



2011 Member Approved Principles and Policies

As approved by the members at the 2011 Wildrose AGM

From the constitution of the Wildrose:

ARTICLE 2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 *The Party is founded on and will be guided in its policy formation by these principles.*

2.2 *Citizens' Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities*

2.2.1 *We believe in the inherent value and dignity of each individual citizen;*

2.2.2 *We believe that all citizens are equal before the law and entitled to fundamental justice;*

2.2.3 *We believe that all citizens have certain fundamental and immutable rights and freedoms, including:*

2.2.3.1 *the right to life, safety, liberty, and privacy;*

2.2.3.2 *the freedoms of speech and expression and the freedom to advocate, without fear of intimidation or suppression, public policies which reflect their deeply held values;*

2.2.3.3 *freedom of religious belief and practice;*

2.2.3.4 *freedom of peaceful assembly and choice of association;*

2.2.3.5 *freedom of mobility; and*

2.2.3.6 *freedom to own, enjoy, and exchange private property in a free market.*

2.2.4 *We believe in freedom of the press and other media.*

2.3 *The Role and Function of Government*

2.3.1 *Provincially, to reflect, strengthen and efficiently serve the common-sense values of Albertans:*

2.3.1.1 *civic responsibility;*

2.3.1.2 *the lowest possible taxation;*

2.3.1.3 *a strong and enterprising work ethic;*

2.3.1.4 *stable families and a growing population;*

2.3.1.5 *self-directed communities;*

2.3.1.6 *prudent provision for Alberta's future;*

2.3.1.7 *sensible assistance for the sick and disabled;*

2.3.1.8 *respect for the rule of law;*

2.3.1.9 *respect for traditional fundamental freedoms; and*

2.3.1.10 *secure ownership of and benefit from private property.*

- 2.3.2 *Federally, to encourage and support earned prosperity among all provinces, equal treatment of all provinces by the federal government, and the full exercise of Alberta's constitutional rights and responsibilities.*
- 2.3.3 *We believe that the government, elected officials and civil servants are to serve the people; and that all citizens should be treated equally without prejudice in receiving the services offered by government.*
- 2.3.4 *We believe that functions of government should be delegated to the level of government closest to the people and best able to fulfill the function; and that the division of powers among the levels of government must be respected.*
- 2.3.5 *We believe that the government should provide for the basic needs of those who are genuinely unable to do so themselves.*

2.4 Democratic Process

- 2.4.1 *We believe in democratic processes including:*
- 2.4.1.1 *free and fair elections;*
 - 2.4.1.2 *fixed election dates;*
 - 2.4.1.3 *free votes in the Legislature; and*
 - 2.4.1.4 *the power of citizens to recall elected representatives and initiate binding referendums.*
- 2.4.2 *We believe that elected representatives are to serve honestly, ethically, and with concern for all; that their duty to their electors supersedes their obligations to any political party; and that government must be open and accountable to the people.*
- 2.4.3 *The Party and its representatives shall be guided by these principles and shall ensure that its policies conform to these principles.*

2.5 Federal/Provincial/Municipal Relations

- 2.5.1 *We believe Alberta should play a leadership role in a unified and democratic Canada.*

2.6 Legislative and Judiciary Functions of Government

- 2.6.1 *We believe the legislature is subject to judicial review as judges protect our constitutional rights; however, judges are to interpret laws, not make them.*

2.7 Taxation and Financial Considerations

- 2.7.1 *We believe that government must be fiscally prudent, namely:*
- 2.7.1.1 *balancing budgets;*
 - 2.7.1.2 *limiting taxation;*
 - 2.7.1.3 *minimizing the size and growth of the public sector; and*
 - 2.7.1.4 *that it should treat public monies as funds held in trust.*

2.8 Education

- 2.8.1 *We believe in universal public access to education.*

2.9 Health Care

2.9.1 *We believe in universal public access to health care.*

2.10 Environment

2.10.1 *We believe in being environmentally responsible through conservation and renewal of the environment for present and future generations.*

2.11 Family and Community

2.11.1 *We believe the family is the building block of society and the means by which citizens pass on their values and beliefs; therefore, the family should be protected from unnecessary intrusions by government.*

2.12 Heritage

2.12.1 *We believe in the preservation of Alberta's heritage.*

I DEMOCRATIC REFORM

A. Alberta Constitution

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... propose a Constitution for Alberta, within the confines of Canadian Confederation.

