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Tories have spent \$47 billion without proper financial controls

Edmonton – Alberta Liberal Leader David Swann today rebuked the government for spending tens of billions on health care without being able to account for how the money was used.

In 2008, the government dismantled Alberta's local health regions and replaced them with the Alberta Health Services board. In doing so, they failed to establish accounting controls – the most basic bookkeeping necessary to keep track of the billions being spent on health care.

Alberta's Auditor General has castigated the government for this failure, and only recently has the government agreed to follow the AG's advice. But the work won't be done until 2013 – another two years away, and nearly another \$20 billion in inadequately recorded spending.

"The government didn't have a plan to merge the business systems of the regional boards into their newly created superboard," Swann says. "How can Albertans know if they're getting good value for the billions spent on health care every year when the necessary bookkeeping isn't in place? Isn't that the very definition of mismanagement?"

Swann applauds the front-line health care workers who have performed so well during this long period of Tory mismanagement.

"I'm sure front-line professionals are just as anxious as I am to ensure that Albertans are getting value for money," Swann says.

An Alberta Liberal government would transition back to local control of health care delivery by re-establishing the health regions and eventually disbanding AHS.

"But rest assured, we'd have financial controls in place for that transition," Swann says.

The Alberta Liberal Caucus... There's a better way.

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For more information contact:

Edmonton: John Santos, Media Liaison
(780) 904-5430

Calgary: Denis Lapointe, Director, Southern Alberta Liberal Caucus Office
(403) 860-4330