

Dr. LUANNE METZ



MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA FOR
CALGARY-VARSITY

- & -

ALBERTA NDP OPPOSITION CAUCUS
CHAIR FOR FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

WINTER 2026 MLA NEWSLETTER



ABOUT LUANNE

Dr. Luanne Metz is a globally recognized medical researcher, a physician, and a leader in health care delivery.

Luanne is an accomplished neurologist and has worked in the medical field in many capacities for over 30 years. She has held several positions within Alberta Health Services including, director of the Calgary Multiple Sclerosis Clinic, section head of neurology, and research director. She has also been a professor with the University of Calgary, and is now a professor emerita. In 2020, Dr. Metz acted as the associate facility medical director for the Foothills Medical Centre.

As an advocate for public health care, Luanne believes in publicly funded, sustainable, and accessible health care for all Albertans.

As a long time resident of Varsity who raised her family here, Luanne has the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to build a healthy future in Alberta for generations to come.

A HUB OF ADVANCED EDUCATION & INNOVATION

The University of Calgary and education is at the core of our communities. The University of Calgary is currently ranked the 5th best research university in Canada, and is a key economic driver for both Calgary and the entire province.

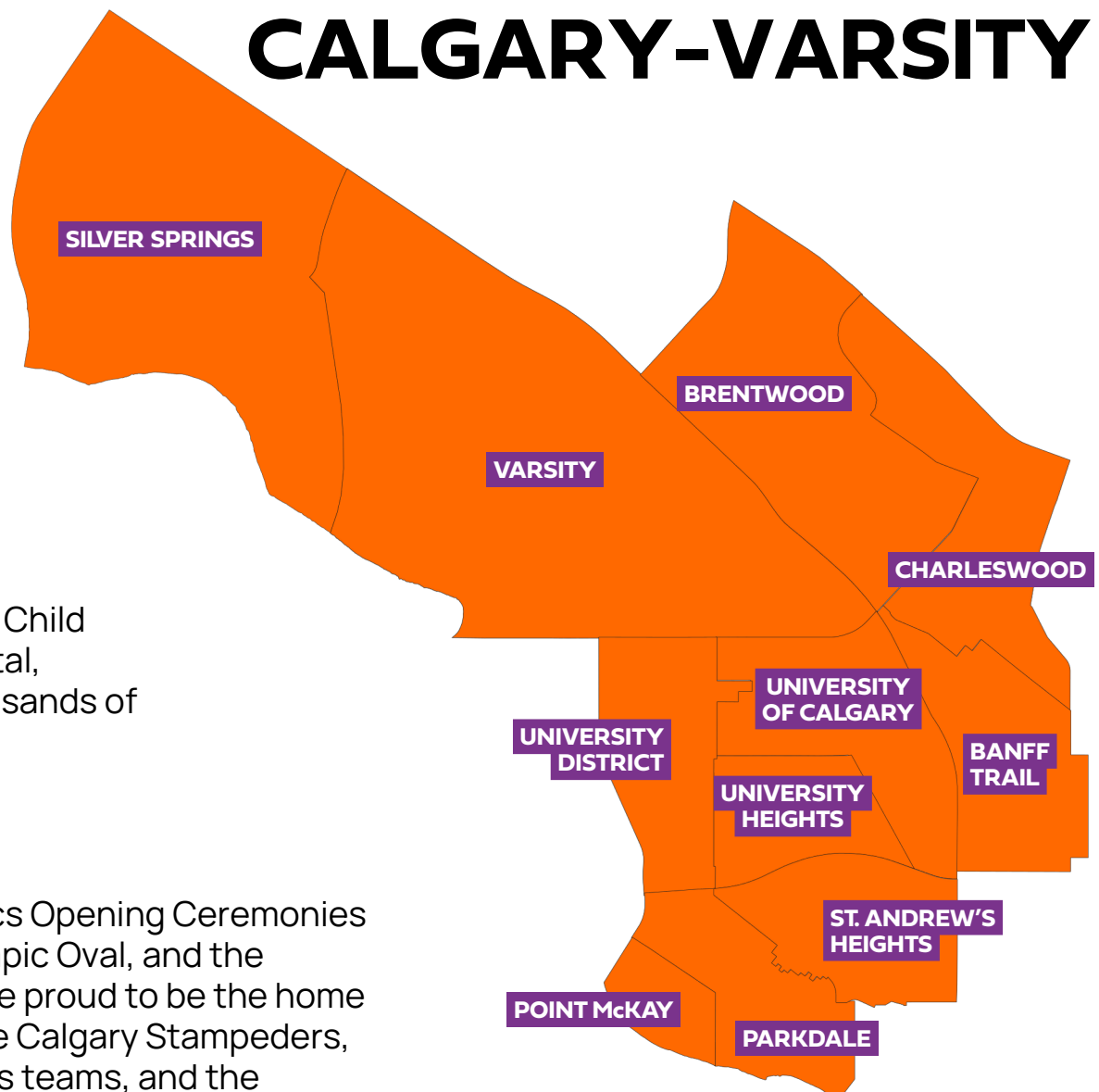
HEALTH CARE LEADERS

With the Foothills Medical Centre, the Arthur J.E. Child Cancer Centre, and the Alberta Children's Hospital, Calgary-Varsity is the home or workplace of thousands of health care workers and scientists.

HOME OF AN OLYMPIC LEGACY

Calgary-Varsity hosted the Calgary 1988 Olympics Opening Ceremonies at McMahon Stadium, Speed Skating at the Olympic Oval, and the Olympic Village at the University of Calgary. We're proud to be the home of major sports facilities and teams, including the Calgary Stampeders, Calgary Wild, all of the University of Calgary Dinos teams, and the Olympic Oval's "fastest ice in the world."

CALGARY-VARSITY



NOTE: New riding boundaries are expected to be finalized in 2026, effective in the next provincial general election, which may or may not effect Calgary-Varsity (abebc.ca)

WHAT WE'VE HEARD FROM YOU



I WORRY ABOUT HAVING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