B. Federalism

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

2. ... defend Alberta against intrusions by the federal government by protecting the property, legal, constitutional and democratic rights of Albertans.
3. ... work to remove interprovincial trade and professional certification barriers by the expansion of the Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement to other provinces.
4. ... promote interprovincial free trade by reducing barriers to the trade of goods, services, or flow of capital.
5. ... use all legal means in its power to compel the Federal government to negotiate a more equitable equalization payment system.
6. ... oppose the present structure of the federal equalization program, which sees money transferred from Alberta to other provinces to fund social programs, which are not available in Alberta. The Government of Alberta should seek a partnership with other provincial governments to pressure the federal government for reform.

C. Electoral Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ... institute fixed election dates for Provincial Elections every 4 years. The Legislative Assembly will be able to call a vote of non-confidence at any time.
8. ... be accountable to the people of Alberta by having free votes with the exception of the budget and votes of non-confidence.
9. ... institute the right of recall of elected officials if 20% of the electorate (25% if the electorate is less than 1,000) sign a petition calling for such an action.
10. ... hold elections for Alberta Senators at the same time as Provincial Elections.

D. Government Reform

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... establish an independent agency to determine the compensation, pension, and severance packages of elected governmental officials.
12. ... limit the Provincial Cabinet to 16 members.
13. ... institute strict conflict of interest guidelines facilitated through the Provincial Ethics Commissioner's office.
14. ... establish set dates for Throne Speeches, Budget Announcements, and Legislative Sessions.
15. ... institute an open and comprehensive Freedom of Information Act.
16. ... not increase the number of seats in the Alberta Legislature.
17. ... implement full disclosure of all financial expenditures of public funds.
18. ... create conflict of interest legislation and regulations for government procurement. The legislation and regulations should i) clearly specify penalties including dismissal of government employees for serious breaches of impartiality and ii) include a mandatory "cooling off" period preventing government employees from going to work for contractors whose procurement awards they have been involved in.

E. Municipal Government

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

17. ... follow any downloading of services from the province to municipalities with the appropriate amount of funding.
18. ... extend greater autonomy and better planning tools to local governments to reduce pressure on property taxes.
19. ...ensure that crown corporations are subject to local zoning and land-use bylaws.

F. Property Rights

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

20. ... further entrench individual property rights within the Alberta Bill of Rights.
21. ... repeal the Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009(Bill 50) the Land Assembly Project Area Act (Bill 19) and the Alberta Land Stewardship Act (Bill 36).
Further, all work must be stopped on the Heartland transmission project and the normal public approval process restored for all major power lines and public works.

G. Human Rights

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

22. ... amend the Human Rights Act to unequivocally protect the freedom of speech and freedom of the press and should disband the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

H. Referenda

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

22. ... institute legislation allowing the citizens of Alberta to call for a binding referendum on a matter of significant public concern upon the presentation of a petition signed by at least 10% of the total voters of the last provincial general election.
23. ...only invoke the notwithstanding clause following a free vote in the legislative assembly.

II ECONOMY

A. Agriculture

LAND USE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... recognize that access to and use of land within a set of predictable and stable rules is crucial to the maintenance of an economical viable agricultural industry.
2. ... recognize that it is essential that agricultural producers are involved in the development of legislation and policies affecting their use of land.
3. ... recognize that sustainability is a key element of any functioning agricultural system and that the agricultural community is well aware of the need to operate in a way that maintains the long term productivity of the land that they own and manage.
4. ... recognize that research and extension of this knowledge are more effective tools than punitive legislation in ensuring that agricultural producers operate in an environmentally sustainable manner.
5. ... recognize that affected producers must be compensated for any loss of income that results when society imposes restrictions on the way in which producers operate.

