote their original purpose of providing competitive financial services for Alberta's families, farmers and small businesses.

## Evaluation Analysis:

As mentioned the evaluation is based on a comparison of the parties' policies based on the basic priority for policy section. The basic priority for the Budget section is:

**Budget (sound, fiscal management of public revenue and expenditure, and fair distribution of government expenditure to all sectors of Alberta.)**

### Summary notes:

1. PCAlberta: limited in scope and has nothing of fiscal responsibility. Moreover, somewhat value policy proposal, because it does not say in detail how proposed government expenditure for infrastructure will actually be spent, or where the money is coming from.
2. AlbertaLiberal: limited in scope and says nothing about fiscal responsibility and fairness—same as PCAlberta. Also, policy is more vague than the PCAlberta's policy. Policy lengthy and generally made up a general statements.
3. Alberta's NDP: says very little about the Budget.
4. Wildrose party: Budget policy in a great scope and specifics. Covers many areas and details very good ideas about fiscal responsibility.
5. Alberta Greens: says very little about Budget policy, and what it does says it is not coherent in terms of sound, fiscal management and fair distribution.
6. Alberta Party: says very little about Budget policy, and what it does says it is not coherent in terms of sound, fiscal management and fair distribution.
7. Social Credit Party: says similar ideas to Wildrose, but not to same extent and specificness. Very good ideas on fiscal responsibility.
8. Communist Party of Alberta: says very little on budget proposal, and what it does says it is not coherent in terms of sound, fiscal management and fair distribution.
9. Separation Party of Alberta: makes very good proposals for fiscal responsibility, but the scope of the policy is less the Wildrose and Social Credit. Also, the policy lacks the specificness of the Wildrose policy, and yet the same as the Social Credit.

## Ranking of Budget Policy Section:

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Wildrose	14/15	4/5	18/20
2. Social Credit	7.5/15	2.5/5	10/20
3. PCAlberta	6.5/15	3/5	9.5/20
4. Separation Party	6.5/15	2.5/5	9/20
5. AlbertaLiberal	6.5/15	1.5/5	8/20
6. Alberta Party	1/15	1/5	2/20
6. Alberta's NDP	1/15	1/5	2/20
6. Alberta's Greens	1/15	1/5	2/20
6. Communist Party	1/30	1/10	2/40

## Percentage Ranking of Royalty Policy Section:

Note, soundness has three times more weight than specificity.

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Wildrose	93.3%	80%	90%
2. Social Credit	50%	50%	50%
3. PCAlberta	43.3%	60%	47.5%
4. Separation Party	43.3%	50%	45%
5. AlbertaLiberal	43.3%	30%	40%
6. Alberta Party	6.6%	20%	10%
6. Alberta's NDP	6.6%	20%	10%
6. Alberta's Greens	6.6%	20%	10%
6. Communist Party	6.6%	20%	10%

## 3. Health

### PCAlberta

Phase out health-care premiums within four years.

Create new physician training spaces over next four years to qualify additional 225 doctors per year.

Increase number of annual registered nurse graduates from 1,650 to 2,000 by 2012.

Increase number of licensed practical nurse graduates from 780 to 1,000 by 2012.

Recruit qualified foreign-trained health-care workers.

Started implementing a plan to attract and train health professionals

Created 845 new training spaces in medicine

Approved funding for new hospitals in Sherwood Park and Grande Prairie, the Edmonton Clinic and the South Calgary Health Campus

Approved \$280 million for 832 continuing care beds to alleviate pressure in hospitals and meet the needs of an aging population

### AlbertaLiberal

Immediately end health-care premiums.

Construct new hospitals in Calgary and Grande Prairie and open more beds in Edmonton and rural centres.

Implement a public pharmacare program for prescription drugs.

Train enough nurses, doctors and other health professionals to meet Alberta's need.

Create specialized surgical centres.

Publicly fund midwifery services.

Implement province-wide community health centre model.

Establish a community wellness fund of approximately \$200 million using taxes from tobacco sales.

Elect regional health authority boards.

Fund creation and operation of an independent advocacy centre for dependent adults

Train enough nurses, doctors and other health professionals to meet Alberta's need.

Explore new ways of funding physicians, creating multidisciplinary health care teams and encouraging better workforce tracking.

Reduce wait times

Create specialized surgical centres within the public system.

Implement a province-wide Community Health Centre model, providing more flexible access to physicians, encouraging more efficient use of other health professionals, and reducing emergency room overcrowding.

Increase acute care capacity to reduce overcrowding, by constructing new hospitals in southeast Calgary, Grande Prairie and elsewhere, and devise long-term plans to open more beds in Edmonton and rural centres.

Provide prompt and equal access to medically necessary MRI and CT scans.

Manage health system costs

Implement a public pharmacare program to reduce costs and ensure equal access to medications.

Conduct an independent and open review of regionalization including the role of the Department of Health and Wellness.

Establish predictable funding levels, adjusted annually to reflect population growth, inflation, and aging.

Ensure adequate funding for rural health services to reflect the special challenges and higher costs of delivering those services in sparsely populated regions.

Create stable funding and long-term planning to accommodate an aging population.

Bring the WCB back to using the public health care system so that the financial benefits of treating WCB clients flow back to taxpayers.

Keep Albertans healthier

Conduct a Health Impact Assessment on all major government policy and funding decisions, to examine their effect on a range of factors that influence the health of our society.

Establish a Community Wellness Fund of approximately \$200 million per year, using taxes from tobacco sales, to support wellness and lifestyle initiatives and to expand Family and Community Support Services.

Improve continuing care

Legislate clear, measurable, resident-focused standards, province-wide, including standards for staff-to-resident ratios.

Implement competitive wages, permanent positions, increased staffing levels and appropriate staff mixes, and establish training standards.

Establish a Continuing Care Commissioner, accountable to the Legislature.

Establish autonomous resident and family councils in all homes.

Ensure that stimulating activities and therapies are readily available.

Legislate a Resident's Bill of Rights.

Fund the creation and operation of an independent Advocacy Centre for Dependent Adults.

Legislate a minimum level of care per day for those in continuing care.

Partner with colleges, universities and professional associations to recruit and train people for careers in continuing care.

Ensure that all contracts between Regional Health Authorities and facilities are made public.

Commit to immediate short term, accountable funding.

Concentrate funding in front-line resident care.

Other policies

Eliminate health care premiums.

Elect Regional Health Authority boards.

Increase support for home care programs.

Publicly fund midwifery services.  
Provide palliative care as a core health service, without patient charges.  
Restore stable funding and long-term planning for mental health, with an emphasis on community support.

## Alberta's NDP

Immediately end health-care premiums.  
Create a new pharmaceutical agency to purchase drugs in bulk, negotiate prices with drug companies and find less costly options to brand-name drugs.  
Control prescription drug costs by establishing an Alberta Pharmaceutical Savings Agency. The agency would constrain costs by bulk buying and substituting less expensive, generic drugs where possible.  
Fix the shortage of doctors and nurses. Financial barriers for students interested in becoming medical professionals need to be removed. More residencies should be available for international medical students.  
Shorten wait times in hospitals by setting targets for health regions, and by better funding for long term care moving seniors from hospital beds to more appropriate long term care settings.  
Create community-based, primary health care clinics to divert patients out of emergency rooms - alleviating the long waits experienced there.  
Enhanced home care services to make the transition from hospital to home quicker and easier and reduce return trips to the hospital.

Introducing province-wide measurable and enforceable standards for care. These must include best practices for nursing ratios and resident complaint mechanisms.  
Legislating standard qualifications for health care aides who provide most of the day-to-day personal and nursing care to residents  
Stopping the conversion of long-term care facilities to assisted living facilities - with lower standards and higher fees  
Establishing community-based teams of mental health professionals to offer quick response to patient crises and to offer family support improving facility inspections. If they are not unannounced, with publicly posted results and strong accountability measures -- they don't do any good.

## Wildrose Alliance

End health-care premiums in first 30 days in office.  
Implement a pilot project in a smaller health region modeled after funding that follows patients rather than the current per-capita funding.  
Give health regions more control over where money is spent.  
Provide significant debt relief to medical professionals who train in Alberta and commit to practicing in the province for a period of at least five years.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will fully enforce the five basic principles of the Canada Health Act which are: Public Administration, Comprehensiveness, Universality, Portability and Accessibility.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will provide coverage for authorized out of province medical treatment that is unavailable in Alberta.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish provincial health standards to ensure that all citizens in every part of the province have to equitable, reliable and high quality health services.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will secure the rights of persons with a disability to ongoing access of extended medical benefits.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop a Medical Machinery and Equipment Plan that ensures existing medical diagnostic and care equipment is adequately staffed, fully utilized and properly maintained and that provides for future investments in new equipment and technology.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will commit to develop provincial standards for acute care services.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish and fund a fully independent Health Ombudsman in Alberta. The purpose of the Health Ombudsman will be to resolve complaints from residents regarding the health care system in Alberta.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will fully fund and implement a mental health initiative.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will focus funding on patient care and reduce waste in the system and eliminate administrative duplication and costs from provincial government mismanagement.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will provide expanded home care and palliative care services to assist chronically and terminally ill patients with supportive home environments as an option to institutional care.

#### Delivery

A Wildrose Alliance Government will abolish the government appointed regional health boards and replace them with democratically elected local hospital boards and the professional management of health care dollars.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop a decentralized model for health care service delivery assuring local accountability and community participation.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will allow all hospitals and other health care facilities to compete.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop performance measures that are annually audited and publicly reported for each health standard to ensure the entire health system is accountable for providing the prescribed levels of patient care.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will enhance health care professionals quality of life by increasing locum support to relieve pressure and reduce workloads.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will guarantee minimal wait times for health care services.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will work with non-profit societies to build and operate an additional 5,000 intermediate and long-term care beds within four years.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will build a unified, universal and cost-effective health services information network that will improve care and reduce long-term costs.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop a comprehensive technology plan to assist health care professionals in delivering faster more effective treatment to patients through new information technology and telemedicine.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase technology funding and digital infrastructure support to facilitate tele-health options that will expedite and improve treatments and reduce travel requirements for Northern and rural residents.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will give all citizens better access to their medical records and treatment histories.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will give all citizens enhanced medical information privacy rights.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support community service volunteers and repeal the legislation that allows government to expropriate community health facilities without compensation.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will work to minimize inter-jurisdictional overlaps that add confusion and cost to health care delivery.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a new Health Management System that rewards cost effective cost-saving administration by providing incentives to doctors, nurses and health care professionals.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will allow innovations in the delivery of health care.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will create a new model for health care delivery that is holistic in its approach. The model will incorporate alternative and preventative care and ensure that the responsibility for diagnosis and treatment are shared across a broad range of certified health care professionals in a more democratic flexible team work based environment.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will alleviate pressure on emergency room services by expanding the funding for and the number of multi-disciplinary 24-hour-a-day community based health care centres.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will enhance Midwifery services within the province.