With hospitals at capacity, people are worried that they won't be seen by a doctor in time if they have a serious medical emergency.

Almost a million Albertans are without a family doctor, and many are waiting far too long for life-saving procedures.

Learn more about our work to get you better health care on page 5



WE ARE PROUD CANADIANS AND ALBERTANS

It's been overwhelmingly clear that Albertans are proud Canadians, as well as proud Albertans.

We are better together, and Alberta's position as a leader within Canada has benefitted us all. Alberta can lead our country to a stronger future for all of us!

Learn more about how we're standing strong for a united Canada on page 7



GOOD JOBS & AFFORDABLE GOODS

More and more people are struggling to make ends meet.

Alberta's unemployment rate is among the highest in the country, especially for youth.

Groceries, rent and auto insurance are just a few things that have gotten out of control.

Learn more about how we're working to get Albertans relief and good paying jobs on page 8

“Albertans are clear about what they want from their government.

“Help with rising costs, better health care, a properly funded education system, good jobs, and an ethical government.”



- NAHEED NENSHI
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
ALBERTA NDP CAUCUS



I WANT MY CHILDREN TO GET THE BEST EDUCATION

Our children's classrooms are overcrowded, and kids aren't getting the support they need.

Albertans want their kids to get this support to prepare them for success, but Alberta is letting them down with nearly the lowest per-student funding in the country.

Read more about the state of Alberta's schools on page 9



PROTECT OUR MOUNTAINS & WATER

One of the best things about living in Calgary is how close we are to the most beautiful places on earth.

Albertans have been clear that they don't want coal mining on the Eastern Slopes, because water is our most important resource, crucial for agriculture, habitats, & our water supply.

Learn more about our bill protecting Alberta's water and landscape on page 4



PROTECT MY CHARTER RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

With the UCP government using the notwithstanding clause of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to violate Albertans' rights 4 times in Fall 2025, people want a government that will fight to protect their rights, not violate them.