WATER POLICY

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

6. ... maintain and enhance a system for water allocation that is market based with a minimum of government involvement and include the following essential elements: i) that it respect existing licenses and commitments, ii) that it be open and transparent, iii) that it be predictable, iv) that it have clear and concise rules with objective measurements, and v) that it be flexible and responsive to change.

MARKETS AND MARKETING

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ... ensure that agricultural producers should have the freedom to market their product in whatever quantity and where, when and to whatever buyer they wish.
8. ... work with the federal government and directly with other jurisdictions to develop agreements and instruments that will improve access to and the security of international markets for agricultural and food products.
9. ... provide the legislative and economic environment within which producers and agri-business can work together to develop domestic and international markets for Alberta agricultural and food products.

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

10. ... provide a regulatory and business environment that encourages producers and agribusiness to develop and apply new technology by allowing them to reap its rewards.
11. ... address the issue of intellectual property rights in agriculture research to ensure that the rights of the developers of intellectual property and of those wishing to use the technology are protected.

REDUCING THE REGULATORY BURDEN

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

12. ... in conjunction with the agricultural industry, review all provincial regulations affecting agricultural production and marketing with a view to removing and/or amending those regulations that are no longer relevant.
13. ... review the principles governing environmental and food safety regulations to ensure that they meet meaningful cost/benefit criteria.
14. ... work with other jurisdictions to eliminate regulatory duplication affecting agriculture and to ensure that the general regulatory environment is conducive to an internationally competitive industry.
15. ... institute an effective sunset provision on all provincial agriculture regulations that will ensure that they are reviewed on a regular basis by government and the affected sectors.

B. Budget

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

12. ... institute a zero-based budgeting program in all government departments. The program would require justification of all funds spent each year.
13. ... pass legislation that ensures all provincial finances are fully, accurately and honestly reported.
14. ...support the Auditor General's Office to help identify and prevent wasteful spending in order to ensure value for money.
15. ...use budget surpluses: first, to pay debts owed by the Alberta Government; and second, to deposit into the Heritage Fund.
16. ...limit growth in program spending to the rate of inflation plus the rate of population growth of Alberta.

C. Energy**

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

17. ... consult extensively with industry prior to introducing policies that affect the energy sector.
18. ... ensure an internationally competitive fiscal regime that attracts and retains investment.
19. ... streamline regulatory application and approval processes while still protecting the public and environment but expedite investment without excessive expense or delay.
20. ... communicate with Albertans about the importance of the oil and gas industry to our province's economy and future.
21. ... recognize that the knowledge of Alberta's energy workers is an asset as valuable as the resources themselves; knowledge that results in value-added secondary industries, industrial diversification and international expansion of Alberta-based companies.

22. ... support the private sector as the driving force for technology development and innovation through attractive fiscal and regulatory regimes and a positive business climate.
23. ... consult with the oil and gas sector to develop generic royalty frameworks for enhanced, reservoir-based recovery of conventional oil and natural gas.
24. ... encourage the development new markets for natural gas including electricity generation in Alberta and export markets outside North America.
25. ... promote Alberta as a global centre of energy excellence.
26. ... incent heavy oil and oil sands developers to develop more environmentally-benign methods of resource extraction.
27. ... examine ways to move electricity generation closer to the end-user so as to improve efficiency and reduce total demand.
28. ... reduce the risk of avoidable electricity price spikes to consumers and businesses.
29. ... minimize electricity price escalation arising from Alberta's existing electricity market mechanism.
30. ... work with all stakeholders to make electricity markets as efficient as possible and meet power supply requirements with a minimum of disruption to service or prices.
31. ... develop a market-based system with participation by customers and providers to manage and reduce electricity demand.

