



Top 20

Policy Priorities for the Stelmach Government

1. Eliminate Alberta's regressive health care premium tax
2. Pass a law so the government cannot increase spending each year by more than the combined inflation and population growth rate
3. Introduce fixed provincial election dates every four years
4. Legislate that any in-year spending increases outside of the budget be made illegal (other than for declared emergencies)
5. Eliminate the practice of exempting one-third of provincial and local politicians' pay from income taxes
6. Roll back the *Fiscal Responsibility Act* so only \$3.5 billion of non-renewable resource revenue can be used for program spending each year, and put all excess resource revenues into the *Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund*
7. Eventually use interest revenues from the *Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund* to cut Albertans' income taxes

8. Give citizens the right to recall their elected officials if an adequate number of voters sign a recall petition
9. Amend the *Taxpayer Protection Act* so all new taxes or tax increases have to be approved by taxpayers in a province-wide referendum
10. Introduce pre-election disclosure of campaign contributions for municipal, provincial and party leadership elections
11. Give Albertans the right to be able to use their own after-tax dollars to purchase private health care insurance to cover the costs of accessing timely health care services
12. Eliminate the hidden 3% sales tax on insurance products
13. Introduce citizens' initiative legislation giving Albertans the right to initiate and vote in referendums on issues of importance
14. Eliminate all remaining corporate welfare programs, such as the *Alberta Film Development Program*
15. Establish a citizens' assembly on voting reform
16. Restrict new infrastructure spending to only those absolutely necessary projects to avoid paying 20%-40% inflationary cost escalations on capital projects
17. Implement a provincial cap on municipal tax increases so property taxes do not increase by more than the rate of inflation without a local referendum
18. Follow through on the 8% general business tax rate promised in the 2001 budget
19. Add senior government staff and backbench and opposition MLAs to the list of those who are required to put their office expenses on-line
20. Repeal the unnecessary and overly-generous transition allowance for MLAs

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