**Funding**  
A Wildrose Alliance Government will provide health care funding by providing for patient treatment. Health care funding will follow the service to the health care provider and approved facility of choice.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will eliminate healthcare premiums.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase funding for home care, supported housing, assisted living, long-term care facilities and palliative care hospices to provide less expensive and more patient-friendly alternatives to hospital care.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will encourage dialogue among health care consumers and providers about the allocation of health care resources.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will have ambulance charges covered by Alberta Health Care.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will pressure the federal government to restore the health care funding withdrawn through budget cuts.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will reduce transportation and lodging costs for rural patients who receive treatment that is not locally available by developing a rural medical travel assistance program.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will ensure that patients living at home in palliative or long term care are entitled to the same pharmaceutical benefits as they would have if they were in a hospital.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will consider fully funding services and products offered by licensed naturopathic physicians.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will restore funding for chiropractic and physiotherapy services.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will hold a referendum to prioritize health care spending.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will deliver an annual Individual Statement of Benefits to each resident of Alberta outlining the health care products and services received from the provincial health care system and the cost of those products and services.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will mandate that hospitalization costs of vehicle accidents caused by inebriation will be covered by the individuals vehicle insurance.

#### Training

A Wildrose Alliance Government will expand training and post-secondary programs to graduate more Care Aides, Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will provide forgivable student loans to Alberta students attending accredited nursing and medical schools provided they practice for ten years in underserved communities in Alberta.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase the number of medical school graduates within five years.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop a 10-year human resource plan that properly provides for the training, recruitment and retention of physicians, nurses, specialists and other health care providers in every area of the province and that addresses critical skill shortages and staffing levels in under-serviced areas.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will provide assistance and opportunities to help nurses develop the specialized skills needed in intensive care units, emergency rooms and operating theaters.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will introduce a Rural and Remote Training Support program that provides financial and travel assistance to health care professionals who want to update or upgrade their skills and training.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase the number of residency positions in Alberta's hospitals within five years.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will give ambulance attendants better access to training and to the improved life-support and communications equipment needed to capitalize on the training received.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase education funding in post-secondary institutes to upgrade the qualifications of current health care professionals and train more doctors, nurses, ambulance paramedics and alternative health care professionals to meet Alberta's long term needs.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop and implement a retention and recruitment plan in full consultation with all health care service providers that will more effectively attract needed health care professionals to Alberta.

#### Wellness

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute preventative health care and the incorporation of a health and wellness program in all educational institutions.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will provide Albertans with a choice for alternative medicine covered by Medicare.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will encourage health care practitioners to emphasize wellness, self-reliance and conservation through preventative approaches to the practice of medicine.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will promote the elimination of pollutants from the environment as a positive instrument of health care.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will develop an Intermediate and Long-Term Care Facilities Plan which will address the needs of our aging population and free up existing acute care beds.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish a Rural and Remote Health Initiative to ensure families get the care they need where they live when they need it.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will launch a massive recruitment drive to bring non-practicing RNs and LPNs back into our health care system.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will intensify efforts to promote wellness and preventative care through better education, dietary habits and physical activity.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase funding for physical fitness and amateur sports to promote physical fitness and participation in amateur sport.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will enhance efforts to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will undertake a targeted education campaign to reduce incidence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support the use of self-directed, alternative forms of medical treatment, as a means of returning more responsibility to citizens for the management of their own health needs.

## Alberta Greens

Prompt universal access to health care – Public health care

- o Improve working conditions for health care workers.
- o Paid tuitions for health care workers who will stay in the province for seven years, and incentives for professionals to spread their knowledge by teaching health-sector students.
- o Make Health Care sustainable: one method of doing this is prevention.

Decrease wait times in both emergency and family practitioner settings

By increasing the supply of health care workers we can avoid bed closures and ambulance shortages, and relieve the pressure on General Practitioners.

This will improve everyone's health experience.

We will pay the tuitions, or student loans, of health workers who agree to stay in the province for seven

years after their training.

One of the largest problems facing the Albertan health care system is not the eagerness of students, but the availability of teachers, both in lecture and clinical settings. The Alberta Greens will provide incentives to professionals willing to share their expertise.

Task-shifting, specifically by allowing for more nurse-practitioners, where a doctor's specific expertise is not necessary, will free up our doctors' time for more pressing concerns, and use the

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massive amount of knowledge our experienced nurses possess more effectively.

The Alberta Greens will fund mid-wives. Alberta's mothers deserve our support.

## Alberta Party

We support Triple AAA Health Care:

Accessible

Accountable

Affordable

Alberta will reclaim its control over Health.

## Social Credit Party

10.1 First Do No Harm: The Hippocratic Oath of "first do no harm" would be implemented as a cornerstone of ASCP Health Care Policy. The practice of this oath by graduate medical classes would be encouraged.

10.2 Coverage of Preventive Health Choices: To reduce the future long-term costs of illness, the preventative and wellness component of health would be emphasized.

Therefore, an Alberta Social Credit Government would provide Albertans with a choice for alternative medicine covered by health care.

10.3 Health Food Supplements: The Alberta Social Credit Government will provide that funding of prescription drugs for illnesses is extended for health food supplements and alternative therapies where a recognized health care provider properly accredits that alternative therapy.

10.4 Abortion:

10.4.1 Defunding: The Alberta Social Credit Government would eliminate the funding and use of abortion as a birth control method.

10.4.2 Alternatives: The Alberta Social Credit Government will promote positive

alternatives to the practice of abortion that are within provincial jurisdiction. Support for the Divinely given sanctity of innocent human life at all stages will be given priority in all proposed legislation and practices.

10.4.3. Counselling: A Social Credit Government would develop and implement a counselling program that would strive to convince women with unwanted pregnancies to carry the child to full term.

10.5 Public Hospitals: The Alberta Social Credit Party opposes the privatization of Alberta hospitals.

10.6 Coverage of Emergency Ambulance Service: The Alberta Social Credit Government will include Emergency Ambulance Services in Alberta Healthcare.

10.7 Dental Care For School Children: The Alberta Social Credit Government will include basic dental care for children to the end of high school or until the voluntary early termination of their education program.

10.8 Triple A Health Care: The Alberta Social Credit Government would implement the "Triple A" Health Care System, accessible, accountable and affordable:

10.8.1 Accessible: Health services would be delivered on the basis of patients' needs.

10.8.2 Accountable: Health care services must be accountable to the communities where they are delivered.

*FACILITIES:* Hospitals/health care centers should be publicly owned (or non-profit) and community operated by elected boards.

*SERVICES:* We support the policy that all patients must sign a statement when health care services have been received. Statements would be issued to Albertans itemizing cost of services charged to health care.

Alberta Health would be required to move to full disclosure of administrative costs for the health system. Reports would be made public on an annual basis.

10.8.3 Affordable: Health care can be more affordable. The Alberta Social Credit Government would reduce unnecessary bureaucracy (regional health authorities) and move to patient-based budgeting. Historically, hospitals were funded based on what they did and not on what they demanded.

The Alberta Social Credit Government would move toward a health savings plan to encourage responsible health care.

10.9 Health Care Premiums: The Alberta Social Credit Government would eliminate health care premiums for all Albertans.

10.10 Long-Term Health Care Plan: A Social Credit Government will develop a plan to reduce waiting times and increase service levels comparable to the best health care systems in the world. This plan will include a determination of the hospital and other medical facilities needed to provide this service over the next ten years and provide for the building of additional public facilities to meet this demand. Likewise, the number of doctors and other medical personnel to provide this service over the next ten years will be determined and the necessary number of seats in the medical faculties and internship programs will be provided to meet this demand.

10.11 Rural Medical Placement Program: The Alberta Social Credit Government would implement a program where the provincial government pays the cost of a year of post secondary education leading towards doctors and other medical designated personnel at an Alberta University in return for a year of employment at a medical facility of the government's choosing after graduation. (For example: in return for covering the costs of eight years of medical school, the graduate signs a contract to work where directed for eight years. The government then chooses a rural hospital where there are staff shortages.)

## Communist Party of Alberta

Provide Quality healthcare.

End health care premiums; end all user fees; fund dental care, prescriptions, eye care and home care; increase staffing, reduce wait times.

## Separation Party of Alberta

7. Four basic principles of health care.

A Separation Party of Alberta government will adhere to the four basic principles of health care:

- (a) Comprehensiveness
- (b) Universality
- (c) Portability
- (d) Accessibility

We will explore the possibility of private health care to supplement the delivery of public health care in Alberta.

