

2008 Election Spending Promises

Liberal Party

February 4 - March 3, 2008

Date	Spending Promise	Party calculation of cost	CTF calculation of cost	Notes
5-Feb	Build roads in Calgary (acquire land for the south-western leg of the Calgary Ring Road)	\$800,000,000		
5-Feb	Increase support for public transportation in Calgary	???????		
5-Feb	Increase the supply of affordable housing in Calgary	n/a		a
5-Feb	Create Mount Royal University	\$50,000,000		
5-Feb	Build schools in the communities that need them in Calgary	n/a		b
5-Feb	Increasing per capita funding for more police officers	\$11,313,292		
6-Feb	Creating a Director of Housing and Human Services to assist municipalities in implementing community plans to end homelessness	???????		c
6-Feb	Improve outreach services to homeless people	???????		
6-Feb	Offer grants of up to \$5,000 to homeowners to create new suites	\$5,000,000		
6-Feb	Encourage local governments to freeze, reduce or eliminate property taxes on affordable rental units by providing corresponding grants to municipalities to make up for the lost revenue	\$20,000,000		
6-Feb	Match funding with the federal government's Affordable Housing Trust and the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust	\$43,000,000	\$36,500,000	d
6-Feb	Help up to 5,000 families achieve home ownership by extending financial assistance to moderate income earners who wish to buy their own homes	\$36,000,000		
6-Feb	Provide low- or no-interest loans to qualifying low income earners to cover the cost of the security deposit and one-month's rent	\$14,000,000		
6-Feb	Boost numbers of faculty and graduate students at University of Alberta	\$100,000,000		
6-Feb	Triple funding to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$53,000,000	\$53,268,000	e
6-Feb	Invest in Edmonton's LRT and public transportation system	???????		
7-Feb	Establish a Premier's Strategic Council on Climate Change	???????		
7-Feb	Restore Regional Agriculture Offices	\$10,200,000		
7-Feb	Strengthen policing and public safety	\$5,586,708		f
7-Feb	Upgrade the Red Deer airport	\$20,000,000		
7-Feb	Boost affordable housing in Red Deer	n/a		a
7-Feb	Improve addiction counselling	???????		
8-Feb	Create a specific watershed management plan for the Old Man River Basin	???????		
8-Feb	Complete an inventory of the southern Alberta region's water supply	???????		
8-Feb	Begin construction immediately on the new hospital in Medicine Hat	\$260,000,000		

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8-Feb	Increase the amount of hospital, long-term care and mental health beds across the province	\$300,000,000		
8-Feb	Create a permanent post-secondary education endowment fund	???????		
8-Feb	Ensure that seniors centres receive the funding they need	???????		
8-Feb	Work with Lethbridge to support its plans for a new performing arts centre	\$10,000,000		
8-Feb	Establish a \$500-million arts endowment fund	\$500,000,000		g
8-Feb	Build new schools in southern Alberta & provide public funding for currently announced P3 schools	\$540,000,000		
8-Feb	Inflation-proof the Alberta Seniors Benefit by indexing it to the Alberta Consumer Price Index	\$10,000,000		
8-Feb	Establish a loan program for home repairs for seniors	\$24,600,000		h
8-Feb	Establish a home retrofit fund to pay for new energy efficient furnaces, windows and other home products	\$50,000,000		i
9-Feb	Double funding to Aboriginal Friendship Centres	\$3,800,000	\$1,187,626	j
9-Feb	Reinstate a government ministry devoted strictly to Aboriginal affairs	\$500,000		
9-Feb	Appoint a Director of Aboriginal Health within Health and Wellness	n/a		k
9-Feb	Establish urban-Aboriginal health centres (one each in Edmonton & Calgary)	\$30,000,000		
13-Feb	Establish an Independent Seniors' Advocate	\$1,200,000		
15-Feb	Increase post-secondary funding such that students receive a break in their tuition of almost \$1,000 a year	\$160,000,000		
15-Feb	Create a \$300/year books and tools grant for post-secondary students	\$65,000,000		
15-Feb	Increase the part-time earning limits for student loans	\$8,400,000		
15-Feb	Expand the Alberta Opportunities Bursary for post-secondary students by doubling the funding and expanding eligibility	\$13,000,000		
15-Feb	Create targeted additional post-secondary learning spaces for areas with a high number of applicants	\$200,000,000		
15-Feb	Establish teaching chairs to support and recognize excellence at post-secondary institutions	\$3,000,000		
19-Feb	Increase wages for child care staff to help centres recruit and retain staff	\$40,000,000		
19-Feb	Forgive student loans for those who remain in Alberta as child care workers three years after graduating	???????		
19-Feb	Increase start-up and operational funding for accredited child care operators	\$12,500,000		
19-Feb	Provide specialized financial assistance to centres and day homes that offer infant and toddler care	\$2,000,000		
19-Feb	Make spaces for children aged 6 to 12 eligible for subsidies	\$8,000,000		
20-Feb	Build a new facility for the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary	\$644,000,000		