Learn more about how we'll protect your rights and freedoms on page 10

OUR WORK IN THE LEGISLATURE

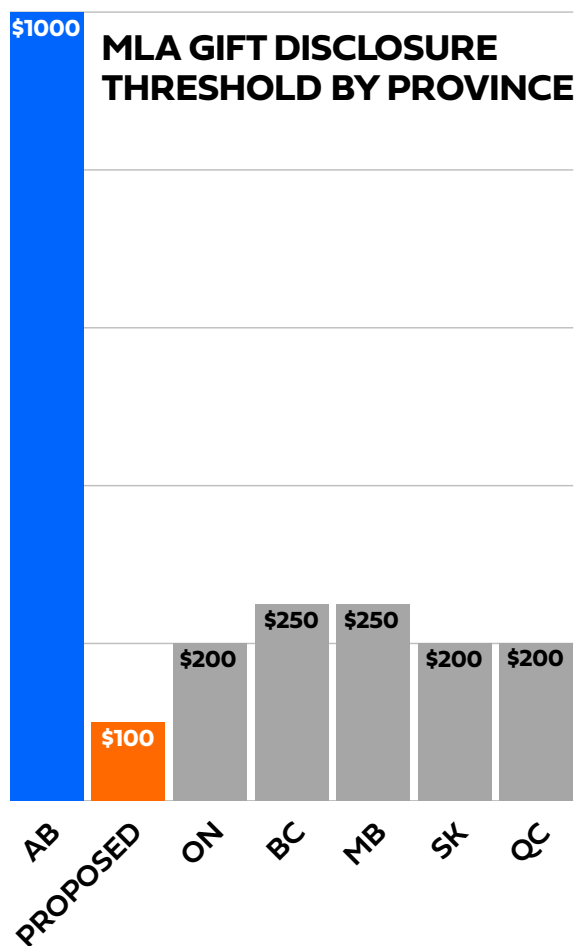
We've been hard at work in the Legislature trying to get Albertans the support they need as times continue to be tough for so many.

Real action needs to be taken on the issues that actually matter to real people, not just to the friends of the government.

We've highlighted just a few of the things that our team of MLAs in the Alberta NDP Caucus have proposed in the Legislature to address major issues Albertans are facing.

BILL 202 - ETHICAL GOVERNANCE ACT

After significant controversies around sole-source contracts awarded to friends of government, and rules changes to allow for higher gift limits and playoff box suite perks for government officials, we introduced legislation to crack down on conflicts of interest and tighten rules around gifts and political influence.



STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT WE'RE DOING IN THE LEGISLATURE:



www.albertandpcaucus.ca/news
ALBERTA NDP CAUCUS NEWS & PRESS RELEASES



www.youtube.com/@AlbertaNewDemocrats
ALBERTA NDP CAUCUS PRESS CONFERENCES & VIDEOS



www.assembly.ab.ca
WATCH THE LEGISLATURE LIVE

BILL 203 - ENERGY STORAGE PLANNING INVESTMENT ACT

Alberta's grid has come close to failure during extreme weather in recent years. We need action to stabilize Alberta's electricity grid, as Albertans' power bills are some of the highest in the country.

Alberta needs to be at the leading edge of innovation in the energy sector, and attract investment in energy storage to modernize and strengthen our grid, lower your electricity costs, and create good paying jobs for Albertans.

BILL 204 - HEALTH WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT

Between the CorruptCare allegations, and the Auditor General's report on DynaLife, it's known that AHS staff feel "discouraged from voicing concerns due to a fear of repercussions."

When workers are silenced and demoralized, patient care suffers, and lives are at risk. This bill would ensure any worker employed by a publicly funded health entity can report wrongdoings or misuse of public funds without fear of retaliation.

"Albertans are working harder than ever, but their paycheques aren't keeping up."

"This is about restoring fairness and making sure no one is left behind."

- NAHEED NENSHI
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
ALBERTA NDP CAUCUS

BILL 214 - EASTERN SLOPES PROTECTION

This Bill would stop new coal mining projects on the Eastern Slopes of the Rocky Mountains, which are risking Alberta's beautiful landscape and poisoning the critical water supply for ranching, fishing, our drinking water, and recreation activities.

