



Permanent Prosperity is Possible

Albertans have an incredible opportunity, right now, to build a legacy for the future.

The evidence of an economic boom is all around us, and so is the realization that the boom will not last forever. We're hearing — and seeing for ourselves — that this current round of prosperity is taking its toll on us and on our province.

How will we make the most of this opportunity to plan a future, not so distant, where we can sustain prosperity beyond our reliance on non-renewable resources and the volatile cycles that result from that reliance?

Our plan was introduced to the legislature in *Bill 201 — Funding Alberta's Future Act*. The bill proposed that 30 per cent of non-renewable resource revenues be invested into four key areas: a capital account for infrastructure projects; a post-secondary endowment fund; the Heritage Fund; and an endowment fund for the arts and humanities. More details about the plan are included in this newsletter. Although the bill was voted down by the government before serious debate could even begin, we feel that the principles reflected in the bill give Albertans a chance to do the smart thing — to pay themselves first and make informed choices about the future. With this plan in place, twenty years from now the Alberta government would earn more from the Heritage Fund than from energy royalties. We would be able to maintain quality public services, including schools, hospitals and roads, without depending on oil and gas revenues or worrying about tax increases or program cuts to cover shortfalls. We would be able to leave a legacy for our children of well-managed resources, well-planned sustainability, action and innovation.

What is needed to take us there is leadership. As a province, we can do better than we are doing now. And we believe Albertans are ready for the challenge. I encourage you to read on and then contact me with your thoughts.

Kevin
Taft MLA

**EDMONTON
RIVERVIEW**

Summer 2007 • Issue 16

Constituency Office

9202 B – 149 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5R 1C3

T: (780) 414-0719

F: (780) 414-0721

E: Edmonton.Riverview@assembly.ab.ca

W: www.edmontonriverview.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Office Staff

Donna White,
Constituency Office Manager

Jeanne Lundeen,
Constituency Office Assistant

Changing Together — Growing Together



JAN BAKER RETIRES

After a decade of providing support to the constituents and MLAs of Edmonton Riverview, Jan Baker has retired as Constituency Manager.

Jan began her work in Edmonton Riverview as the Constituency Manager for Linda Sloan in 1997. She brought to the position a sense of compassion and creative problem solving skills, as well as years of experience as a registered nurse, and as a Labour Relations officer and Vice-President of the Staff Nurses Association of Alberta.

When Kevin was elected in 2001, he was fortunate to be able to employ Jan as his Constituency Manager, and

Jan continued to be a valuable resource for Kevin and the community. Whether the situation called for advocacy in times of crisis or skilled administrative direction, Jan got the job done with care and respect for all involved. Her expertise and sense of humour will be missed by all her constituency, caucus and legislative assembly colleagues.

Jan has retired to her home on the lake, but will continue to be involved in community volunteer activities. Best wishes and thank you to a very special person!

NEW CONSTITUENCY MANAGER

Donna White has taken on the position of Constituency Manager following Jan's retirement. Donna and Jeanne Lundeen, Constituency Office Assistant, look forward to providing you with the support and assistance you have come to expect from this office.



Top: Jan Baker, Linda Sloan & Jeanne Lundeen share memories and laughs

Bottom: Jan Baker & Kevin Taft at a Retirement Dinner



Funding Alberta's Future — A Plan for Prosperity

It's a startling fact that without oil and gas revenues, Alberta would be running huge deficits. At this moment the provincial government spends \$8500 per person to provide public services for Albertans and collects only \$6360 in sustainable revenues. The difference is made up by directly spending the province's oil and gas revenues.

In 2003-04 the government spent \$3.5 billion of this non-sustainable revenue; by this budget year the government's dependence had grown to \$5.3 billion. In the past 25 years, the Alberta government has spent over 90% of all oil and gas revenues it has received. We are spending our wealth as fast as it comes out of the ground. It is painfully clear that nonrenewable resource revenues need to be replaced with another source of funding, and quickly. Alberta needs a government that acts responsibly with public money.

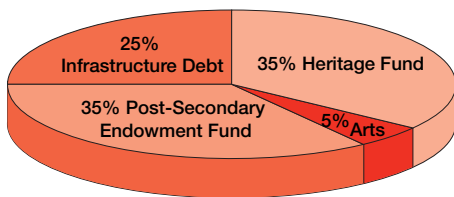
Our policy called *Funding Alberta's Future* proposed setting aside 30 per cent of resource revenues, to be invested in four areas.

1. INFRASTRUCTURE

Using a portion of the savings to build or refurbish schools, hospitals, roads and other public services would pay off the province's infrastructure debt in just a few years. Access to health care, reliable water and sewer systems, and well-maintained roads and schools should be a matter of course for all Albertans, but the quality of these and other public services has been steadily declining.

2. POST-SECONDARY ENDOWMENT FUND

By investing more than a third of the resource revenue savings in a post-secondary endowment fund, the fund would reach \$15 billion by 2020-21, with \$790 million in new annual funding — 49 per cent of the total grants given to all institutions in this budget year. The revenue from this fund would enable us to enhance and maintain world-class institutions, putting Albertans at the forefront of innovation. It would also enable us to strengthen our network of postsecondary institutions,



making excellent postsecondary education available to all Albertans. The postsecondary endowment fund would help fuel Alberta’s continuing transition to a knowledge-based economy and help fulfill our goal of truly outstanding education.

3. ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Providing sustainable, reliable funding to programs, research, scholarships, teaching and community service would reinvigorate the arts and humanities in Alberta, which have suffered neglect in terms of funding support. Once the humanities, social sciences, and arts endowment fund reached its cap of \$500 million, an opportunity fund would be set up, with annual returns used for whatever Albertans decide the fund should be used for.

