



Kevin Taft MLA

**EDMONTON
RIVERVIEW**
Fall 2007 • Issue 17

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Small Business is Big Business

As a young boy, it was a special Saturday when my mom drove across town for treats from the Bon Ton Bakery. So it was a real honour, in my role as MLA, to help the Bon Ton celebrate its 50th birthday. Michelle and Hilton Dinner, who own and operate the Bon Ton today, and Eugene and Judy Edelman, who founded it and ran it for over 40 years, are examples of small business owners who contribute big things to society.

As Albertans ride the wave of mega development it would be easy to forget the small businesses that sustain our local economy. Many of these businesses have been through at least a couple of boom and bust cycles in Alberta's history. Their adaptability, hard work, and commitment to their customers have made them successful over time. Small businesses and their staff are also frequently leaders in charitable giving, be it product, time or expertise.

In Edmonton-Riverview we have many examples of small businesses that are showing the way. They play a pivotal role in making the most of our opportunities in Alberta. It is their leadership capabilities and inventive thinking that will help us realize our potential for permanent prosperity.

I'd like to hear your comments and suggestions. Let me know what you think about the policy and legislative initiatives that follow. I look forward to hearing from you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 29, 2007

Crestwood Community League
celebrates its 90th anniversary

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

SENIORS' WEEK

The second week of June was Seniors' Week. What a great opportunity to celebrate our Seniors and their contributions to Edmonton-Riverview.

Canterbury Court, Grandview Heights and Tegler Terrace residents had some laughs, shared concerns and enjoyed ice cream and strawberries with Kevin and Jeanette.



Kevin Taft and Anna Hopkins, our summer STEP student, serving ice cream at a Canterbury Manor during Seniors' week.

HERITAGE DAYS

We all know that our community extends beyond neighbourhood boundaries. What better way to experience the broader cultural context of community than to take in the Heritage Days at Hawrelak Park. We are so fortunate to have this event in Edmonton-Riverview. I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the food and music from around the world. If not this year put it on your calendar for next.



Kevin visiting with Po Shu Tsui and Chung Chan from the Chinese Multi-Cultural Centre in the Chinese pavilion at Heritage Days.

HISTORY IN THE BAKING

Bon Ton Bakery celebrated 50 years in our community on September 1. Current owners Michelle and Hilton Dinner celebrated with the launch of a fundraising initiative for Terra Foundation, a special ceremony and, of course, great cake. Congratulations!



Kevin Taft, Michelle and Hilton Dinner at the Bon Ton Bakery.

Moving Alberta Forward

During this year's session of the legislature my caucus and I are working hard to represent the needs and concerns of Edmonton–Riverview and Albertans from across the province. Read on for a sample of the policy and legislative initiatives we have worked on so far.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Everybody needs a home. This session, we did everything we could to help Albertans meet that vital need. Even before the housing market went out of control, we developed a solid affordable housing policy and released it to the public. The centrepiece of that policy is a one-year, temporary rent relief regulation, limiting rent increases to a maximum 10% per year.

To draw attention to the difficult circumstances of Alberta renters facing the affordable housing crisis, we invited dozens of them to the Legislature

and arranged a face-to-face meeting between these Albertans and government ministers. We devoted a solid week of Question Period to affordable housing issues — Edmonton–Riverview constituents were there — and asked further questions on the topic throughout the session.

When the government's inadequate response to the housing crisis was put before the Legislature, our caucus led a marathon 15-hour nighttime session in an attempt to force the government to give renters relief. The government failed to do the right thing, but we'll continue to fight for affordable housing for Albertans.

ENVIRONMENT

Shadow Environment Minister David Swann and I both were vocal about concerns for Alberta's precious water resources, paying special attention to Marie Lake, the diversion of water from the Red Deer River to a horseracing complex and mega mall near Balzac, and coal bed methane extraction.