READ MORE ON AFFORDABILITY ON PAGE 8

BILL 201
PROTECT WORKERS' PAY ACT

MOTION 504
CAPPING AUTO INSURANCE RATES

MOTION 505
PUBLIC INQUIRY ON SHRINKFLATION AND SKIMPFLATION

The UCP Government's record has failed Albertans

- Raised the caps on your auto insurance, allowing for up to 15% increases over two years.
- Lost tens of thousands of good jobs in the energy sector by blocking \$33 billion of investment with the blanket moratorium on renewable energy projects.
- Voted to knowingly override and violate Albertans' Charter Rights and Freedoms through use of the Charter's notwithstanding clause on 4 pieces of legislation.

THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

You deserve a health care system that is there when you need it.

But right now, we have fewer doctors per person than we did 10 years ago, wait times are increasing, ambulances are very delayed in arriving, and people are dying in emergency rooms after hours of waiting to be seen.

But there is hope. Despite the challenges and chaos in the health care system, there are proven strategies to rebuild health care even better than it was.

**an estimated
2,250,000
Albertans
have trouble
seeing a
family doctor.**

(ANGUS REID, 2026)

DR. METZ & THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE PROJECT

In 2024, Dr. Luanne Metz, as MLA for Calgary-Varsity, was appointed as the Alberta NDP Caucus Chair for the Future of Health Care.

Since then, she has been working with key health stakeholders to understand what Albertans care about most, identify the challenges facing the health care system, and gather insights to fix those issues.

As the head of Neurology in Calgary, Dr. Metz led work in collaboration with primary care, which reduced wait times for non-urgent neurology appointments from 21 months to just 4.5 months.

We can and will repair our broken health care system.

We know we need **ONE Health Ministry** and a major initiative to focus on our health care workforce.

Keep an eye out in the coming months for exciting developments from this project.

EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE OVER CAPACITY

Failures across the health system have turned our emergency departments into parking lots. Admitted patients may wait hours or days in the hallways, with no space left for the people in agonizing pain. Critically ill patients are removed from their beds as they wait to be moved to a hallway, or a closet.

Paramedics are also struggling with extreme burnout leading to high staff turnover, and unstaffed shifts.

Experts, including patients, emergency room staff, and paramedics have shared proven solutions for these issues, to make sure you get care quickly when you have an emergency.

DECLARE A HEALTH CARE EMERGENCY

Alberta's hospitals are currently operating over their full capacity. Some as high as 115%. A State of Emergency declaration should remain in place until each hospital is operating at safer levels where no patients are being treated in hallways.

Since January, the Alberta NDP Caucus have been calling for:

- Declare of a state of emergency for Alberta's emergency rooms
- Reinstate a central command for coordination and decision making, to create a strict command structure with clear decision management protocols.
- Reconvene the Legislature early and hold an emergency debate.

SIGN THE PETITION:

www.AlbertaHealthCrisis.ca

ONE UNIFIED HEALTH MINISTRY

The UCP Government split the Health Ministry into 3 new ministries, and moved other parts to Social Services and Infrastructure. This created chaos as neither patients nor the workers knew who was responsible for what.

To ensure that care you need is actually provided, so nobody falls through the gaps, and we use resources effectively, **Alberta needs one unified Ministry of Health.**

Albertans have lost faith in the UCP government to fix health care.

- Created two-tier, pay-to-play health care where only those who can afford it get timely care, while resources and workforce are drained from the public system that everyone needs for emergency services (Bill 11).
- Made influenza and Covid vaccines hard to access, allowed Canada to lose its measles-free status, and led to Alberta recording our first measles death in a generation.
- Refused to call a Public Inquiry to potentially clear themselves of corruption allegations surrounding how bloated health care contracts were awarded.
- Wasted \$125 million on the privatization of lab services, followed by making them public again after it failed to provide adequate services to Albertans.



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

Now more than ever, Alberta needs unifying leadership that brings us together as Albertans and Canadians. We have challenges that need our full attention in health care, education, and affordability.

The UCP government has been clear with their actions that they support separatism. When the government's own rules meant separatists could no longer pursue their fringe cause, they changed the law to allow for a separatist referendum, and gifted them a lower signature threshold.

But even having a separation referendum is dangerous to our province. Quebec still hasn't economically recovered from their last sovereignty referendum, over 30 years later.

