



Dear Cathy Heron,

Thank you for taking the time to reach out during this critical election. The Alberta NDP are committed to building a better future for the province and we know supporting municipalities is foundational to a more affordable and better quality of life.

Broadly, we commit to:

- **Community safety:** Restore the UCP's \$32 million cut municipal funding for policing, hiring 150 police officers and pairing them with 150 social workers and mental health workers as part of an integrated team to address crime, especially in transit and downtown, while addressing root causes through housing and addiction supports;
- **Community investment:** Reduce the small business tax rate to 0%, while introducing legislation to tie municipal funding to provincial revenue growth, and increasing provincial funding for Family and Community Support Services by 50%;
- **Community healthcare:** Undertake the largest healthcare retention and recruitment strategy in Alberta history, including for EMS workers, and most importantly, we will treat them with respect. Albertans will be able to access care when they need it, in their own communities.

Below you will find more details in response to your members' top three priorities. We look forward to working in partnership with you to support communities across the province.

1. Community safety, including supports for policing and crime prevention;

In 2019, the UCP government made deep cuts to social support programs and municipal funding that was directed towards policing, contributing to rising rates of poverty, addictions, and crime in communities large and small.

If elected, an Alberta NDP government will **restore \$32 million in municipal police funding** and invest in integrated teams to make urban transit safe while addressing poverty, homelessness, mental health, and addictions.

We will work with municipalities to **hire 150 police officers and we will pair these officers with 150 social workers, mental health workers, addictions counsellors, and community outreach workers as a part of integrated teams.**

While the UCP wants to eliminate the RCMP, we will maintain an RCMP presence in communities across the province. Further, we would invest an initial \$10 million in specialized Rural Crime Reduction Units to fight rural crime while hiring added probation officers and investing in post-release programs to stop repeat offenders.

We will be reliable partners in addressing root causes. We will invest in building **8,500 new units of affordable housing across the province** and increase rental supplements. We will



work to eliminate poverty through income supports that keep up with the cost of living, and fund emergency shelter space along with treatment spaces for addiction and mental health services.

Finally, as committed in Rachel Notley's speech at your most recent meeting, we will be **increasing funding to Family and Community Support Services by 50%** to support Albertans across the province. This means an incremental increase of \$40 million in fiscal year 2023/24 rising to \$80 million in fiscal year 2024/25.

2. *Community investment, including plans to support municipalities and address the \$30 billion infrastructure deficit;*

We will **eliminate the small business tax**. This will benefit more than 100,000 small businesses, including retail establishments, restaurants, mechanic shops, family farms, and more. Alberta business owners could save up to \$10,000 per year from this change.

We will offer a significant investment toolkit and incentives to attract business investment. Our jobs plan will include: the Alberta's Future Tax Credit to spur investment in cleantech, carbon materials, critical minerals processing, and advanced manufacturing; supercharge and expand the Alberta Petrochemical Incentive Program; establish a regulatory fast pass for businesses with a good record; and consult on expanding the Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation.

We've announced plans for **Hometown Alberta**, which will create 1,500 jobs over three years and build stronger communities by supporting municipalities and non-profits to build, repair, renovate, upgrade or expand local community facilities, including sports, recreational, religious, cultural and other public-use spaces.

Hometown Alberta would both replace and improve upon the current Community Facility Enhancement Program, by increasing grant funding by 50 per cent to \$75 million annually and adding a new \$100-million annual capital investment funding stream designed to advance construction through partnerships.

We know how important it is to have a government partner you can trust. Municipalities have struggled with rising costs and suffered from UCP cuts to their funding over the past four years.

In addition to Hometown Alberta, we will bring forward Partners in Prosperity, and pass **legislation that ties funding for municipalities to provincial revenues**.

Alberta succeeds when we all succeed together. Municipal funding that grows with a growing economy would liberate cities, towns, and villages from relying on static property taxes. This will give local governments predictable revenue that they can invest in roads and infrastructure and plan for the future. We will also advocate for and leverage all federal funds and support public transit.



3. *Community health care, including EMS and covering access to medical professionals.*

The UCP have thrown EMS into chaos and let paramedics work to the point of exhaustion, while driving the number of red alerts (instances when no ambulance is available to respond to calls) to dangerous levels across the province.

We will fix EMS so Albertans can count on an ambulance at their door within minutes of an emergency. We'll **reduce demand for EMS** by providing more home care for seniors and others who need it, and by funding Family Health Teams to provide preventative care, even during evenings and weekends.

We will also **prioritize staff well-being** and ensure paramedics are working closer to home. We'll **undertake the largest healthcare worker retention and recruitment strategy in Alberta's history**. And we'll do something the UCP have not: **treat healthcare workers with the respect they deserve**.

Thank you again for engaging in this election, and envisioning a better future for Albertans.

Sincerely,

The Alberta NDP