8. Hospitals, health care facilities, health care availability.

A Separation Party of Alberta government will:

- (a) allow for democratically elected local hospital boards and the professional management of health care dollars;
- (b) allow all hospitals and other health care facilities to compete for patient care;
- (c) re-evaluate all grants and subsidies to all hospitals and health care facilities in Alberta;
- (d) provide a mechanism by which any public funds for health care services rendered will follow the patient;
- (e) develop a decentralized model for health care service delivery, assuring local accountability and community participation;
- (f) provide Albertans with a choice for alternative medical care treatments and alternate delivery of designated health care procedures ; (ie: Dental Hygiene, Homeopathic, Acupuncture, etc...)
- (g) expand funding for home care, supported housing, assisted living, long term care

- facilities and palliative care hospices to provide better, less costly and more patient-friendly alternatives to hospital care;
- (h) encourage health care practitioners to emphasize wellness, self-reliance and conservation through preventive approaches to the practice of medicine;
  - (i) promote the elimination of pollutants from the environment as a positive instrument of health care;
  - (j) expand training and post-secondary programs to graduate more Care Aides, Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses;
  - (k) explore the possibility of expanding the guidelines to increase the utilization of the health care expertise of Registered Nurses;
  - (l) establish health standards that ensure all citizens in every part of Alberta are entitled to equitable, reliable and high quality health services;
  - (m) develop performance measures that are audited annually and publicly reported for each health care standard, to ensure that the entire health system is accountable for fulfilling their duties to provide the prescribed levels of patient care;
  - (n) give all Albertans better access to their medical records and treatment histories, enhanced information with respect to their privacy rights and bi-annual statements for health care services rendered;
  - (o) develop a 10 year human resource plan that properly provides for the training, recruitment and retention of physicians, surgeons, nurses, specialists and other health care providers in every area of the province, and that addresses critical skills shortages and staffing levels in every area of Alberta;
  - (p) develop a Medical Machinery and Equipment Plan that ensures existing medical diagnostic and care equipment is adequately staffed, fully utilized and properly maintained, and that provides for future investments in new equipment and technologies;
  - (q) mandate that Alberta Health covers ambulance charges;
  - (r) provide health care funding to cover services and products by licensed naturopathic physicians and restore full funding to chiropractors and physiotherapists;
  - (s) reduce waiting times.

## Evaluation Analysis:

As mentioned the evaluation is based on a comparison of the parties' policies based on the basic priority for policy section. The basic priority for the Health section is:

Health: (improved and equality of service across Alberta.)

Summary notes:

1. PCAlberta: policy lacks scope, but specific in most proposals. Addresses equality of health service.
2. AlbertaLiberal: greater scope than the PCAlberta health policy platform, and more specific. Addresses inequality of health service and proposes improvement through expansion in most sectors of the health service.
3. Alberta's NDP: less scope and soundness than PCAlberta and AlbertaLiberal in addressing equality of service and improvement of it. Less specific than the AlbertaLiberal.
4. Wildrose party: most scope in addressing the improvement and equality of health service, and yet it is unclear whether or not the policy is fiscally sound. Very specific proposals.
5. Alberta Greens: addresses some of the equality of service issues and makes general proposals, but lacks the scope, soundness, and specificity of the PCAlberta or Wildrose.
6. Alberta Party: says very little—incoherent policy with minimal specific.
7. Social Credit Party: says less than the Wildrose—though similar policy proposal, and less specifics than the Wildrose.
8. Communist Party of Alberta: says very little; generally incoherent policy proposal.
9. Separation Party of Alberta: very coherent policy proposal with very good scope and ideas. Also, the specifics for a non-incumbent party are very good.

## Ranking of Health Policy Section:

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Separation Party	12/15	4/5	16/20
2. Alberta Liberal	11/15	4/5	15/20
3. Wildrose	9/15	5/5	14/20
4. Alberta's NDP	10/15	3/5	13/15
5. PC Alberta	9/15	3/5	12/20
6. Social Credit	7/15	3/5	10/20
7. Alberta Greens	3/15	1/5	4/20
8. Alberta's Party	1/15	1/5	2/20
8. Communist Party	1/15	1/5	2/20

## Percentage Ranking of Health Policy Section:

Note, soundness has three times more weight than specificness.

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Separation Party	80%	80%	80%
2. Alberta Liberal	73.3%	80%	75%
3. Wildrose	60%	100%	70%
4. Alberta's NDP	66.6%	60%	65%
5. PC Alberta	60%	60%	60%
6. Social Credit	46.6%	60%	50%
7. Alberta Greens	20%	20%	20%
8. Alberta's Party	6.6%	20%	10%
8. Communist Party	6.6%	20%	10%

## 4. Education

### PCAlberta

Begin construction of 18 new schools in Calgary and Edmonton.

Locate Alberta's health high schools in Calgary and Edmonton.

Undertook the single largest schools project in Canada to construct over 22,000 new K-12 student spaces in the next two years, opening 18 new schools in Edmonton and

Calgary by September 2010

Provided funding for the backlog of needed renovations to older schools across Alberta

Reached an agreement to resolve the teachers' pension plan and prevent strikes for five years

Developed a toolkit to help kids finish high school; and invested \$4.5 million to help students learn job skills while they attend school

Created 1000 new spaces for post-secondary students in energy, environment and economy studies

Created 6000 new apprenticeship seats

### AlbertaLiberal

Create post-secondary endowment fund.

Lower post-secondary tuition by \$1,000 per year.

\$300 per year grant to help with the costs of tools and texts.

Create new learning spaces for areas with high numbers of applicants.

Lower or eliminate property taxes on student housing to lower costs.

Improve student-faculty ratios.

Restore legislature control over tuition increases.

Reduce interest rates on Alberta student loans.

Double funding to the Alberta opportunities bursary.

Establish Mount Royal University in Calgary.

Eliminate school fees and parent fundraising for kindergarten to Grade 12.

Enact a three-year moratorium on school closures.

Lower post-secondary tuitions by an average of almost \$1,000 per year, starting this fall.

Create a \$300 per year grant for every qualifying post-secondary student, to help with the costs of tools and texts.

Create a Post-Secondary Endowment Fund, using a portion of oil and gas royalties. In just 15 years, the endowment could grow to \$15 billion and generate \$770 million in extra funding every year.

Create a \$500 million Endowment for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, using a portion of oil and gas royalties.

Restore legislature control over tuition increases.

Create targeted additional learning spaces for areas with a high number of applicants.  
Reduce interest rates on Alberta student loans, and increase the part-time earning limits.  
Provide three-year funding envelopes for post-secondary institutions so they may better plan for the future.

Expand the Alberta Opportunities Bursary by doubling the funding and expanding eligibility.

Recognize regional disparities in allocating student loans.

Reduce or eliminate property taxes for on-campus student housing to make accommodation more affordable and to encourage the building of more spaces.

Establish teaching chairs to support and recognize excellence at post-secondary institutions.

Establish Mount Royal University in Calgary.

Support the Learning Commission's recommendations for class sizes.

Eliminate school fees and parent fundraising for essentials.

Review the utilization formula for all schools, rural and urban, and, in the meantime, enact a three-year moratorium on school closures.

Phase in new junior kindergarten programs (starting with at-risk children) and establish full-day kindergarten as recommended by the Alberta Commission on Learning.

Reinforce the status of arts, second languages and physical education as essential complements to the core curriculum.

Identify learning problems in or by the end of Grade 1.

Move toward a more diagnostic model for Grade 3 provincial tests to ensure student success.

Enable a "community schools" program, under which community supports such as health care, child care, after-school care and social services can be integrated under one roof.

Fund additional supports for special-needs students, gifted students and students whose first language is not English.

Introduce a school nutrition program to ensure at-risk children a healthy start at school every day.

Maintain the current number of elected rural school boards, to keep the control of rural education in local hands.

Recognize and address the transportation pressures facing rural school boards.

Develop a career education program for junior and senior high school students with an emphasis on apprenticeship training.

Take aggressive measures—including mentorship programs, apprenticeship programs and specialized curriculum initiatives—to boost high school completion rates among Aboriginal students until they are on par with the rest of Alberta's students.

Require annual progress reports on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Policy Framework Initiatives from Alberta Education.

## Alberta's NDP

Introduce reasonable tuition for students.

Eliminate fees and fundraising for learning essentials.  
Phase out funding for private schools.

Implement Learning Commission recommendations by imposing caps on class sizes.  
Ensure schools have the necessary support staff - including teacher librarians and counselors, teacher aides, and clerical and maintenance staff.  
Fund full-day kindergarten and half-day junior kindergarten for vulnerable children and all children whose parents choose this option. Improve opportunities for special needs students - provide adequate funding for fulltime aides.  
Make high school completion a priority by providing students with the support they need to stay in school and reach their educational potential.  
Eliminate fees and fundraising for learning essentials, like computers.  
Phase out funding for private schools and bring charter schools under the jurisdiction of school boards.  
Provide healthy and nutritious breakfast and lunch programs where needed.  
Make sure parents of 6 - 12 year olds have access to affordable after-school care where they need it.

Reduce tuition fees to 1999-2000 levels, and fully fund a tuition freeze thereafter.  
Reduce the student loan interest rates to prime and find ways to reduce administrative costs on student loan payments.  
Generate additional provincial grant, bursary and scholarship opportunities thereby reducing dependency on student loans.  
Create an endowment for social sciences, arts and humanities research.  
Work to ensure that Cabinet Ministers and MLAs meet with post-secondary institutions, Governors and Student Unions regularly to learn about, and respond to their concerns.  
Increase the availability of post-secondary spaces at existing institutions and support the creation of new facilities, particularly in rural areas where it can be difficult to access post-secondary education.  
Support initiatives to build additional student housing.  
Extend accreditation options to building trade unions to create more apprenticeship spaces.

## Wildrose Alliance

Implement a pilot project where funding follows the student.  
A Wildrose Alliance Government will ensure that the arts, music and physical education curriculums are fully funded in Alberta's public schools.  
A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute mandatory Canadian History courses in all middle and high schools in Alberta.  
A Wildrose Alliance Government will encourage and promote the development of student entrepreneurial courses in Alberta schools to teach students the fundamentals of business as well as the responsibilities and challenges that face those who own and operate businesses.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will investigate online educational initiatives for students in remote areas and for Alberta children receiving home schooling.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will implement Alberta Citizenship courses for grades K-12 to strengthen and support family values, democratic principles and duties of citizenship.