Make no mistake, we must take this seriously. As Canada remains under threat, and separatist leaders meet with the Trump administration, we must not allow this division to distract from addressing the real issues that Albertans are facing.

We believe in Canada. We are better and stronger together.

BETTER TOGETHER TOWN HALL TOUR

Throughout 2025, Alberta's NDP Caucus went on tour around the province to hear from Albertans about separatism, why Alberta is better in Canada, and what issues people are really facing.

We heard from folks about all the issues they'd like the government to focus on rather than pushing separatism in places like **Lethbridge, Red Deer, Spruce Grove, Airdrie, Canmore, Okotoks, Grande Prairie, Calgary and Edmonton.**

PLEDGE TO CONSTITUENTS TO OPPOSE SEPARATISM

All 38 MLAs in the Alberta NDP Caucus, including myself, have signed a pledge against separatism to make it clear to constituents where we stand.

PLEDGE TO MY CONSTITUENTS

"I affirm that I am a proud Albertan and a proud Canadian. I am opposed to separatism and I will make my position known and clear to my constituents."

In January 2026, we called for all MLAs of all parties to sign this pledge, but as of March 1st, no conservative MLA has signed the pledge.

There have been reports, however, that multiple UCP MLAs have signed a petition calling for a referendum on separation from Canada, but the Premier won't tell us who.

Albertans have a right to know if their representatives are separatists, or support Alberta in Canada.



AFFORDABILITY ACTION

Albertans should be able to keep a roof over their heads, feed their families, get around town, and save for the future.

Unfortunately, the cost of housing, groceries, utilities, insurance, and more have been rising dramatically. 61% of university graduates have over \$38,000 in student debt at graduation, on which Alberta charges thousands in interest.

Many Albertans are finding their incomes just aren't keeping up.

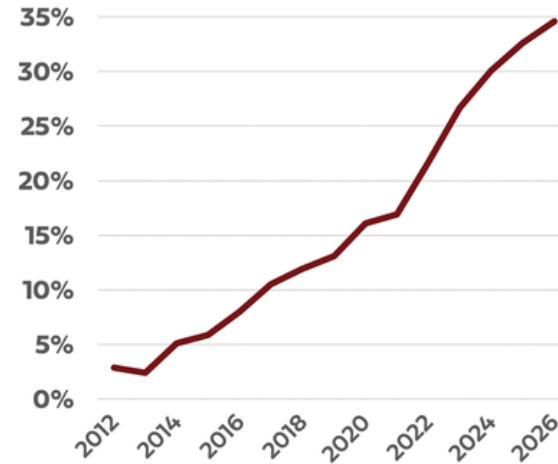
PROTECTING WORKERS' PAYCHEQUES - BILL 201

Alberta's minimum wage has remained unchanged since 2018, despite major inflation and cost of living increases in the province. As of 2026, it is now the lowest in Canada at \$15/hr.

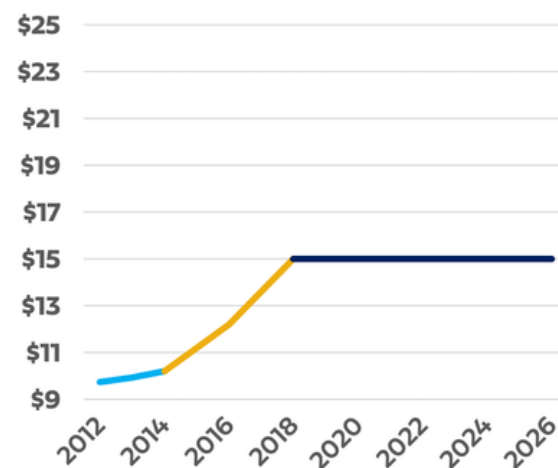
As well, Alberta is one of only two Canadian provinces to have a lower youth minimum wage, set \$2 lower at \$13/hr for young people under 18 years of age.

Inaction on wage growth and wage protections is deepening economic insecurity for thousands of workers across the province.