We also showed that the Conservative government's plan to curb greenhouse gases will actually allow emissions to continue to rise and even quadruple by 2020. Our plan caps emissions by 2012.



For more information visit our website at

www.edmontonriverview.com, phone 414-0719 or visit our office.

EDUCATION

Jack Flaherty, Shadow Minister for Education, introduced a bill that would have eliminated school fees — fees that put many school activities beyond the reach of Alberta families.

The government defeated the bill.

We vocally opposed their plan to use public-private partnerships to fund school construction — a method that could cost taxpayers far more than fully publicly funded schools.

We continued to push for a school nutrition program.

Under our policy, for a tiny fraction of Alberta's budget — about \$2 per student per day — we can provide lunch for all the children at risk of malnutrition in Alberta.



ADVANCED EDUCATION

Maurice Tougas, Shadow Minister of Advanced Education, called upon the government to clearly establish their post-secondary priorities for the province. Tougas urged the government to keep former Premier Klein's pledge to make tuition in Alberta the most affordable in the country, asked questions on housing support for students facing the affordable housing crisis, advocated for fairer funding for the arts and humanities, and fought for more post-secondary spaces for Alberta students.

We also brought the Funding Alberta's Future Act to the house, which, if passed, would have used 35% of annual resource revenues to create a massive postsecondary endowment fund that would support unparalleled excellence and expanded capabilities in our universities, colleges and trade schools.

REGIONAL PLANNING

Dave Taylor, Shadow Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, introduced Bill 211, the *Planning for the Future of Communities Act* to the Alberta Legislature.

The bill would enable the development of regional plans for high growth areas to ensure a good quality of life, a healthy and sustainable environment and long-term prosperity. A clause in the bill ensures that if a conflict occurs between a growth plan and any other enactment, plan or policy, the one that provides more protection for the natural environment or human health will prevail.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

After extensive consultation with parents and child care providers across the province, we released Child Care That Works, a comprehensive child care policy that will ensure Alberta families have access to high quality, affordable child care. In the House, we urged the government to address the consistent decline in the number of available foster parents, the need to more effectively help children with autism, and the effect of the affordable housing crisis on family violence and vulnerable children.



ENERGY

Shadow Energy Minister Hugh MacDonald urged the government to ensure that Albertans receive a fair share of natural resource revenues, even as I questioned the lack of balanced representation on the government's royalty review panel.

And MacDonald held the government accountable for the high price Albertans are paying for electricity deregulation — more than \$13 billion, according to a group of Alberta engineers.

HEALTH CARE

The capital region continues to evolve into a national leader in health care quality, but Edmonton's health care facilities and staff need more support to cut down on wait times. This session we released Accelerating Access, our strategy for speeding up patient access to the health care system and for recruiting and retaining the thousands of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals we need to address the system's overcrowding. We also pressured the Minister to release the much anticipated health workforce strategy.

Shadow Health Minister Laurie Blakeman took the lead on antismoking initiatives, such as the proposal to ban powerwalls and smoking in public places.

And in the wake of the surgical tool sterilization problems that arose at a number of Alberta hospitals, we called on the Auditor General to investigate the effectiveness of provincial infection control systems.

FINANCE

This session I introduced Bill 201, the *Funding Alberta's Future Act*, which, had the government cooperated to pass it, would have reinvigorated the Heritage Fund to such an extent that within twenty-five years, dividends from the fund would provide more funding than oil and gas revenues.

MOVING FORWARD

My goal is simple: raise the very real issues facing Albertans today and promote policy solutions that will work to help Albertans lead better lives. Together with my caucus colleagues, I will continue to work hard to accomplish that goal at the Legislature and in Edmonton-Riverview.

Kevin Taft MLA

EDMONTON
RIVERVIEW

Kevin's Role in the Legislature

Leader of
Her Majesty's
Official Opposition

I 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.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Our office sign is available to post your community event messages. We're happy to help spread the word.



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.