#### Education Standards

A Wildrose Alliance Government will set high standards for education. The standards addressing student readiness, teacher quality, high school graduation, and family literacy will to improve student learning from early childhood to adult education.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will improve the education system by measuring progress to know when we succeed and when we fail. The process will measure student learning from year to year and become the backbone of the Alberta education accountability system.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish a clear reporting mechanism for achievement. Once progress is measured it will be reported to the students, parents and communities the schools serve. Given reliable and easy to understand information on the quality of the schools parents can become better partners in the effort to improve the schools.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a school performance report card system where each school will receive a grade ranging from A to F. Performance rewards will be issued. School performance will include overall student achievement and the achievement of the lowest performing students. Passing marks will not be given to a school if students are left behind. Schools with excellent performance or significant improvement will be recognized. Parents will receive report cards on how well their child's school performs each year. School Report Cards will become valuable tools for assessing progress within the education system.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will help failing schools. Schools with added challenges need our help and attention; they need our best teachers, our strongest partnerships, and our most determined parents.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will eliminate the policy of social promotion (being promoted without demonstrating achievement) in Alberta's schools. Students will be required to meet standards in order to be promoted to the next grade.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will reward schools for achievement and improvement. The private sector has long used incentives to improve performance. It works! The public sector however sometimes confuses uniformity with fairness. The true measure of fairness is when compensation matches the quality of work.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute annual testing of all students on provincially established evaluations on all subjects studied by the individual student. A passing grade will be 50% or more with results being given in actual percentages and not pass/fail terms.

#### Post-Secondary Education

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute an educational scholarship form of financing for all Albertans seeking a post-secondary education. Each qualified Alberta student will receive a full scholarship for five years to the post secondary institution of choice within Alberta.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will give priority for admission and funding to Alberta students to Alberta post-secondary institutions over out of province students seeking admission and funding.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will endeavor to utilize the technology available to make higher education more accessible to all Albertans.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will work with employers, post-secondary institutions and the Alberta Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission to increase training and apprenticeships in the trades and technical sectors.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will strengthen the network of colleges, institutes and on-line learning opportunities throughout the province.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase research and development funding for colleges, universities and institutes and encourage private sector partnerships.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will double the annual number of graduates in computer science and electrical and computer engineering within five years.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will increase investment in technology research and post-secondary skills training.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support continuing education for members of the professions in the province.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will provide forgivable student loans to Alberta students attending accredited schools of education providing they teach for ten years in underserved communities in Alberta.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will include the total cost of post secondary education when calculating amounts for student loans.

#### Professional Teachers

A Wildrose Alliance Government will reward high performing and excellent educators.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will improve teacher training.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will hold educators accountable for performance. Just as excellence is rewarded lower performing teachers must be accountable for their performance. Teachers who receive less than satisfactory evaluations will be offered assistance and required to demonstrate competence prior to being re-certified to continue teaching. As a condition of re-certification, teachers will have a one year probation during which time they are to correct deficiencies. They will be required to pass the subject area test for their area of certification. The duty to fairly and accurately assess teacher performance will be a prominent part of the statutory duty of school administrators.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will restore education as an essential service under the Labour Code ensuring that no child's right to an education is denied by school strikes or lockouts.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish a new professional organization for educators patterned after the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons.

#### School Choice

A Wildrose Alliance Government will support School Choice. School choice gives parents the chance to be integral participants in their children's education. A supportive home life is an important factor in educational achievement. Choice empowers people to become more involved, effective and satisfied as citizens. Children whose parents are able to choose their educational environment learn better and have a better chance at

becoming productive Alberta citizens. School choice improves public education and better prepares our children for the future. School choice is about equality, empowerment, parental choice and opportunity for our children.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will empower parents in the educational process.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will enable parents, whether rich or poor, to select the school their children will attend. Parents know their children best care the most and are most affected by the success or failure of the decision.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a student based funding system for financing education which will allow funding via Alberta Opportunity Scholarships to follow the student to the accredited education facility of parental choice.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will mandate that Alberta Opportunity Scholarships include all funding for student education ñ instruction, support and capital.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will apply the same funding rate per student throughout the province with extra funding for programs which address special needs programs.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will observe the following principles of School Choice Legislation to ensure fairness and acceptability.

- 1) It must not disturb families happy with their child's current school.
- 2) It must not reduce per-pupil spending in the public schools and should not increase total public spending on education except for increases that occur as the result of increased student numbers, commitment to education overall or inflation.
- 3) It must ensure that participation in the system of opportunity scholarships is voluntary for both the families and educational institutions.
- 4) It must include all public, private, and religiously affiliated schools that wish to participate and are prepared to accept reasonable measures of accountability.
- 5) It must not introduce any regulations on private schools that would threaten their mission, identity or autonomy; and offer timely deregulation program to public schools that wish it.
- 6) It must include provisions to assure that children from low-income families have fair access to the public schools their families prefer.
- 7) It must safeguard the interests of the families and taxpayers by ensuring that no school advocating unlawful behavior; promoting hatred of any person or group on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion or gender; or deliberately providing false or misleading information shall be eligible to redeem opportunity scholarships.
- 8) Implementation must be gradual, orderly and fair protecting individual schools from abrupt large-scale reductions or unmanageable increases in their student populations.
- 9) It must phase in opportunity scholarships for children who are already outside the school system including those who are home-schooled.
- 10) It must be compliant with federal and provincial constitutional provisions, readily understood by ordinary citizens and be able to be implemented without excessive administration.

#### School Safety

A Wildrose Alliance Government will invest in school safety to ensure a safe secure leaning environment for students.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish a school violence and crime electronic data reporting system.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require schools to develop plans that include specific measures for improving school discipline and safety.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will expand second chance schools for disruptive and violent youth and will work to curb the chronic drop out problem.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will prepare teachers to manage classroom discipline. Teachers consistently rate classroom management as the weakest area of preparation for the job of teaching and today's students can be challenging.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will work to reduce absenteeism and truancy. School absenteeism and truancy lead to low student performance and increased daytime juvenile crime. Students must be in school to benefit from programs funded by taxpayers.

## Alberta Greens

Establish a stable funding for K to 12 schools.

- o Ensure the lowest post secondary tuitions in Canada.

Stable funding K -12

Our educators need reliable tools to help our children succeed. Funding that follows the student instead of being attached to an institution will ensure our schools meet high standards by making them compete for the privilege of teaching our children.

Post secondary

Life-long learning should be available to everyone, not only those who have dedicated a few years to being "students". The Alberta Greens will ease access to continued learning of all kinds, with a focus on more flexible class times and increasing the number of institutions able to offer degree programs.

We will also commit to having the lowest tuitions of any province in Canada. Our students currently face the highest.

## Alberta Party

Increase the authority and accountability of local school boards over curriculum, conduct and outcomes.

To bring fairness to the system, collective bargaining for teachers will become province wide.

## Social Credit Party

5.1 Empowerment Of Parents: The Alberta Social Credit Party believes that the single most important factor in educational achievement is a supportive home life. Therefore, the Alberta Social Credit Government would work to empower parents in the educational process.

5.2 Voucher System Choices: The Alberta Social Credit Government would allow parental choice by instituting a voucher system of financing education where the funds follow the student to any accredited public, separate, private, religious, or home school.

5.3 Annual Achievement Testing: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute annual testing of all students on provincially established evaluations in all subjects studied. A passing grade would be a simple 50% with results being given in actual percentages and not simple pass / fail terms.

5.4 Consensus Consultations: The Alberta Social Credit Government would take immediate action to bring together representatives of parents, school boards, teachers and government to develop respect, understanding and a spirit of teamwork in order to address the issues facing Alberta's Education sector.

5.5 Professional Governing Body: The Alberta Social Credit Government would establish a professional governing body for teachers that are separate and distinct from the Alberta Teachers' Association.

5.6 Additions to Educational Curricula:

5.6.1 History Courses: The Alberta Social Credit Government would include Canadian and Alberta History courses in all junior and high schools in Alberta.

5.6.2 Abstinence Based Sex Education: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute "Chastity-based" sex education courses to be offered in Alberta schools as an alternative to the "Contraceptive-based" courses now available. Parents would have the choice of options for their children.

5.6.3 Policy on Teaching of Origins: The Social Credit Government would advocate the mandatory inclusion of the teaching of the Origins Theory of Intelligent Design or Creation as a viable model alternative to the theory of evolution. True scientific evaluation of both theories and their probabilities should be applied, letting the chips fall where they may.

5.6.4: Social Credit Theory: The Alberta Social Credit Government will educate secondary school students about Canada's debt-based monetary system and alternative systems.

5.6.5: Driver Training In Curriculum: The Alberta Social Credit Government would implement a high school driver education and training program as part of the school curriculum.

5.7 Post Secondary Admissions & Tuition: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports post-secondary education in Alberta. We would ensure that Alberta citizens be given priority for admission over out-of-province students.

The Alberta Social Credit Government would provide "fixed term tuitions" to freeze the tuition rates for post-secondary education students for the duration of their program.

5.8 Interest Tax Credit: ASCP will provide students who attend Alberta Universities with a tax credit towards the interest paid on student loans if they choose to remain in the province.

5.9 Support for Public System: The Alberta Social Credit Government will make a renewed commitment to the publicly- funded school system.

5.9.1 The Social Credit Government will ensure that through proper planning, sufficient financial resources will be made available to maintain necessary infrastructure and educational programming, including the increased use of teacher's aids to assist "at risk/special needs" children.

5.10 Long-Term Post-Secondary Education Plan: The Social Credit Government will consult with business and the public sector to determine their requirements for professional and skilled workers over the next ten years. Then the Government will meet representatives of Alberta's post-secondary institutions and develop a plan to provide the necessary facilities and instructors to educate these workers.

## Communist Party of Alberta

Fund all public education

No parent fees for school trips, school supplies, sports, cultural programs or text books; more teachers and special needs professionals; reduced hours for teachers; more apprenticeship training; no post secondary school fees; free public transportation to and from schools; free lunch programs in all public schools

## Separation Party of Alberta

1. Choice of education.

The Separation Party of Alberta believes in the concept of school choice, whether public or private, and that parents are better able to make the proper choices for their children. Those adults and parents who know the child best, care the most, and are most affected by the success or failure of their decision, should select the school that their child will attend and we will promote any initiative in this direction.

2. Student-based funding.

A Separation Party of Alberta government will institute student based funding which means that educational funds will follow the student to any accredited public education, private education facility or home based schooling of parental choice in Alberta.

