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Swann's response to the throne speech focuses on people

Edmonton – Alberta Liberal Leader David Swann is delivering his official Response to the Throne Speech this afternoon in the Alberta Legislature, reinforcing his party's commitment to people programs such as health, education, job supports and help for the vulnerable.

Swann's speech holds the government accountable for its misguided priorities, including Bill 1, which inexplicably creates yet another commission (this time to study expansion into Asian markets) instead of tackling immediate problems such as the crisis in health care – a crisis recognized by two-thirds of Albertans, according to a recent Environics poll.

"Health is the top issue for Albertans, and clearly our most treasured people program," Swann says in the speech. He describes his emergency plan for the ER and offers the government a long list of other steps it can take to resolve the problems in health care. These include disbanding Alberta Health Services to return delivery of health care to the regions, training more doctors and nurses, expanding continuing care capacity to help ease the backlog in our hospitals and emergency rooms, and revitalizing Alberta's wellness strategies to build long-term health benefits and cost savings.

Swann's speech also outlines plans to protect and enhance other people programs, including education.

"You can't build the high-tech economy of tomorrow without a solid base of highly educated citizens," Swann says. "An Alberta Liberal government would provide stable funding to post-secondary institutions and also to school boards to reduce class sizes to those recommended by the Learning Commission and eliminate parental fundraising for classroom essentials."

The full text of Swann's speech can be read at http://alc.whitematter.ca/index.php/alc/content/david_swanns_response_to_the_speech_from_the_throne1/

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