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 Phone: 403-216-7777
 Email: michelle.rempel@parl.gc.ca
 Website at www.michellerempel.ca

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Calgary Police – Non Emergency	403.266.1234
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Poison Centre - Alberta	1-800-332-1414
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michellerempel.ca

In January, the consultation phase of the Alberta Jobs Taskforce concluded. Over the course of the last several months my colleagues and I have heard directly from thousands of Albertans. They have shared their personal experiences as a result of unemployment and provided their suggestions for how to move forward. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback.

The Taskforce has prepared a report for the government to review as they consider their next budget and policy to respond to the crisis. You can read the report here: www.michellerempel.ca/alberta_jobs_report

I will keep you apprised of any response from the government on this matter. Parliament will debate many important issues this session and I encourage you to stay informed and contact me with your thoughts. Here are some ways you can stay connected:

Subscribe for email updates at www.MichelleRempel.ca/subscribe Facebook: www.facebook.com/michellerempelMP Twitter: @MichelleRempel As always you can contact me at my office using the contact information below: 403-216-7777 Michelle.Rempel@parl.gc.ca 201-1318 Centre Street N.E., Calgary, AB, T2E2R7 www.MichelleRempel.ca



**Living Now,
Preparing
for the Future**

For many of us, our goals in life remain constant: financial independence and providing for family. The choices you make today can impact the long-term goals for you and your family.

Saving for education expenses, for example, is one way you can provide for your children. But you may have long-term financial goals for yourself, such as saving to maintain your financial independence during retirement. Striking a balance between saving for these goals and meeting daily expenses can be challenging, but you can do it.

You have some attractive savings options available:

Retirement. Try to contribute as much as you can afford to your Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan through a deduction at work. You can take the immediate tax savings and use that toward saving for future education costs. If you're like many Canadians and your RRSP contributions generate a tax refund when you file every spring, take this refund and use it toward future post-secondary education expenses.

Education. When you contribute to your Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), your earnings grow tax deferred. In addition, you can contribute up to \$50,000 as the lifetime limit. When you combine the Canada Education Savings Grant (\$500 annually to a maximum of \$7,200) and the tax-deferred growth on an RESP, you could end up financing a large portion of education costs. Withdrawals from an RESP are taxed at your child's income level, which is typically lower than yours or those of his or her grandparents. Withdrawals can also be used for other purposes, such as saving for retirement.

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PC Feb 2017

PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Ryan Steedman



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Canadian Mental Health Association Calgary
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403.543.1161

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Calgary, AB
T2E 4Z3
403.261.7225

CNS volunteer opportunities. City of Calgary
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Greetings Residents of Calgary-Northern Hills,

Our Climate Leadership Plan places Alberta among the world's most environmentally responsible energy producers. Ultimately, this is helping us build the pipelines we need to safely and efficiently move our energy products to new markets to get full value for our resources.

As you may know, the National Energy Board has approved the pipeline expansion of Line Three, which will run to the United States, and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline from Alberta to Burnaby, BC. This is excellent news for Alberta. We will now be able to safely transport our oil to Asia where we can get a better price for every barrel.

In regards to a carbon levy, it provides an incentive for everyone, including large industrial emitters, to reduce greenhouse gas pollution that causes climate change. *Even more importantly, it will pay for our transition to a more diversified economy.* Every single dollar from the carbon price will be rebated to Albertans or put back to work here in Alberta to create good jobs through investments in renewables, infrastructure, and energy efficiency.

The federal government has announced it will impose a carbon price on provinces that do not yet have plans to address climate change. Because we took decisive leadership, we have a made-in-Alberta plan that works for our province and industries, and keeps capital here in Alberta.

Under our provincial plan, two-thirds of Albertans will receive a rebate, which will be based on income. Families who use efficiency programs to lower their utility bills will see money go directly into their pocket. Money from the carbon price will fund energy efficiency programs that will help families reduce their utility bills and create jobs in retrofitting and construction.

Albertans who file their 2015 tax return and meet income criteria would have received the carbon levy rebate in January 2017.

Economic modelling has shown that the average total direct cost of the levy will be less than \$30 per month for a

~continued next page~

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Jamie Kleinsteuber cont'd

family of four, and indirect costs are estimated to range between \$6.00 and \$8.75 per month per household. Through rebates, lower energy users will be able to come out ahead. Further, even once the carbon levy is fully implemented, Alberta will still have the lowest taxes in the country, with no provincial sales tax, no payroll tax, and no health care premiums.