3. Education standards.

We will set high standards for education including student literacy and teacher quality, measured achievements, school grading system and student performance to enforce the overall goal to improve student learning from early childhood to adult education. We will focus on improved teacher training and initiate measures to reward high performance

educators. We will implement steps to reduce absenteeism and truancy. We will implement Alberta Citizenship courses for grades K-12 to strengthen and support family values, democratic principles and duties of citizenship.

4. Interest-free post-secondary education loans in exchange for five (5) years of work in Alberta after graduation.

A Separation Party of Alberta government will provide interest-free loans to Alberta students attending post-secondary education institutions, colleges and technical schools to assist with the cost of their tuition and books. Every student will be required to enter into an agreement with the government which will provide that so long as they remain in school, complete their education and work in Alberta for a minimum of five years following graduation, the amount expended for their education will be forgiven. But, if for any reason, the student quits school or does not work in Alberta, he or she will be required to repay to the Alberta government the actual amount expended by the government through loans for their education.

## Evaluation Analysis:

As mentioned the evaluation is based on a comparison of the parties' policies based on the basic priority for policy section. The basic priority for the Education section is:

Education: (improved quality of public education.)

### Summary notes:

1. PCAlberta: narrow policy proposal; only deals with infrastructure and spaces; past tense expenditure; no future vision.
2. AlbertaLiberal: encompassing the Alberta education needs; policy covers lots of areas; though not as specific as PCLiberal proposal.
3. Alberta's NDP: good ideas on education, and not as encompassing and specific as the AlbertaLiberals.
4. Wildrose party: comprehensive education proposal; it focuses on improvement; clearly Wildrose has paid attention to the issues, and addressed them apart from infrastructure needs. Very specific proposal, though does not show where funding comes from and in what amount.
5. Alberta Greens: no depth to policy—only a few items, and very vague.
6. Alberta Party: lacks even less depth than Alberta Greens' education policy; lacks specifics.
7. Social Credit Party: narrow proposal, which is pushing the conservative-Christian ideology of the Social Credit, instead of constructively improving the system. Alberta's NDP more broader proposal. And less specific than Wildrose's education policy.
8. Communist Party of Alberta: biased to lower income level, and does not appear to be sustainable. Also, the policy is very vague.
9. Separation Party of Alberta: policy broader than the Social Credit's policy, but the same as the NDP's. Both vague and specific in areas, hence given 50% score for specificness.

## Ranking of Education Policy Section:

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Wildrose	13/15	4/5	17/20
2. Alberta Liberal	11/15	3/5	14/20
3. PC Alberta	8/15	4/5	12/20
4. Alberta's NDP	9/15	2.5/5	11.5/20
4. Separation Party	9/15	2.5/5	11.5/20
5. Social Credit	8/15	3/5	11/20
6. Alberta Greens	4/15	1/5	5/20
6. Communist Party	4/15	1/5	5/20
6. Alberta Party	1/15	1/5	2/20

## Percentage Ranking of Education Policy Section:

Note, soundness has three times more weight than specificness.

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Wildrose	86.6%	80%	85%
2. Alberta Liberal	73.3%	60%	70%
3. PC Alberta	53.3%	80%	60%
4. Alberta's NDP	60%	50%	57.5%
4. Separation Party	60%	50%	57.5%
5. Social Credit	53.3%	60%	55%
6. Alberta Greens	26.6%	20%	25%
6. Communist Party	26.6%	20%	25%
6. Alberta Party	6.6%	20%	10%

## 5. Housing

### PCAlberta

Create a secretariat for action on homelessness.

Developed a plan to end homelessness in Alberta within ten years

Created an immediate fund of \$285 million to invest in municipal housing projects, help tenants facing unaffordable rent, build and improve affordable housing, and support the homeless

### AlbertaLiberal

Implement an affordable housing Strategy, including a temporary cap of 10 per cent on rent increases, a limit of one rent increase per year, and a moratorium on condo conversions.

Provide the chronically homeless with stable housing options.

Extend financial assistance to moderate income earners who wish to buy their own homes.

Implement the Alberta Liberal Affordable Housing Strategy, including a temporary 10 per cent cap on rent increases, a limit of one rent increase per year, and a moratorium on condominium conversions, except where developers agree to replace any lost rental units with new rental properties.

Through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, co-ordinate and assist in implementing municipal plans to end homelessness by creating the office of Director of Housing and Human Services.

Introduce 'Permanent Supportive Housing,' which provides the chronically homeless with stable housing options combined with support and clinical services.

Involve other ministries—Education, Health, Justice, Solicitor General, Children's Services and Municipal Affairs and Housing—in a joint effort to prevent at-risk children from becoming homeless.

Allow for the creation of more secondary suites in homes, and offer grants of up to \$5,000 to homeowners to create new suites.

Amend the Municipal Government Act to allow cities and towns the power to include minimum percentages of affordable housing in any new developments or redevelopments.

Swap or donate land to local land trusts to devote in perpetuity to affordable housing; implement tax breaks to encourage private landowners to contribute their property to affordable housing projects.

Encourage local governments to freeze, reduce or eliminate property taxes on affordable rental units by providing corresponding grants to municipalities to make up for the lost revenue.

Encourage municipalities to eliminate development fee levies, fast-track building permits and waive permit fees.

Match funding with the federal government's Affordable Housing Trust and the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust.

Help up to 5,000 families achieve home ownership by extending financial assistance to moderate income earners who wish to buy their own homes, partnering with the private sector and community housing agencies to accomplish this goal.

Connect allowances and supplements to the renter, not the unit.

Provide low- or no-interest loans to qualifying low-income earners to cover the cost of the security deposit and one-month's rent.

Expand the Residential Tenancy Dispute Resolution Service, a program which is designed to reduce costs, wait times and the burden on the courts to resolve landlord-tenant disputes.

## Alberta's NDP

Introduce rent controls.

Introduce limits on condominium conversions.

Immediately implement temporary rent guidelines, limiting rent increases to inflation plus 2%. Landlords could apply for larger increases to cover major repairs and renovations.

Implement a program to support first time homebuyers, as recommended by the housing task force.

Close the loopholes that allow the conversion of apartments to condominiums, putting renters out of their homes.

## Wildrose Alliance

A Wildrose Alliance Government will allocate publicly owned land for affordable housing where appropriate.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will implement a flexible innovative program to increase the supply of affordable housing.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will have as a goal the elimination of homelessness in Alberta within its first term of office.

## Alberta Greens

Promote mixed use neighbourhoods.

- o Change the zoning laws to create living, working, walkable communities.

- o Promote inclusionary zoning that would require any development to

dedicate a minimum percentage to affordable or accessible housing.

#### Vibrant Mixed Interest Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods that combine living, working, and playing decrease commute times and increase time available to be spent with your loved ones.

Changing the zoning laws to be more inclusionary would increase the diversity in our communities, making them stronger and more vibrant. By requiring any new development to dedicate a minimum percentage to affordable or accessible housing, as well as small business and green space, we create an intricate support network and an end to challenging urban areas.

#### Homelessness - Housing co-operative and nonprofit housing supports

The Alberta Greens will work with municipalities on their ten-year anti-homelessness plans, and provide support to them to ensure this goal is reached. Each municipality faces different challenges, and we believe the people on the ground are best suited to develop solutions.

## Alberta Party

No policy listed

## Social Credit Party

4.9 Affordable Housing: A Social Credit Government would seek to eliminate homelessness in Alberta and provide affordable housing for all. A comprehensive approach to resolve this issue must include

4.9.1 Working with all orders of government to ensure a variety of housing to accommodate the diverse needs of Albertans.

4.9.2 Encouraging the federal government to reinstate the Multi-Unit Rental Building (MURB) program.

4.9.3 Changing legislation to ensure municipalities are empowered to decide whether an apartment should be converted to condominiums based on the overall needs of the community.

## Communist Party of Alberta

Reduce the cost of shelter

Fund CMHC insurance costs for first time home buyers; impose rent controls; build 25,000 provincially subsidized houses; halt condominium speculation; review all condominium fees; reduce utility costs

## Separation Party of Alberta

9. Affordable housing.

A Separation Party of Alberta government will:

- (a) allocate publicly owned land for affordable housing where appropriate; and
- (b) implement a flexible, innovative program to increase the supply of affordable housing.

## Evaluation Analysis:

As mentioned the evaluation is based on a comparison of the parties' policies based on the basic priority for policy section. The basic priority for the Housing section is:

Housing: (increased low income housing and stabilization of rent increases.)

### Summary notes:

1. PCAlberta: not accepting the provincial government's responsibility for the housing crisis, and it does not deal with them like homelessness and high rent prices. Some specifics.
2. AlbertaLiberal: comprehensive policy proposal with good ideas on dealing with housing crisis, and realization of provincial government's responsibility for dealing with the crisis. Very specific.
3. Alberta's NDP: very limited. No mention of homelessness, and does not put cap of rent increases. Specific in what it proposes, though could be more specific.
4. Wildrose party: no concrete housing policy, similar to the NDP, and policy itself is not specific.
5. Alberta Greens: does not put cap on rent increases, and makes no concrete proposal to deal with the housing crisis. Very vague and more so than the PCAlberta and Wildrose, and the policy is incoherent.
6. Alberta Party: no policy on housing.
7. Social Credit Party: no cap on rent increases, and not comprehensive, and very vague.
8. Communist Party of Alberta: comprehensive by covering main areas of the housing crisis. Though the policy is vague.
9. Separation Party of Alberta: not comprehensive, and very vague.

## Ranking of Housing Policy Section:

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Alberta Liberal	12/15	4/5	17/20
2. Communist Party	7/15	2/5	9/15
3. PC Alberta	6/15	2/5	8/20
3. Alberta's NDP	5/15	3/5	8/20
3. Wildrose	6/15	2/5	8/20
4. Alberta Greens	3/15	1/5	4/20
4. Social Credit	3/15	1/5	4/20
5. Separation Party	2/15	1/5	3/20
6. Alberta Party	0/15	0/5	0/20

## Percentage Ranking of Housing Policy Section:

Note, soundness has three times more weight than specificness.

