

# albertaliberalcaucus

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## **New powers for Health Quality Council: Swann supports, Stelmach stonewalls**

*Edmonton* – On the last day of the fall sitting of the Alberta Legislature in 2010, Alberta Liberal Leader David Swann called on the government to give the Health Quality Council of Alberta the independence necessary to properly investigate 322 cases of compromised emergency room care without fear of government pressure or censorship. The government continued to duck and stonewall even as Swann repeated the call last week, and now the Health Quality Council itself seems to be listening.

Swann is pleased that the Council's chairman, Dr. Lorne Tyrell, has indicated that the board's members will soon discuss whether to ask the government for the power to investigate the allegations without needing the Minister of Health's approval.

"Dr. Tyrell is on the right track and I hope the board will demand greater autonomy," Swann says. "These deaths demand an independent investigation, one uncompromised by political considerations."

Today in Question Period, Swann will support the Health Quality Council by once again asking the Premier and the government to do the right thing: support the Council's request to expand their mandate, and allow an independent investigation of the 322 deaths.

"These people suffered or died because the system failed them, and their families deserve to know what happened," Swann says. "We need to find out why these deaths and incidents of compromised care occurred so that we can avoid further tragedy. Stelmach's stonewalling has to stop."

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For more information contact:  
Brian Leadbetter, Director of Communications  
(780) 862-5661

John Santos, Media Liaison  
(780) 904-5430