4. HERITAGE FUND

The most vital aspect of this plan is a rebuilding of the Heritage Fund into a vital element of revenue stability for the province. Our plan called for a large portion of the resource revenues set aside from general revenues to be directed to the Heritage Fund. When the infrastructure debt outlined above is retired, that portion of the revenue would also be channeled to the Heritage Fund. The vision is to build the Heritage Fund from its current \$13.4 billion to \$120 billion by 2021, meaning that at that time, the Heritage Fund would contribute more to general revenues than oil and gas.

As resource revenues fall, which this government is predicting, income from the Heritage Fund will rise, providing a source of revenue to maintain core government spending and programs without raising taxes.

Funding Alberta’s Future reflects the Alberta Liberals’ vision for the future — high quality public services, the lowest taxes in Canada, the best post-secondary education, and an outstanding life for all, and would provide the plan to build that future right now.

Upcoming Events

New website launch

Repeat Edmonton River Valley CleanUp

EDMONTON- RIVERVIEW NEIGHBOURHOODS

Belgravia

Crestwood

Grandview Heights

Jasper Park

Lansdowne

Laurier Heights

Lendrum

Lynnwood

Malmo

McKernan

Meadowlark-East

Parkallen

Parkview

Sherwood

West Jasper

Windsor Park

Let's Make Our Edmonton Riverview Parks Litter-Free Zones

The Edmonton River Valley CleanUp is a great way to get rid of winter litter, but a one-time effort won't keep our parks and river valley clean through the summer and fall. Riverview is blessed with a number of beautiful parks.

This year, we're going to band together to keep the litter out of our parks right through to September. If you want to be part of our group effort, please join us!

- Constituency Office (85 Ave. and 149 St.)
- 9:00 a.m.
- the first Wednesday and first Saturday of July, August and September

We'll get organized around a cup of coffee and home-made biscotti, put on the gloves and safety vests available at the office, and head out to make our Riverview parks litter free.

Crestwood School Raises Funds

for the Elimination of Landmines and Sponsorship of a Mine-Detecting Dog

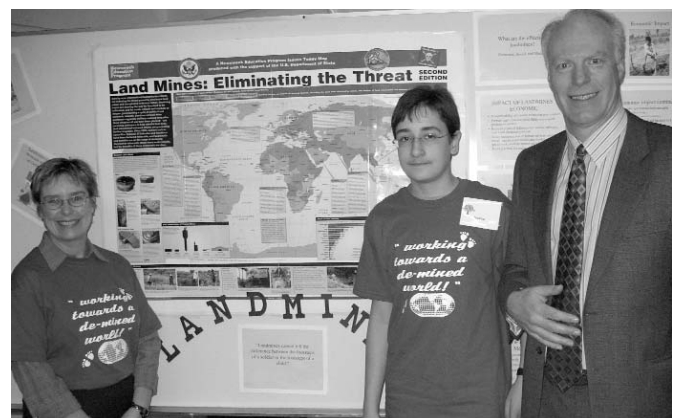
Inspired by local author Dianne Linden's book *Peacekeepers*, Elementary and Junior High students initiated four fundraising projects to assist in the prevention of suffering caused by landmines.



Kevin and an enthusiastic crew of workers take part in the City Clean up on Belgravia Drive, Sunday May 6, 2007



Jeanette Boman is organizing this monthly event and is also making the biscotti.



Principal Sue McKenzie-Robblee, Grade 7 student Sasha Rodd, and Kevin Taft

Kevin Taft

MLA
EDMONTON
RIVERVIEW

Kevin's Role in the Legislature

**Leader of
Her Majesty's
Official Opposition**

Critic Portfolios

- Municipal Affairs
- Government Restructuring
and Government Efficiency

*Printed on recycled paper

How Your MLA Can Assist You

If you have problems or questions regarding a provincial department or provincial issue contact my office.

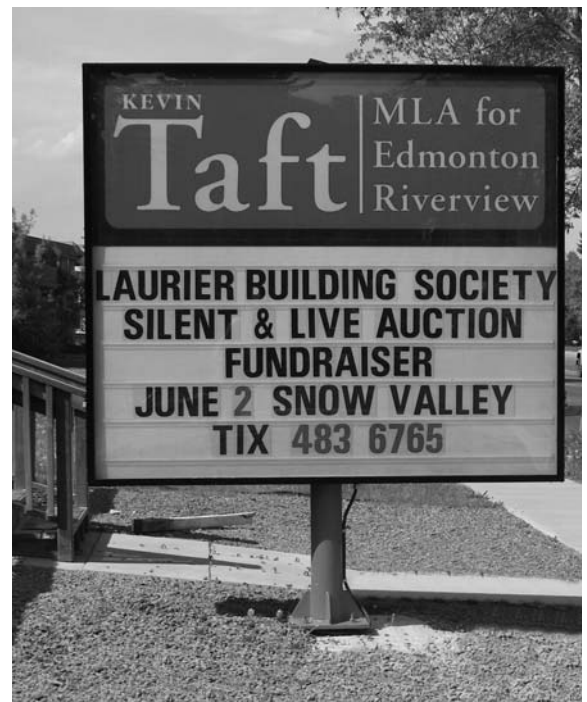
As an MLA I am a Notary Public and a Commissioner of Oaths and I am available to commission legal documents at no charge to constituents.

If a school group or service club is interested in touring the Legislature, my office can assist.

If you have senior family members who are celebrating a significant wedding, anniversary or birthday contact my office.

MORE CHANGES ...

You may have noticed a new look outside the constituency office as well. The new office sign gives us the ability to easily post messages about upcoming events and useful information.



For back issues of Kevin Taft's newsletters, please contact the constituency office. For more information visit our website at www.edmontonriverview.com, phone **414-0719** or visit our office.