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Alberta Liberal	80%	80%	85%
2. Communist Party	46.6%	40%	60%
3. PC Alberta	40%	40%	40%
3. Alberta's NDP	33.3%	60%	40%
3. Wildrose	40%	40%	40%
4. Alberta Greens	20%	20%	20%
4. Social Credit	20%	20%	20%
5. Separation Party	13.3%	20%	15%
6. Alberta Party	0%	0%	0%

## 6. Environment

### PCAlberta

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 200 megatons by 2050.

Tax credit or rebate to homeowners and small businesses who renovate to utilize renewable energy sources or who replace appliances with energy efficient models.

Mandate efficiency standards in new home and commercial building codes.

Create the River Valley Alliance Park featuring 88 kilometres of park along the North Saskatchewan River valley from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan.

Establish a provincial park along the Bow River Valley.

Introduced Alberta's New Climate Change Plan—the only realistic and achievable greenhouse gas reduction plan in Canada with a target to reduce emissions by 200 megatons by 2050

As part of this plan, Alberta became the first jurisdiction in North America to legislate greenhouse gas reductions by large industrial emitters

Removed the cap on wind power to encourage the development of more renewable wind energy

Initiated studies on the feasibility of carbon capture and storage as a means of disposing of carbon dioxide

Provided grants to promote the bio-energy industry

### AlbertaLiberal

Establish cap on greenhouse gas emissions from all sources within five years.

Redirect the \$250-million natural gas rebate program towards energy efficiency and conservation.

Implement financial and economic incentives to develop carbon-capture and storage technology.

Require mandatory watershed management planning for all major river basins.

Minimize land area affected by coalbed methane development.

Establish a provincial land use strategy.

Halt sell-off of public lands and private hunting.

Increase amount of protected park space, starting with the establishment of the Andy Russell-I'tai sah kop Park.

Establish an absolute cap on greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, to take effect five years after forming government, through an active partnership with the energy industry.

Establish a Premier's Strategic Council on Climate Change to create and implement a comprehensive climate change policy.

Ensure that Alberta's royalty system supports the protection of our air, land and water.

Redirect the \$250 million Natural Gas Rebate Program towards energy efficiency and conservation, such as home and business energy-efficient retrofits, to allow all Albertans to join in the fight against climate change.  
Improve building code standards to reduce energy use.  
Support increased use of public transportation, recycling and composting.  
Promote cleaner renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind and geothermal power.  
Implement appropriate financial and economic incentives to develop carbon capture and storage technology.

#### Water and wetlands

Require mandatory watershed management planning for all major river basins, including wetland protection.  
Strengthen protections against interbasin water transfers by requiring full public consultation, and approval by the Alberta Water Council before introducing any special legislation.  
Require a provincial water inventory (surface and ground) and establish an effective monitoring program.  
Reduce, then phase out freshwater injection for deep well flooding. Stop issuing new licences for deep well flooding with fresh groundwater, and set strict timelines for the cancellation of existing water licences specifically for deep well flooding in settled areas of Alberta.

#### Coalbed methane

Minimize the land area affected by coalbed methane development.  
Conduct an independent scientific analysis of the effects of coalbed methane drilling on groundwater quantity and quality, with priority on the Horseshoe Canyon region.  
Progressively reduce venting and flaring.  
Require Environmental Impact Assessments to assess the cumulative effects of large-scale coalbed methane developments.  
Ensure that any new regulations apply to existing operations.

#### Public lands management

Establish and implement a provincial land use strategy.  
Halt the sell-off of public lands.  
Halt “paid hunting” in Alberta.  
Limit clear-cutting and encourage wildlife protection in the forestry industry.  
Ensure that all industries work together to minimize the impact on our natural environment, especially in sensitive areas.  
Work with the forestry sector to explore and develop new opportunities for a broader, more sustainable base for the industry.  
Establish conservation offsets to balance lands impacted by development.  
Immediately review existing legislation to strengthen Alberta’s parks and protected areas.  
Increase the amount of protected park space. As a first commitment, establish the Andy Russell–I’tai sah kòp Park.

#### Waste management

Implement a provincial waste management strategy, to better manage waste and reduce Alberta's reliance on landfills.  
Set firm, province-wide targets for waste diversion, including recycling and composting.

## Alberta's NDP

Create a green energy fund that will receive \$2 billion a year primarily through enhanced royalties. Use that money to fund energy efficient retro-fitting and alternative energy production systems for individual houses and building.

Fund alternative power generation projects such as solar and wind farms.

Place hard caps on greenhouse gas emissions with penalties for companies that exceed targets -- details to be worked out later.

Slow down the pace of development, though no explanation of what 'slow' means.

Previously, the NDP had called for a full moratorium on new oilsands development.

Stronger greenhouse gas emissions regulations and enforcement in the oil-patch

More effective environmental compliance and oversight of land reclamation in the oil-patch

A water management plan to ensure that current and future needs are balanced

No additional resource development on our lakeshores and lake beds

A "Green Energy Plan" to invest increased oil and gas royalties into green energy projects, with an emphasis on moving Alberta away from coalpower.

A land use framework that curbs urban sprawl and safeguards valuable farmland and habitats in the vicinity of our cities and towns

Support a comprehensive water survey that documents total water availability in Alberta

Implement a comprehensive wetlands protection plan

Mandate commercial, industrial, agricultural and residential water conservation best practices.

Kick-starting renewable energy projects. These would include solar, wind and geothermal initiatives.

Create the Alberta Renewable Energy Corporation (AREC). As a crown corporation

AREC would develop larger scale projects, foster research and market development.

Give Albertans the choice to support green energy through net-metering and interest-free home retrofit loans.

## Wildrose Alliance

A Wildrose Alliance Government will research methods to improve indoor air quality to develop standards that ensure health is not compromised by the use of energy efficient potentially harmful materials.

Clean Water

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a Clean Drinking Water Act. The Act will create a designated lead agency under the Ministry of Environment with responsibility for

province-wide standards, monitoring and enforcement. The Clean Drinking Water Act will: 1. Ban the dumping of untreated waste & sewage into waterways. 2. Create incentives for water conservation such as providing assistance for municipalities to modernize water delivery systems to metered user-pay systems. 3. Conduct an inventory of all groundwater and bodies of water. 4. Develop and implement strategies for cleaning up polluted bodies of water.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will encourage conservation of water taken from lakes or rivers for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will impose strict regulations on all effluent producing industries and ensure that the costs of water treatment and purification are borne by the polluter.

#### Conservation

A Wildrose Alliance Government will recognize the value of parks to society and protect these areas from intrusive activities.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish balanced ecological reserves in Alberta.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will actively oppose the implementation of the Kyoto accord.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will not adhere or enforce restrictions and/or quotas outlined in the Kyoto Protocol that are deemed to have a negative impact on the Alberta economy.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will ban wild animal trade, whole or in parts, that threatens the natural wildlife populations.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require governments to meet high environmental standards in their procurement, recycling and construction operations.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will ensure the environmental laws and regulations are reasonable, sensible and have a relationship to reality and common sense.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will allow private prosecutions against companies or individuals who have allegedly damaged the environment.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will rehabilitate sites which have contaminated soils and vigorously pursue legal claims against those originally responsible for the contamination.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will recognize the vital contributions Conservation Officers make to our province and will work with them to ensure that they are properly screened, trained and equipped to the greatest possible extent to ensure their safety while carrying out their duties.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will conserve Alberta's environment while balancing economic development opportunities in the province's future.

#### Protection

A Wildrose Alliance Government will establish an Alberta environmental ombudsman.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require Ecological Impact Assessments for all large projects. Particularly those projects in sensitive areas or that involve unproven technologies or that generate significant public concern.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will have elected Ecological Impact Assessments Review Panels by the citizens of Alberta. The panel will have local representation and the power to approve, change or halt any project they review.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will require that Ecological Impact Assessments be all encompassing in terms of the environment and the people affected by each project and include the cumulative effect of related projects.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will study the concept of environmentally sensitive zoning.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will strive to eliminate toxins from our environment.

## Alberta Greens

Maintain a safe and plentiful supply of water

Protect source, surface and ground water.

Map the existing ground water in Alberta.

By ensuring clean air, water and food, we can prevent many illnesses, and reduce the amount of money spent in the health care system.

The easiest way to reduce health care costs is to keep people from getting sick. The Alberta Greens will invest in prevention.

## Alberta Party

Water is a precious resource. We will actively promote alternatives for deep well injection.

## Social Credit Party

7.1 Zoning Laws: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the concept of "environmentally sensitive zoning".

7.2 Environment Assessment and Investigations: The Social Credit government will take a strong stand in favour of:

- a) Policing the cleanup and protection of the environment,
- b) Doing honest investigation of water contamination and the subsequent related health of Albertans,
- c) Balancing environmental development and the needs of Albertans.

Provincial tax on alternative and non-polluting automotive fuels would be significantly reduced.

7.3 Alternative Energy Sources: The Alberta Social Credit Government would encourage alternate forms and sources of energy.

7.3.1 Alberta Social Credit Government rejects the use of fissile power in Alberta until environmental and safety concerns are addressed.

7.4 Alternative To Kyoto Accords: The Social Credit Party opposes ratification of the Kyoto Accord *as presently written*.

7.5 Preservations Of Water Resources: The Alberta Social Credit Government would preserve the water resources of Alberta by such measures as:

- a) The protection of natural watersheds.
- b) The education of Albertans as to water conservation.
- c) The endorsement of the use of alternative water resources, apart from potable water, for use in industry wherever possible.
- d) The stoppage of water wells being drilled on oil/gas leases.
- e) The reclamation of all drilled holes in the earth's surface back to the natural state.
- f) The prohibition of bulk exports of water to foreign powers.

7.6 Environmental Conservation Authority: The Alberta Social Credit Government will enact the Environmental Conservation Authority to study and advise the government on environmental issues and operate free of political interference.

## Communist Party of Alberta

Energy companies make record profits without putting a penny into cleaning up their own mess!

The Communist Party-Alberta alternative:

Enforce strict environmental controls

Enact a major program of publicly funded research into alternate energy and non-polluting oil sands extraction, with public ownership of patents

Require full environmental clean up before new oil sands projects

## Separation Party of Alberta

12. Polluters pay for clean up.

The Separation Party of Alberta opposes the unknown ramifications of the implementation of the Kyoto Accord upon Albertans, but we will impose strict laws and regulations on all effluent producing industries and ensure that the costs of air, land and water treatment or purification are borne by the polluters.