D. Financial Responsibility

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

32. ... cut red tape and regulatory burden by 1/3 from 2009 levels.
33. ... work to eliminate the duplication of government authorities and services.
34. ... institute complete financial disclosure of all provincial finances including the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Crown corporations and government investments. The disclosures should be made in the Legislature with a complete accounting available to Alberta citizens.
35. ... establish a "Waste Buster" website to help report and stamp out government waste.
36. ... grant the Provincial Auditor full access to all Government funded companies, Crown corporations and subsidiaries of Crown corporations.
37. ... have open tendering on government contracts that allow fair competition for businesses and to provide better value to taxpayers.
38. ... make sure the role of government is not to own and operate businesses when a competitive business market exists.
39. ... review past recommendations of the Auditor General and implement these as well as any new recommendations when and where appropriate.
40. ... will establish comprehensive "whistle-blower protection" to protect those who provide evidence of government misuse or misappropriation of public funds and, supports the introduction of anti-corruption legislation to ensure all public service workers including ministers **and MLAs** are held accountable for their actions.
41. ... review all Crown Corporations and other businesses currently owned or operated by the government to determine why the government is in that business and consider if private interests could be in a better position to operate that business.

E. Forestry

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

42. ... permit only ecologically sound and economically sustainable forestry management methods.
43. ... invest in research to promote good forest stewardship.
44. ... encourage other value-added uses of Alberta's forestry resources.

F. Heritage Fund

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

45. ... deposit a set percentage of government natural resource income each year into the Heritage Savings and Trust Fund.

G. Labour

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

46. ... allow individual workers the choice to determine their membership in labour organizations.
47. ... allow competition to the Workers Compensation Board.
48. ... extend to workers the democratic right to a secret ballot vote on labour organization certification under the Labour Code and ensure that the same rules apply for de-certification as for certification.
49. ... examine what services should be categorized as “essential services” and implement reforms that ensure those employed in “essential services” are treated fairly.

H. Pension Plan

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

50. ... withdraw from the Canada Pension Plan and create an Alberta Pension Plan. The Alberta plan will offer at minimum the same benefits while giving Albertans control over the investment fund.

I. Taxation

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

51. ... oppose unfair and industry specific taxation by the federal government.
52. ... fight for Alberta’s deserved share of federal tax dollars through a more equitable distribution of federal transfer payments and contracts.
53. ... establish a per-child income tax deduction for parents or guardians.
54. ... collect the Alberta personal income tax.
55. ... increase the basic personal exemption to benefit the lowest income earners.
56. ... provide greater tax deductions for charitable contributions.

J. Tourism

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

57. ... encourage tourism as a major growth area of the Alberta economy.
58. ... stimulate tourism with international marketing in cooperation with tourism operators.

K. Transportation

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

59. ... develop new transportation corridors to relieve the pressure on current routes.
60. ... develop a comprehensive transportation strategy that recognizes the interdependence of Alberta's economy with its neighbours.

L. Securities Act

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

61. ... make improvements to the Securities Act to increase transparency and provide greater protection for issuers, intermediaries, and investors.

III EDUCATION

A. Courses

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... ensure that the arts, music and physical education curriculum are fully funded and encourage entrepreneurial courses in Alberta's public schools.
2. ... enhance online educational initiatives for students.
3. ... mandate the teaching of "financial literacy" as part of the regular school curriculum in Alberta schools.

B. Education Standards

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ... set high standards for education. These measured standards will include academic testing, teacher quality and high school graduation rates including public reporting.
5. ... eliminate the policy of social promotion in Alberta's schools. Students will be expected to meet standards in order to be promoted to the next grade.
6. ... institute methods to hold educators accountable for performance.

C. Post-Secondary Education

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ... give Alberta students priority for admission and funding at Alberta post-secondary institutions.
8. ... work with employers, post-secondary institutions and the Alberta Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission to increase training and apprenticeships in the trades and technical sectors.
9. ... strengthen the network of colleges, institutes and on-line learning opportunities throughout the province.
10. ... support research and development funding for colleges, universities and institutes and encourage private sector partnerships.

D. School Choice

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... enact "School Choice" legislation.
12. ... institute a student-based funding system for financing education, which will allow funding via Alberta Opportunity Scholarships to follow the student to the accredited education facility of parental choice.
13. ... mandate that Alberta Opportunity Scholarships include all funding for student education for instruction, support and capital.

IV ENVIRONMENT

A. Clean Water

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... **monitor and** encourage conservation of water taken from lakes or rivers for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.
2. ... impose strict regulations on effluent-producing industries.
3. ... support the use of dams, reservoirs, and irrigation projects for the purposes of increased off-stream water storage, flood and erosion control, hydroelectric power generation and recreation.