Investing in actions to address climate change is the right thing to do. This is a made-in-Alberta policy that works for our unique province and resources, helps us diversify our economy, and protects jobs in our largest industry.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office. For more information about the Climate Leadership Plan please visit www.alberta.ca/climate-leadership-plan.aspx.

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News from the Friends of Nose Hill

by Anne Burke

Calgary has over 8,000 hectares of parkland and natural areas, including 800 kms. of pathways. Public off-leash areas are also multi-use, so let's share these spaces. It is illegal to harass wildlife in parks and natural areas. Keep dogs on leash on paved pathways, even in an off-leash area if wildlife are near. Better to be safe than sorry. Keep your dog away from porcupines and coyotes.

Conservation in an urban world means protecting natural areas, according to Alberta Wilderness Association guest speaker Chris Manderson, urban conservation lead for the City Parks Department. He explored how Calgary has been shaped by its natural environments and, in turn, how they are impacted by a growing city of 1.2 million in an urbanising world. Although Calgary is blessed with a rich fabric of parks and protected areas, he acknowledged some of the new challenges and approaches to protecting Calgary's natural heritage. The Alberta Wilderness Association is a non-profit, federally registered, charitable society since 1965. Dedicated to the completion of a protected areas network and conservation of wilderness, the group has a provincial office and resource centre in Calgary, active members, volunteers, and sponsors in Alberta and beyond. Go to www.albertawilderness.ca.

Since 1996, communities have had the option to pay a public tax for enhanced landscape maintenance in parks and other green spaces.

Usually, community associations and residents organizations are responsible for overseeing irrigation, weed management, mowing, trimming, and cleanup. The levy per household ranges from \$39 to \$219. City-wide standards for local parks were reviewed. If a \$5 levy was added city-wide, the increase would not be enough. Instead, the Canada 150 banner/flower pilot program in 16 communities will be extended for another two years and possibly expanded. Using native plantings instead of annuals would help reduce cost and watering. The City will ask for feedback, partner with garden and community groups, and explore options. The focus will be on community entrances, major intersections, and open spaces. The plan is to introduce flower beds and street light banners in each community. The aim is to add 20 communities a year, while 14 communities were involved in the This Is My Neighbourhood program. www.engage.calgary.ca/TIMN.

Alberta Ecotrust announced a 2nd annual Environmental Gathering: "Breaking Through"; Feb. 23 - 25, 2017 at the Shaw Conference Centre, in Edmonton. Details are at www.albertaecotrust.com.

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Greetings Residents,

Free family fun for the holiday weekend

Family Day weekend is a perfect time to slow down, re-connect with loved ones and create lasting memories together. Finding holiday activities everyone will enjoy can be a challenge, but this year it will be a walk in the park.

The City of Calgary will be hosting a free We Are Family event on Sunday, February 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. Bring the kids for a fun-filled afternoon of nature games, wildlife crafts, scavenger hunts and more. Enjoy a guided walk around the park or try out our spotting scopes to catch a glimpse of the sanctuary's high flyers.

Don't miss this exciting event perfect for the whole family.

For more information, visit calgary.ca/parksevents.

Sunny side up! New map shows the solar potential of your roof

Wondering about the potential amount of sunshine on your home's roof and how it compares to other homes? Check out the City of Calgary's <https://maps.calgary.ca/SolarPotential/> to find out!

The new map is intended to be a starting point for Calgarians who are curious about the viability of solar as an energy source for their particular home or building. Using data collected in 2012 and 2013, the map shows all buildings in Calgary's city limits and their varying degrees of solar exposure, on an annual basis, in generalized optimal conditions.

"The solar potential map can be the first step in determining if a solar energy system could work on your home," says Liz Findlay, manager of Geospatial Business Solutions, the group who created the map. "People considering a solar installation should contact a solar system professional to conduct a thorough assessment for their particular building and location."

The best place to look for solar professionals is the Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA), which has an online member directory.

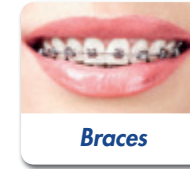
Solar energy isn't just for homes. Various City facilities already have solar systems installed to off-set some of their electricity needs and costs. You can find the particular locations on the solar potential map using the information icons on the map or scrolling through the project listings on the left side bar. To find your home on the map, simply type your home address in the search bar.

Visit maps.calgary.ca/SolarPotential/ to check out the City of Calgary's new Solar Potential Map.

Cheers,
 Councillor Sean Chu, Ward 4.

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