9. A clean environment.

We will continue to support and enhance any initiatives and endeavors to ensure a clean environment for Albertans. Severe penalties will be levied against anyone polluting our environment. Industries will be encouraged to implement technologies which will ensure a clean environment as a result of their manufacturing.

## Evaluation Analysis:

As mentioned the evaluation is based on a comparison of the parties' policies based on the basic priority for policy section. The basic priority for the Environment section is:

Environment: (more responsible, sustainable management of the Alberta environment.)

### Summary notes:

1. PCAlberta: not comprehensive, and does not do enough for the environmental issues. For example, it has no policy on the environment pertaining to the oil and gas sector or urban sprawl.
2. AlbertaLiberal: no policy on oil and gas sector or urban sprawl. Though specific proposal.
3. Alberta's NDP: touches on core environmental issues, and some aspects vague and others specific.
4. Wildrose party: no policy on greenhouse gas emission controls or oil and gas sector, and urban sprawl. Though policy more comprehensive than the PCAlberta, and policy lacks specifics.
5. Alberta Greens: lacks any comprehensiveness, and very vague.
6. Alberta Party: like the Greens, policy lacks any comprehensiveness and very vague.
7. Social Credit Party: less comprehensive than PCAlberta and Wildrose, and no policy on oil and gas sector, urban sprawl, and greenhouse gas emission. Vague proposal.
8. Communist Party of Alberta: narrow policy proposal Though it identifies the importance of cleanup and corporate accountability. Vague policy.
9. Separation Party of Alberta: not comprehensive, and very vague.

## Ranking of Environment Policy Section:

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Alberta's NDP	12/15	3/5	15/20
2. Alberta Liberal	10/15	4/5	14/20
3. Wildrose	8/15	3/5	11/20
4. PC Alberta	7/15	3/5	10/20
5. Social Credit	5/15	2/5	7/20
6 Separation Party	3/15	1/5	4/20
7. Communist Party	2/15	1/5	3/20
8. Alberta Greens	1/15	1/5	2/20
8. Alberta Party	1/15	1/5	2/20

## Percentage Ranking of Environment Policy Section:

Note, soundness has three times more weight than specificity.

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Alberta's NDP	80%	60%	75%
2. Alberta Liberal	66.6%	80%	70%
3. Wildrose	53.3%	60%	55%
4. PC Alberta	46.6%	60%	50%
5. Social Credit	33.3%	40%	35%
6 Separation Party	20%	20%	24%
7. Communist Party	13.3%	20%	15%
8. Alberta Greens	6.6%	20%	10%
8. Alberta Party	6.6%	20%	10%

## 7. Democracy Reform

### PCAlberta

No policy listed.

### AlbertaLiberal

Establish fixed election dates.

Create a citizen's assembly on electoral reform to study other voting systems.

Reform election finance laws.

Enact whistleblower legislation.

Eliminate Public Affairs Bureau and replace with a non-partisan government communications service.

### Alberta's NDP

Prohibit political donations from corporations and unions to political parties.

Table legislation binding all leadership and nomination contests to the same disclosure rules and donation limits of federal political parties.

### Wildrose Alliance

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute fixed election dates for all elected officials in Alberta. MLAs will be elected to a four (4) year term. The Legislative Assembly will be able to call a vote of non-confidence at any time.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will institute a Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform to assess all possible models for electing MLAs, including preferential ballots, proportional representation and our current electoral system. If the assembly recommends changes to the current electoral system the proposed changes will be put to a province-wide referendum.

A Wildrose Alliance Government will set the maximum number of terms that a Premier can serve to two consecutive four-year terms.

### Alberta Greens

### Support the rights of landowners

The people who steward our land have valuable knowledge of local economies and ecosystems. We must move to a position of cooperation with landowners, and away from the current practice of making them fight for the right to make decisions regarding the use of the land on which they have made their home.

### Fix election dates

The time of opportunistic votes is over. The people of Alberta, in order to be fully prepared, must have knowledge of when the election season is to begin, and time to learn the platforms and policies of their parties. If we are to have an informed electorate we must give them a reasonable time frame within which to educate themselves.

### Establish right of recall

The tradition of voting once, and then expecting the voters to accept all decisions their elected officials make, is undemocratic. In today's fast-paced market, the electors' deserve the right to recall ineffective or unsupported politicians....we need the best people for the job, and if those hired are not doing their duty, we must be able to elect better people.

## Alberta Party

Pass a "*Democracy Act*" to formalize the principles of Direct Democracy, those being Citizens Initiative, Referenda and Recall as well as allow for free votes in the legislature.

## Social Credit Party

6.1 Representative Democracy: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports representative democracy.

6.2 Free Votes: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute free votes in the Legislature for MLA's. MLA's would vote according to their conscience or as indicated by the constituents through the constituency organization. Should a government bill be defeated, it would not mean a vote of non-confidence for the government but simply a defeat of that particular piece of legislation. The Alberta Social Credit Party supports free votes within the Social Credit caucus. The party position would be determined by a simple majority of the MLA's casting a vote.

- 6.3 Recall of MLA: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute the right of recall of all elected officials by their constituents.
- 6.4 Fixed Election Dates: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute fixed election dates for all elected officials in Alberta. MLA's would be elected for a four (4) year term. The right of the Legislature to call a vote of non-confidence in the government would still be in force.
- 6.5 Fixed Dates for Sessions: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a program whereby Throne Speeches, Budget Announcements and Legislative dates would be on a set date each year.
- 6.6 Cabinet Size: The Alberta Social Credit Government would reduce the size of the Provincial Cabinet.
- 6.7 Open Employment Applications: The Alberta Social Credit Party would institute an open application process to fill all government positions and all hiring would be based upon qualifications and merit rather than patronage.
- 6.8 Inter-Provincial Conference on Co-operation: The ASC Government would endorse a conference attended by all provinces and territories to discuss equalizing benefits, responsibilities and representation for a "New Terms of Reference" of co-operation and association in Canada.
- 6.9 Establishing Provincial Senate: The Social Credit government create and develop a tri-cameral systems consisting of; a Lieutenant Governor, a Provincial Legislature, and the creation of a Provincial Senate. The Provincial Senate having equivalent powers to that of the Federal Senate.
- 6.10 Election of Commissions and Boards: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute elections for all provincial boards and commissions every four years in conjunction with provincial legislative elections.
- 6.11 Conflict Of Interest: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute strict conflict of interest guidelines facilitated through the Provincial Ethics Commissioner's office.
- 6.12 Constitutional Reform: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports popular ratification of all Constitutional Amendments by a simple majority vote in at least 2/3 of all the provinces (including the Territories) and representing at least 50% of the country's population in a national referendum.
- 6.13 Provincial Equality in Constitutional Matters: The Alberta Social Credit Party rejects the concept of unilateral negotiations between the Government of Canada and Quebec in constitutional matters. All provinces must be equal and active participants in all constitutional negotiations.
- 6.14 Charter of Rights and Equality: Social Credit opposes an interpretation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that entrenches any recognizable group with distinct or unique status" thus granting special privileges and exceptional rights not available to other Canadians. Equality before the law is essential to a just democracy and cannot be compromised.
- 6.15 Re-establishment of Provincial Powers: The Alberta Social Credit Party will assert Alberta's constitutional powers by collecting its own revenues for taxation, creating an Alberta Pension Plan, taking provincial responsibility for health care policy, and re-establishing a provincial police force.

6.16 Alberta Constitution: The Social Credit Party supports the creation of an Alberta Constitution that would include individual property rights and protection from unconstitutional intrusion from the Federal Government.

6.17 Freedom Of Information: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute the most comprehensive Freedom of Information Act in Canada which would open government dealings to all people.

6.18 Mandatory Tendering:

The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a procurement policy whereby all major purchases by the government would be through an open tender process.

6.19 M.L.A. Salaries: The Alberta Social Credit Government would institute a reduction in the salaries of Cabinet Ministers and the Premier. The Alberta Social Credit Government would remove all tax-free allowances to MLA's.

6.19.1 M.L.A. and Government Executive salaries: The Social Credit Government would implement wage control on salaries and bonuses so that they will not increase beyond 50% of the rate of the Alberta Provincial annual inflation rate. A revaluation of salaries will be undertaken based on national averages prior to the removal of tax-free allowances.

6.20 Municipal Government: The Alberta Social Credit Party supports continued dialogue and co-operation between the province and municipalities.

The Alberta Social Credit Party supports the assignment of government functions to that level of government most appropriate to the situation; therefore, an Alberta Social Credit Government would empower municipal governments with full local authority.

The Social Credit Party would not interfere with Edmonton and Calgary to maintain control over their respective utility companies.

6.21 Free Enterprise Levels: The Alberta Social Credit Party endorses the concept of Free Enterprise and thereby recognizes the value and need of all forms of enterprise, including Private, Public (or Crown), Publicly traded and Co-operative Enterprise (or Team Enterprise).

6.22 Referenda: The Social Credit Government would strip the power from the few and put it where it belongs, with the many. A system will be established where the most important issues of the day will be decided by the electors in an annual binding referendum.

All resolutions or issues that suggest or require a referendum from Albertans must undergo the same process as all other referendum questions, including the gathering of signatures.

6.23 Senate Reform: The Alberta Social Credit Party endorses the concept of a "Triple E" Senate with effective parliamentary powers that is elected by the people of each province with equal representation from each province.

6.24 Vote of Non-Confidence: The Alberta Social Credit Government would allow for the defeat of a government through a proclaimed vote of non-confidence in the Legislature and not through the mere defeat of a bill.

6.25 Proportional Representation: The Alberta Social Credit Government endorses an electoral system where the percentage of the popular vote determines the percentage of seats held in the legislature.

6.26 Term Limit: The Social Credit Government would establish an electoral restriction where the Premier can serve a maximum of (2) two terms.

## Communist Party of Alberta

Proportional representation: make every vote Count.

Public funding of all parties.