COST OF LIVING % INCREASE Y/Y SINCE 2012 (CPI)



ALBERTA MINIMUM WAGE



(Statistics Canada, 2026)

SHRINKFLATION & SKIMPFLATION

You've probably noticed your grocery bill going up over the last few years. And you've probably noticed that you're getting less food despite you paying the same price or even more for it.

In the Legislature, we've introduced a motion calling for a public inquiry into shrinkflation and skimpflation. A public inquiry is transparent, identifies policy failures such as limited competition, and will bring in experts to lead strategies to overcome food insecurity and make sure companies aren't taking advantage of Albertans at the checkout.

PHARMACARE & DENTALCARE

Alberta has opted out of the federal pharmacare program to cover diabetes medication and supplies, and contraceptives, and the Premier has announced intentions to remove Alberta from the national dental care program.

This leaves hundreds of thousands of Albertans with up to thousands of dollars in extra costs that other Canadians have covered by the federal government.

Albertans need their government to ensure they benefit from national programs.

We are committed to ensuring Albertans get access to coverage through the national pharmacare and dental care programs.

CAPPING AUTO INSURANCE RATES

Between 2019 and 2020 alone, auto insurance rates increased by an average of 24% in Alberta. Albertans already pay some of the highest rates in the country, but independent reports project rates will increase by 88% in the next decade.

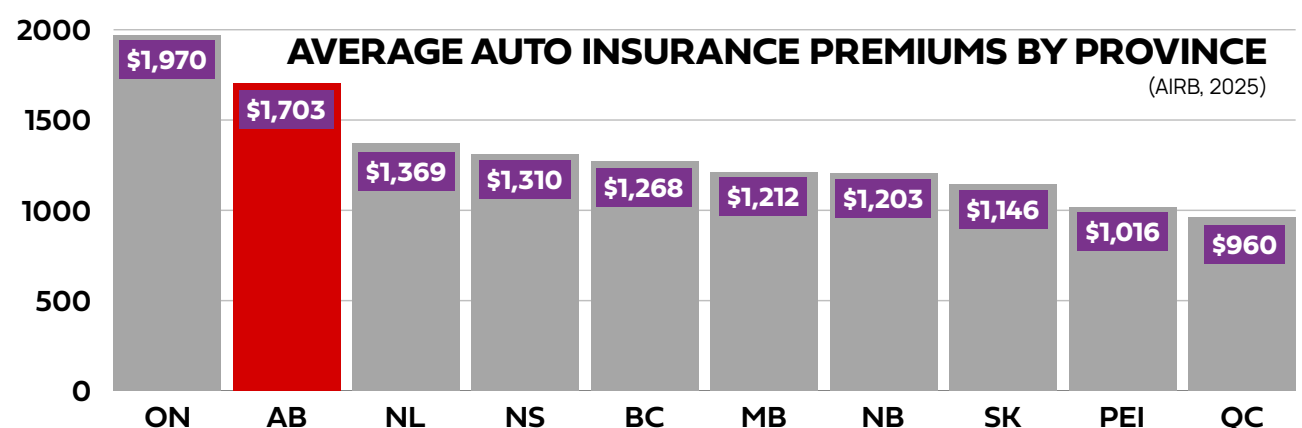
Simply, Albertans are paying too much for insurance. That's why we raised a motion in the Legislature to cap your auto insurance rate increases right away.

All options need to be on the table to reduce the burden, while developing a long-term solution that actually works for Albertans.

Only Alberta has no mechanism linking provincial minimum wage to cost of living.

In October 2025, Kathleen Ganley, MLA Calgary-Mountain View, introduced the Protecting Workers' Pay Act, to:

- Raise the minimum wage from the lowest in Canada by \$1/hr per year for three years to \$18/hr
- Tie future minimum wage increases to cost of living (CPI)
- Reinstate equal pay for students and youth under 18
- Introduce tip protections, ensuring they go directly to the workers who earn them





SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. Teachers deserve support, resources, and respect so they can help students get there.

Chronic underfunding and a lack of support of our schools has meant that's not happening. Classes are overcrowded, curriculum is declining, and students are not getting the support they need.

An entirely preventable teachers' strike ended when the government violated teachers' rights by forcing them back to work rather than working with them to address the major issues in our schools. There still hasn't been enough action to improve classroom conditions.

