

Backgrounder: **Core Program Review**

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Per capita spending in Alberta is:

35% higher than in Ontario

22% higher than in BC

20% higher than in Nova Scotia

(Based on Statistics Canada data, 1 Apr 2007)

The Government of Alberta spends more per capita than all other provinces in Canada, but we're not getting value for our dollars. We will initiate a Core Program Review to reallocate taxpayer dollars to real priorities. We'll be able to increase spending on key areas by \$1.6 billion while keeping per-capita spending steady. A similar spending review in B.C. found 2.8 per cent in misdirected spending in a considerably less-bloated spending environment.

The Tories run one of the most bloated, wasteful governments in Canada. Here are just a few of the steps we'll take to stop the waste:

- Look at the Auditor General's 145 outstanding recommendations the Tories have ignored. Here is a sample of his suggestions that could end up saving Albertans hundreds of millions every year:
 - Fix problems in the province's medical billing system. One individual patient was responsible for 1,100 claims in a single year, but the Department hadn't spotted it.
 - Investigate potential massive fraud in the issuing of personal Alberta health care numbers. The Department of Health and Wellness has issued more than two million duplicate or replacement cards without determining how they're being used. More than a hundred Alberta communities had between two and four times as many health care numbers as inhabitants. Few resources have been dedicated to fixing this problem.
- Dismantle the Public Affairs Bureau. We don't need to spend \$14 million dollars a year on government spin doctors.
- Stop subsidizing the horseracing industry. The Tories give away nearly \$60 million a year on the ponies, while real priorities take the back burner.
- Rethink the government's personal fleet of aircraft. Taxpayers fund "Air Tory" to the tune of \$6 million a year in operating costs, and \$11 million was just spent on new planes.
- Stop spending money on wasteful boards, task forces and committees like the 2005-06 Idaho Boundary Commission.
 - MLAs Cindy Ady (\$11,500) and Barry McFarland (\$7,600) were paid a total of more than \$19,000 for their membership on this committee.

It's time.
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- Total work on this committee to study a fictional boundary (Alberta and Idaho don't share a border), consisted of one informal meeting. There is no documentation to indicate that the government members did any work whatsoever.
- Appointments to this committee were made by Ed Stelmach, as then-minister of International and Intergovernmental Affairs.
- Ady said she worked to build "relationships" between the governments, but would not provide any sort of supporting documentation to back up her claim. "They were not formal record meetings and I don't need to share that with you. I just need to tell you that I was in charge of making sure that we had a good relationship with Idaho," Ady said.
- Republican Idaho State Representative Max Black said he had never heard of Ady or McFarland, despite being the only politician on the state's "Idaho-Alberta Sister State Task Force." Black was not paid for his work on the committee.