## Separation Party of Alberta

### 1. RECALL, CITIZEN INITIATIVE AND REFERENDA.

This legislation will be all-encompassing under the heading RECALL, CITIZEN INITIATIVE AND REFERENDA.

(a) We believe that all elected representatives and bureaucrats must be fully accountable to their electorate through mandated, workable and effective provisions entitling the electorate to RECALL them;

(b) The Separation Party of Alberta will implement legislation allowing Albertans to INITIATE legislation, or repeal existing legislation, by petition at all levels of government; and

(c) The Separation Party of Alberta will implement legislation that empowers Albertans to decide by REFERENDUM, initiated by the government or the electorate, on all controversial issues and disputes affecting Albertans as a whole, to be decided at the time of a General Election or a special referendum as required.

### 2. Fixed election dates/fixed terms.

The Separation Party of Alberta will initiate fixed election dates for all elections. Members of the Legislature will be elected for a 5 year term on the 1st Monday of November. The term of any member to the Legislature will be limited to 10 years.

### 3. Proportional representation.

The Separation Party of Alberta will implement legislation, after public consultation, on voting reform providing for a system of proportional representation which more accurately reflects the voting patterns of all eligible voters.

## Evaluation Analysis:

As mentioned the evaluation is based on a comparison of the parties' policies based on the basic priority for policy section. The basic priority for the Democracy reform section is:

Democracy reform (making the political system more representative of and accountable to the people of Alberta.)

### Summary notes:

1. PCAlberta: no policy on democracy reform, even after asking for one via email. No response to email.
2. AlbertaLiberal: comprehensive though nothing on empowering the Alberta citizens. Specific proposal.
3. Alberta's NDP: touches in only democracy issue. Specific proposal.
4. Wildrose party: close to AlbertaLiberal's in comprehensiveness, and very specific.
5. Alberta Greens: not entirely coherent proposal, and lacks the comprehensiveness of Wildrose's proposal, and very vague.
6. Alberta Party: addresses four points on empowering the Alberta citizen, but does not say anything else. Very vague.
7. Social Credit Party: comprehensive proposal, with many good ideas. Very specific and says similar ideas to Wildrose, but not to same extent and specificity. Very good ideas on fiscal responsibility.
8. Communist Party of Alberta: narrow proposal with only one valid idea, and very vague.
9. Separation Party of Alberta: comprehensive proposal though not as much as Social Credit's policy, and not as specific as Social Credit but more so than Alberta's Liberal.

## Ranking of Democracy reform Policy Section:

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Social Credit	13/15	5/5	18/20
2. Separation Party	12/15	4/5	16/20
3. Alberta's Liberal	12/15	3/5	15/20
3. Wildrose	11/15	5/5	15/20
4. Alberta Party	10/15	1/5	11/20
4. Alberta's Greens	8/15	3/5	11/20
5. Alberta's NDP	4/15	3/5	7/20
6. Communist Party	3/15	1/5	4/20
7. PCAlberta	0/15	0/5	0/20

## Percentage Ranking of Democracy reform Policy Section:

Note, soundness has three times more weight than specificness.

	<u>Soundness</u>	<u>Specificness</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Social Credit	86.6%	100%	90%
2. Separation Party	80%	80%	80%
3. Alberta's Liberal	80%	60%	75%
3. Wildrose	73.3%	100%	75%
4. Alberta Party	66.6%	20%	55%
4. Alberta's Greens	53.3%	60%	55%
5. Alberta's NDP	26.6%	60%	35%
6. Communist Party	20%	20%	25%
7. PCAlberta	0%	0%	0%

## Overall Ranking of Alberta Political Parties:

Combine the percentage scores in each section "Royalties, Budget, Health, Education, Housing, Environment, and Democracy reform," and total (giving equal weight to each section), and divide by seven, to get the average percentage score for each party.

Highest percentage score determines highest ranking and top evaluated political party.

	<b>Royalt.</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Edu.</b>	<b>Hous.</b>	<b>Envir.</b>	<b>Dem.</b>	<b>Totals</b>	
PCAlberta	47.5%	47.5%	60%	60%	40%	50%	0%	305%	43.6%
AlbertaLiberal	27.5%	40%	75%	70%	85%	70%	75%	442.5%	63.2%
Alberta's NDP	10%	10%	65%	57.5%	40%	75%	35%	292.5%	41.8%
Wildrose	30%	90%	70%	85%	40%	55%	75%	445%	63.5%
Alberta Greens	0%	10%	20%	25%	20%	10%	55%	140%	20%
Alberta Party	25%	10%	10%	10%	0%	10%	55%	120%	17.1%
Social Credit	45%	50%	50%	55%	20%	35%	90%	345%	49.3%
Communist	42.5%	10%	10%	25%	60%	15%	25%	187.5%	26.8%
Separation	0%	45%	80%	57.5%	15%	24%	80%	301.5%	43.1%

## Overall Ranking:

1. Wildrose Alliance (63.5%)
2. AlbertaLiberals (63.2%)
3. Social Credit (49.3%)
4. PCAlberta (43.6%)
5. Separation Party (43.1%)
6. Alberta's NDP (41.8%)
7. Communist Party (26.8%)
8. Alberta's Greens (20%)
9. Alberta Party (17.1%)

## Analysis of Overall Ranking of Political Parties:

Though Wildrose Alliance is ranked number one, the difference between AlbertaLiberals is very insignificant (i.e. .2%). Therefore, Wildrose Alliance and AlbertaLiberals are virtually tied in this evaluation and ranking.

There are three tiers to the ranking:

1. Wildrose Alliance and AlbertaLiberals (over 10% difference to nearest other party).
2. Social Credit Party, PCAlberta, Separation Party and Alberta's NDP are grouped within 7.5% of each other.
3. Communist Party, Alberta's Greens, and Alberta Party are over 10% away from the second tier group, and within 10% of each other.

Limitation to report: the riding representative of top ranked political party may not be better representative for a particular riding.

Though in cases where the candidates are close in a particular riding, the top ranked political party should prevail, assuming the difference with second ranked political party, for instance, is significant. Viz., two parties that are ranked very close in actual numbers, would leave it open as to which party would prevail in a particular riding that was close.

The report will take on greater meaning in the next general election by holding the successful party accountable for their policies and promises.

Note, video of the evaluation committee at work can be viewed at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or\\_c-2NhuBY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or_c-2NhuBY)

## Assessment of Evaluation and Ranking Report:

The evaluation and ranking report is limited to the policies of the political parties. In subsequent reports, the evaluation and ranking could include an evaluation and ranking of the political leaders of the parties, and the parties themselves in terms of their background, political experience, membership etc.,

The committee, which was limited to four persons, could be expanded to eight persons.

Also, three committees, independent of each other, could be formed, and their results compared to determine an overall ranking. Three independent committees would help minimize human error. Moreover, public feedback before finalizing results may be helpful to get the most accurate result.

## Supplementary Documents including all memos and correspondence to Alberta political parties.

### Alberta Party Correspondence with the FDPA:

February 25, 2008

Dear George Read:

The Foundation for Democratic Political Advancement (based out of British Columbia) is conducting an evaluation and ranking of the Alberta Provincial Political parties.

As part of that study I have the following question:

What is the Alberta Green Party's policy on Alberta Oil and Gas Royalties? I am looking for overall and specific policy.

I would be grateful, due to time constraints, a response at your earliest convenience.

Thank you,

Stephen Garvey

Stephen,

Our policies remain the same as on the website. On the Alberta Party website highlight 'The Party' in the solid blue ribbon and then select 'Policy Overview'. The Alberta Party does not have a special "goodies" platform for the election.

Fred

-----Original Message-----

**From:** FDPA [mailto:democracyadvancement@telus.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 9:24 AM

**To:** info@albertaparty.ab.ca

**Subject:** Policy

To whom it may concern:

I would like to know what are the proposed policies of the Alberta Party?

Thank you,

Stephen Garvey

Fred:

Is this Alberta Party policy on Oil and Gas Royalties:

We are of the opinion that the government is sitting with a pile of cash [surplus] - now is not the time to grab more. The change in royalties is primarily due to oil sands activity and in that regard it is not about the money it is about the environment - and what is happening to that environment at Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan.

If you get an updated policy on oil and gas royalties:

please send to me.

Stephen Garvey

Stephen,

The only change contemplated to policies on the Alberta Party website is one being formulated on 'Oil and Gas Royalties'. We are of the opinion that the government is sitting with a pile of cash [surplus] - now is not the time to grab more. The change in royalties is primarily due to oil sands activity and in that regard it is not about the money it is about the environment - and what is happening to that environment at Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan.

Fred

-----Original Message-----

**From:** FDPA [mailto:democracyadvancement@telus.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 9:38 AM

**To:** info@albertaparty.ab.ca

**Subject:** questions

To whom it may concern:

What is the Alberta Party's policies on:

Oil and Gas Royalties

and

Housing.

I request general and specific answers.

Thank you,

Stephen Garvey

Stephen,

To answer your question, "not yet" - it is a 'part' of our pending policy.

It is in the process of being formulated by the Alberta Party editorial committee.

Since we are not likely to form the government after this election, it is not an urgent matter right now.

The Alberta Party supports the status quo on royalty rates but the "royalty policy package" has to relate to other important issues as well - environment, jobs and the economy- those issues are being sorted out - let's not rush it! We are working on it.

If you are just trying to keep score, the Alberta Party is not in favour of raising royalties!

Fred

-----Original Message-----

**From:** FDPA [mailto:democracyadvancement@telus.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:55 AM

**To:** Fred Schorning

**Subject:** Re: questions

Fred:

Is this Alberta Party policy on Oil and Gas Royalties:

We are of the opinion that the government is sitting with a pile of cash [surplus] - now is not the time to grab more. The change in royalties is primarily due to oil sands activity and in that regard it is not about the money it is about the environment - and what is happening to that environment at Fort McMurray and Fort Chipewyan.

If you get an updated policy on oil and gas royalties:

please send to me.

Stephen Garvey

## PCAlberta:

An email sent (on February 26) via the form mail on the PCAlberta website was sent regarding its policy or non-policy on Democracy reform. No reply was received by the FDPA.