



Social and People Policy Brief



The Alberta Party believes that Albertans possess an entrepreneurial, do-it yourself attitude with an enduring desire to build a good life for themselves while contributing to their province and communities. Further, we believe that Albertans have a willingness to ensure everyone gets a fair shot, regardless of their circumstances.

The Alberta Party's policies recognize that government has a role to play in helping Albertans to help themselves, their families, neighbours and communities through effective systems of support.

We believe in placing an emphasis on **prevention**, so that we may deal with social issues before they reach the level of crisis. A focus on prevention will lead to substantial savings, both when we consider the human cost of social issues, as well as the financial cost of addressing social issues.

The Alberta Party believes that we must develop integrated systems which link many people services.

These integrated systems provide a continuum of supports and services that complement the actions of Albertans, their families, workplaces, and other areas of government. We believe that Social Policy does not stand alone, but rather must link with all other policy areas.

The Alberta Party believes that there is tremendous wisdom already available within the social sector. We must engage citizens, professionals and organizations in designing, implementing and assessing the services that support the people of Alberta.

The Alberta Party believes in building on strengths, both in people and in existing systems, by understanding what is already in place and not undertaking change for the sake of change. It also means recognizing that people have strengths as well as needs, and make valuable contributions to their communities and to the province.

OUR VISION — AN ALBERTA

WHERE EACH AND EVERY PERSON:

- *Is valued equally.*
- *Enjoys equitable opportunities to excel in day-to-day life and contribute to community life.*
- *Is able to live in a home and make a living.*
- *Lives free of racism, prejudice, abuse, violence and intolerance.*
- *Is recognized for both capabilities and needs.*
- *Can count on support through life's transitions.*

WHERE EACH AND EVERY COMMUNITY:

- *Values and is made stronger by diversity, equity, creativity, and everyday innovation.*
- *Benefits from the full participation of all. Is known for social inclusion and acceptance, as much as for economic success.*

Common sense says that achieving this vision needs **a new approach** - and we have developed a **Social and People Policy** to provide that.

Albertans can count on an Alberta Party government whose policies grapple with the challenges of a rapidly changing world. A government that recognizes the important links between social and people policies, environmental and economic policies. A government that recognizes the importance of leveraging knowledge and technology to make the most of our amazing human resources.

A government that engages people, and a learning government, so together we can be creative in finding practical solutions to the challenges we face as a province.

OUR 4 PRIORITIES:

1 Ensuring foundations for success.

An Alberta Party government will ensure that every Albertan has the basic foundations for success.

There are fundamental building blocks at every stage of life that are essential to building a meaningful life. All of these building blocks are necessary for Albertans to be healthy, able to learn, contribute to safe communities, and to be fully engaged citizens, productive employers and workers. All require cross-ministerial strategies that engage nonprofit agencies and employers.

Making sure that all Albertans have a good start in life means that all families have, or can access, the skills, supports and resources they need to raise healthy, happy children capable of lifelong learning and community engagement.

Key foundations for success throughout life stages include nutritious food, adequate income, safe and habitable housing and the ability to be in charge of decisions that affect us. An Alberta Party government will work with Albertans to create innovative solutions that achieve the foundations for success.



An Alberta Party government will:

- Implement a Poverty Reduction Strategy that addresses the root causes of poverty;
- Implement an accessible affordable Housing Strategy which includes the supports needed for individuals to transition into and maintain housing;
- Implement a comprehensive Literacy Strategy that focuses on helping Albertans develop the essential skills needed for life and work.
- Implement an Early Childhood Integrated System which includes high quality early childhood education and childcare that allows parents more choice over their children's early learning and care, whether by staying home or with access to quality learning childcare.

2 Strong Communities and Supportive Environments.

An Alberta Party government will use community capacity building strategies to ensure that individuals, families, schools, businesses, volunteers, social agencies and government play a role in creating community vitality and supportive home, work and school environments.

Everyone contributes to, and benefits from, strong and vital communities, and environments that are safe, healthy, friendly to all ages, and inclusive. Strong communities support learning, physical activity, healthy choices and social cohesion as well as environmentally sustainable economic productivity.

The Alberta Party recognizes that everyone has a role to play in creating such communities, school and work environments, and will work with all Albertans to develop strategies that achieve these ends.



An Alberta Party government will:

- Work with municipalities to create greater connections and synergies with Alberta government ministries and service providers, achieving efficiencies, eliminating unnecessary overlaps, redundancies and red tape;
- Work with communities to develop locally relevant mechanisms for linking people services at the community level and place the burden for seamless access and client navigation on agencies, not individuals;
- Develop a shared approach to strengthening and sustaining the vitality of communities, large and small across the province. Community vitality depends on physical aspects, like clean water and air, walkable communities and building standards; and on social aspects - safe, healthy, learning and inclusive communities working together.