Alberta's education system doesn't get better by violating teachers' rights, and forcing a contract which fails to address major issues in our schools.

With Alberta's growing population, a long-term school infrastructure plan is required so the next generation doesn't pay the price of years of catchup.

"Every single thing I am, every single thing I have, I owe to great public education."

"It all starts with a strong public education system. Without it, we have nothing."

**- NAHEED NENSHI
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
ALBERTA NDP CAUCUS**

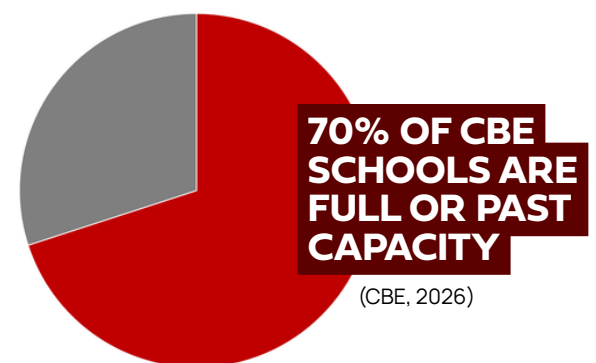
The way your children or grandchildren will get the best education they can is through **smaller class sizes** where teachers and assistants can spend the time they need helping students.

It's through **building new schools** which needed to be built years ago.

It's through **giving teachers and staff the respect they deserve.**

It's through **proper funding of our education system** so future generations of Albertans get good jobs, and live happy and healthy lives.

Calgary's schools are full.



Over the past three years, Calgary Board of Education (CBE) schools alone **added 17,000 students.** That's **enough to fill 30 elementary schools.**

CBE high schools are at an **AVERAGE of 107%** capacity due to chronic underfunding.



NOTWITHSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

On October 29th, 2025, the UCP government forced striking teachers back to work, **violating teachers' constitutionally protected freedom** of association. Alberta NDP MLAs voted against the legislation.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms section 33, known as the notwithstanding clause, was used to shield the legislation from judicial review. The clause has been rarely used in Canada, and only used once before in Alberta history.

To be clear, neither back-to-work legislation nor the notwithstanding clause were required to get teachers back to work. All the government had to do was negotiate in good faith, and come to a deal with teachers to

ensure our children get the quality education they deserve.

We spoke out against this use of the notwithstanding clause. Once a government violates the rights of one group, they usually do it again.

And they did use it again. In November 2025, the UCP government used the notwithstanding clause to block court challenges on three controversial laws which the government had previously passed targeting 2SLGBTQ+ Albertans.

This consequential misuse of government power, knowingly violating Albertans' rights through the notwithstanding clause, cannot be ignored.

And they didn't just do it once, but on **4 different pieces of legislation** within a single month.

Alberta's New Democrats will never use the notwithstanding clause, and we would introduce new legislation that would prevent its use by future governments.



CHANGES TO ALBERTA DISABILITY BENEFITS

Recent changes to the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) has meant Albertans with permanent and severe disabilities will be moved to a new program with a lower benefit amount, ADAP (Alberta Disability Assistance Program). To stay on AISH, all Albertans with disabilities will have to re-apply from scratch. This process forces medical re-examination to prove that a permanent disability is permanent.

Those receiving AISH have also been notified that their benefit will be reduced by a further \$200/month unless they could prove that they have been denied from the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) intended top-up disability benefits for Canadians with disabilities.

Many applying for AISH or CDB are reporting they cannot afford to be re-examined due to fees charged by some doctors.

If you are struggling to complete the AISH or CDB application process due to cost, please speak with the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities.

We have heard from many who have been impacted by these clawbacks and changes to disability benefits, which were already well below the cost of living in Calgary and Alberta.

If you need any guidance navigating these changes to AISH, or would like to share your story with us about how you have been impacted by these changes, please reach out to our constituency office through the contact info on the back page.

Alberta is one of only two provinces without accessibility legislation.

“Accessibility legislation doesn't just look at the built environment. It includes all kinds of things, like education, employment, procurement, information and technology. It also looks at how we develop and deliver the programs that government offers.”