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20-Feb	Increase funding to train more nurses, doctors and health care professionals	\$60,000,000		
20-Feb	Establish a Community Wellness Fund to support programs on promoting health, supporting public health initiatives and health promotion research	\$200,000,000		l
20-Feb	Reduce wait times through measures such as Community Health Centres	\$50,000,000		i
20-Feb	Implement of a public pharmacare program	\$165,000,000		m
20-Feb	Improve continuing care through the establishment of province wide standards and proper enforcement	\$107,000,000		
20-Feb	Increase support for home care and palliative care programs	\$20,000,000		
20-Feb	Complete South Health Campus in Calgary	\$698,000,000		
20-Feb	Complete new hospital in Grande Prairie	\$81,000,000		
20-Feb	Construct three new community health centres	\$75,000,000		
22-Feb	Promoting cleaner renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and geothermal power	\$75,000,000		
22-Feb	Adequately fund forest-fire fighting	\$70,000,000		
22-Feb	Create a Environment Protection and Enhancement Fund	\$50,000,000		i
22-Feb	Other climate change initiatives	\$200,000,000		n
22-Feb	Eliminate school fees and parent fundraising for essentials	\$60,000,000		
22-Feb	Introduce a school nutrition program to ensure at-risk children a healthy start at school	\$48,000,000		
22-Feb	Phase in full-day junior and regular kindergarten starting with children at risk	\$75,000,000		
22-Feb	Enable a "community schools" program	\$30,000,000		
22-Feb	Additional non-capital funding for municipalities	\$52,000,000		
22-Feb	Support the development of biomass energy projects that use wood fibre, including electrical generation at forest manufacturing mills	\$40,000,000		o
22-Feb	Revise the labour code and vigorously enforce employment and safety standards in the workplace	\$8,500,000		
22-Feb	Introduce 'Permanent Supportive Housing'	\$40,000,000		
22-Feb	Change the low cut-off rates for benefits; and increase the housing component of Alberta Works social assistance	\$20,000,000		
22-Feb	Address the current staffing crisis in the not-for-profit sector	\$50,000,000		
22-Feb	Index AISH benefits to Statistics Canada "average weekly earning" for Alberta	\$27,000,000		
22-Feb	Two additional mobile MRI machines	\$12,000,000		
22-Feb	Help implement the Capital Region River Valley Park as proposed by the River Valley Alliance	\$100,000,000		
22-Feb	Additional capital funding for municipalities	\$350,000,000		
22-Feb	Top-up funding to the City of Edmonton to meet cost-overruns on the 23rd Avenue interchange project	\$130,000,000		
22-Feb	Begin work on twinning highway 3	\$100,000,000		

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26-Feb	Renovate and expand the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton	\$650,000,000		
28-Feb	Properly fund Elections Alberta	???????		
28-Feb	Reducing class sizes, working towards the Alberta Learning Commission's target ratios for class sizes	\$30,000,000		
28-Feb	Reinforce the status of arts, second languages and physical education as essential complements to the core curriculum	\$4,000,000		
28-Feb	Fund additional supports for special-needs students, gifted students and students whose first language is not English	\$3,000,000		
28-Feb	Address the transportation pressures facing rural school boards	\$1,000,000		
28-Feb	Double the funding for the Registered Apprenticeship Program	\$500,000		
28-Feb	Boost high school completion rates among Aboriginal students	\$3,000,000		
28-Feb	Hold a two-week session of the Alberta Legislative Assembly outside of Edmonton each year.	???????		
29-Feb	Ensuring adequate funding for rural health services	???????		
29-Feb	Implementing a comprehensive baseline health study of the residents of Fort Chipewyan and surrounding areas	???????		

Total new spending costed to date: \$7,739,100,000

Total number of promises / Number of promises costed: **91/76**
 Number of uncosted promises: **15**

Denotes capital expenditure

Notes:

- a According to Liberal Party correspondence: this would be partially supported by the \$40-million funding for Permanent Supportive Housing
- b Assumed to be included in the \$540-million for additional schools for southern Alberta
- c According to Liberal Party correspondence: "minimal costs which can be absorbed within the existing budget"
- d Based on numbers for 2008-09 from: <http://www.fin.gc.ca/FEDPROV/C48e.html>
- e 2007-08 Funding for the AFA is \$26.6-million
- f According to Liberal Party platform costing: \$16.9-million will be added to "Crime and Safety" initiatives, figure is less already announced cost for increasing the per-capita funding levels to municipalities
- g One-time funding
- h Global seniors expenditure of \$35.8-million, less \$10-million and \$1.2-million already established costs for indexing Alberta Seniors Benefit and creation of an Independent Seniors Advocate
- i According to Liberal Party correspondence: funding for program would be from a "re-allocation of existing government expenditures"
- j CTF calculation based on 2006-07 Blue Book expenditures to Aboriginal friendship centres,

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\$3.8-million global costing from Liberal Party platform

k Included in \$3.8-million global costing

l Liberal Party suggests funding would be provided from increased tobacco taxes

m Liberal Party suggests program will save the system money through new models for purchasing and covering medication

n According to Liberal Party platform costing: "draws on existing government dollars, leaving the net cost to government at zero.

o According to Liberal Party platform costing: funding to come from "existing government dollars that will be redirected"