Workplaces are important to the economy, environment and people. An Alberta Party government will work with citizens, unions and employers to ensure that Alberta's health and safety, worker compensation and employment legislation and programs are world-class.

We will work to be a model of healthy, safe and fair workplaces, and will support employees and employers through an integrated system of legislation, enforcement, resources, and programs.

3 Albertans Building Meaningful Lives

An Alberta Party government will ensure that all Albertans can build on their foundations for success and continue to develop capabilities throughout their life.

Resilient, self-reliant and contributing citizens are developed through all stages of life. An Alberta Party government will invest in strategies that help Alberta benefit from the opportunities and assets of our unprecedented life expectancy.

Investing in youth and young adults will help to make sure they have the supportive relationships and transitional strategies needed to enter the workforce and become engaged, contributing, independent adults.

An Alberta Party government will:

- Make sure all Albertans know where to turn when they need information or support by expanding the 211 Information and Referral service to all Albertans;
- Make sure all households and people serving non-profit organizations have access to broadband internet and skills to foster working access to the technology and knowledge needed to succeed in our modern society;
- Make sure that all Albertans have resources and supports for lifelong learning where they live and work; Support inclusive communities that safeguard the human rights of all Albertans, regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, gender, age or mental or physical disability.

4 Ensuring Specialized Supports

The Alberta Party recognizes that the character of a society is determined by how it treats its most vulnerable. All Albertans may at times require short or long-term assistance when dealing with difficult life transitions, critical events and conditions. The Alberta Party will ensure that specialized supports are in place to support these transitions.

Inclusive communities recognize that specialized supports help Albertans with various challenges to build meaningful lives and be engaged citizens. Integrated systems are most important when Albertans are navigating life transitions, critical events and challenging conditions, and the basic test is how well these systems perform in supporting Albertans with complex needs to build well-lived lives.

An Alberta Party government will:

- Develop an Age-Friendly Alberta Strategy that facilitates older Albertans in continuing to contribute wisdom and life experience to families, friends and communities through addressing the barriers that prevent their full participation and contribution. The strategy will ensure that Alberta benefits from the opportunities and assets of our unprecedented life expectancy;
- Support people with physical or developmental disabilities or reduced mental capacity to contribute to vital communities and inclusive, supportive environments where they live, work and play, throughout their life stages and life transitions;
- Work with Aboriginal people in urban centres, Métis Settlements and First Nation communities to implement strategies that integrate services across governments and that are tailored to the unique needs of different communities;

- Support inclusive communities by ensuring that newcomers and their families are able to settle and integrate seamlessly into life and work in our Province;
- Ensure that Albertans have transition supports when coping with personal and family impacts of sudden unanticipated events such as a crime, sudden major injury or health condition, suicide, and physical catastrophe.

GOVERNANCE

The Alberta Party will ensure that Alberta is prepared to meet the challenges it faces in meeting the needs of people in Alberta, both today and tomorrow by strengthening the governance, management and delivery of the human services in our province.

Governance is all Albertans, and those involved with nonprofit and for-profit organizations engaged with all orders of Government, working together to set direction and create the tools and resources to help achieve short and long term goals. It is much more than Government alone.

In a governance approach, a key government role is to catalyze and work with all sectors to create the best possible conditions for every Albertan, in every community, in this generation and the next, to fulfill their promise.

Making this happen means developing a learning government, and working to forge a respectful partnership between the Alberta public service and politicians, as well as strengthening the capacity for a vibrant, proud, citizen-engaging public service.

An Alberta Party government will:

- Develop an Integrated Social and People Policy Framework that guides the design, operation and accountability of all people-focused services, including health care, education, social services, justice and public safety, and monitoring the progress of outcomes for Albertans and Alberta communities;
- Support a vibrant, innovative non-profit sector, through supportive policies, fiscal structures, technological and other supports, and by supporting working relationships between governments and the sector to achieve mutual goals;
- Develop a long-term plan to strengthen working linkages across governments and ministries at the family, community, workplace, provincial and national levels;
- Establish a fund to bring promising social innovations to scale, and to support social entrepreneurs in growing viable enterprises;
- Work with the public service, citizens and stakeholders to undertake a review of all social programs, services and initiatives, and the linkages between them, within the first six months of taking office.

CONCLUSION

All Albertans deserve an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing success and prosperity of our province. To do so, it is essential that a system is put in place to provide Albertans with the supports they need to manage through the many transitions of life. By supporting one another, we build an Alberta that is great for all Albertans.

FEEDBACK

These policy directions, and the policy resolutions shared on our website are an invitation to Albertans. We invite you to engage with us in answering important questions: How can we build on our past, maintain the best of what we have, and together create an even better Alberta that works for everyone? How can we create our shared vision for Alberta?

If you have any comments or questions, we would love to receive them.

Feedback on our Social and People Policy can be given on our website;

www.albertaparty.ca

our Facebook page;

facebook.com/albertaparty

or by emailing us at;

policy@albertaparty.ca