- MLA MARIE RENAUD
SHADOW MINISTER OF
COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES
& MLA FOR ST. ALBERT

The Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities represents the rights, interests, and well-being of Albertans with disabilities.

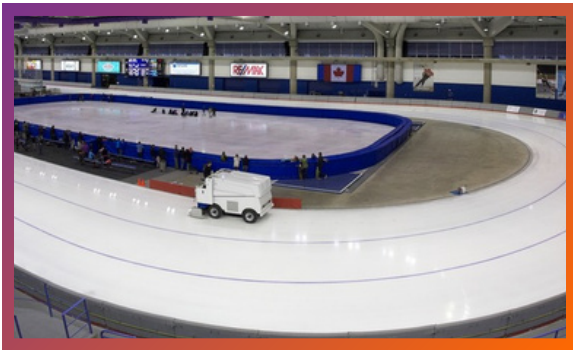
They can help children, youth, adults, and seniors with disabilities find and get access to the supports and services available to them.



advocate.disability@gov.ab.ca



(780) 422-1095
1 (800) 272-8841 (toll-free)



From elite athletes to Calgary’s children, the Olympic Oval serves us all

CALGARY HERALD
BY LUANNE METZ, MLA CALGARY-VARSITY

Whether you’re watching world-class athletes compete on the “world’s fastest ice” or cheering on a child as they stop teetering and find their balance in hockey skates, Calgary’s Olympic Oval is an absolute gift to the city, the province and the country.

But it needs urgent and major renovations. The University of Calgary is “actively pursuing” funding from the provincial and federal governments and private donors to ensure the Oval is the gift that keeps giving.

When I was raising my kids it was a favourite place to burn off some energy. Tens of thousands of Calgarians have memories like

I do – my daughter proudly ditching the trainer and taking off on her own the first time she was on skates.

Originally built in 1987 for the 1988 Calgary Olympic Games, the Oval is widely recognized as having the world’s fastest 400-metre indoor speedskating surface. More than 300 world records have been broken on its ice. International coaches and athletes clamour to train at the Oval.

But, as my family proves, that’s only part of the story. Nearly 40 per cent of the facility hours are used by the community – families and friends skating, running, using the gym or attending special community events such as Skate with Santa or a science fair. A good two-thirds of the programming at the Oval promotes participation in sport, physical activity and overall wellness.

But the Oval can no longer outrun its financial situation. The series of minor renovations over nearly four decades won’t cut it anymore. The highly specialized ice-making equipment is on the brink of failing. The building’s

systems are at the end of their life spans. It was built to last 25 years. It’s been 37.

Yes, every facility across Alberta could use more funding. But consider that each world championship the Oval hosts generates \$3.5 million of economic activity. A World Cup creates \$1.7 million per event and sporting events that don’t use the ice create \$2.5 million per event. The Oval employs about 100 full- and part-time staff and more than 6.8 million people have walked through its doors. In fact, in the nearly 40 years since the Olympics, the Oval has had an economic impact of more than \$170 million.

The calculation is clear. We can’t sit by and let this one-of-a-kind facility slip through our fingers. The Oval has given us so much over the past 37 years.

Now, the Oval urgently needs our help.



Scan the QR code to read the full article
www.drmetz.ca/oval





STAY IN THE KNOW

For Budget 2026 news & more updates,
Sign up for Dr. Metz's digital newsletter

I hope this newsletter can start some conversations between neighbours, friends, and family, about what direction Alberta is headed in, and what a government that takes action to address the real needs and priorities of Albertans looks like.

The conversations you have with the people in your circles and community will be the most impactful, and are vital to getting Alberta back on the right track. Share this newspaper with your friends and family! Sign up for my digital newsletter so you will have monthly updates and get information to more solutions for the Future of Health Care as we roll them out.

If you would like to know more about a specific issue, please reach out to my Constituency Office and we would be more than happy to help. You can also see regular updates almost every day from the Alberta NDP Caucus by going to our website at www.albertandpcaucus.ca

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of Albertans.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Answer the short 3-minute survey by scanning the QR code or visit drmetz.ca/survey.

GET IN TOUCH

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