B. Conservation

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

4. ... recognize the value of parks to society and protect them from intrusive activities.
5. ... require governments to meet responsible environmental standards in their procurement, recycling and construction operations.
6. ... conserve Alberta's environment and monitor environmental impacts with enforcement provisions while balancing economic development opportunities.

C. Energy and the Environment

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ... invest in research for clean coal technology and provide tax incentives for capital investment.
8. ... support the responsible development of Alberta's natural resources, including more efficient resource recovery methods, responsible management of water, and cogeneration.

D. Management of Non-Renewable Resources

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... support non-renewable resource management that encourages and promotes the development of all non-renewable resources in an environmentally responsible manner that equitably protects the interests of Albertans.

E. Sustainability

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

10. ... make environmental and fiscal sustainability and optimization a hallmark of all government policy. The government should work with the public, landowners, and other stakeholder groups towards this end, and ensure that the Alberta Advantage persists well beyond the end of this century.

F. Protection

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

11. ... establish an environmental ombudsman for Alberta.
12. ... require Ecological Impact Reports for all large projects. Projects in sensitive areas that use unproven technologies or generate significant public concern will be a priority.

G. Wildlife and Hunting

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

13. ...protect the rights of hunters and anglers and should ensure that Alberta's wildlife populations are sustained and competently managed.

H. Environmental Principles

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

14. ... believe in responsible, fact-based stewardship of the environment. The government should base its decisions on the best available scientific data and should not spend money without first carefully investigating the real threats and the extent to which its actions ameliorate those threats.

V HEALTH CARE

A. Care of Patients

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... enforce the five basic principles of the Canada Health Act which are: Public Administration, Comprehensiveness, Universality, Portability and Accessibility.
2. ... improve coverage for authorized out of province medical treatment that is unavailable in Alberta.
3. ... ensure that persons with a disability have ongoing access to medical benefits.
4. ... develop a Medical Machinery and Equipment Plan that ensures existing medical diagnostic and care equipment is adequately staffed, fully utilized and properly maintained and that provides for future investments in new equipment and technology.
5. ... establish and fund a fully independent Health Ombudsman in Alberta.
6. ... fully fund and implement a mental health initiative.
7. ... focus funding on patient care and reduce wasteful spending in the system.
8. ... provide expanded home care and palliative care services to assist chronically and terminally ill patients with supportive home environments as an option to institutional care.

B. Delivery

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... institute performance measures that are annually audited and publicly reported.
10. ... build a distributed health services information network that will improve care and reduce long-term costs while protecting the privacy of Albertans.
11. ... give all citizens better access to their medical records and treatment histories.
12. ... institute a Health Management System that rewards cost-effective, cost-saving administration by providing incentives to doctors, nurses and health care professionals.
13. ... encourage and support innovations in the delivery of health care.
14. ... alleviate pressure on emergency room services by expanding the funding for and the number of multi-disciplinary 24-hour-a-day community-based health care centres.
15. ... support not-for-profit and private long-term care facilities that will help address the needs of our aging population.
16. ... establish a rural and remote health initiative to ensure Albertans get the care they need.
17. ... implement legislation protecting the “conscience rights” of healthcare professionals.
18. ... provide an annual cost schedule for all medical procedures in the province.
19. ... strongly encourage private, not-for-profit hospitals to operate within the publicly funded health system.

C. Funding

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

19. ... provide health care funding that will follow the service to the health care provider and approved facility of choice.
20. ... increase funding for home care, supported housing, assisted living, long-term care facilities and palliative care hospices to provide less expensive and more patient-friendly alternatives to hospital care.
21. ... reduce transportation and lodging costs for rural patients who receive treatment that is not locally available by developing a rural medical travel assistance program.
22. ... ensure that patients living at home in palliative or long term care are entitled to the same pharmaceutical benefits they would have received as in a hospital.
23. ... deliver an annual individual statement of benefits to each resident of Alberta.

D. Training

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

24. ... expand training and post-secondary programs to graduate more health care professionals.
25. ... develop and implement a retention and recruitment plan in full consultation with health care service providers.

E. Wellness

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

26. ... institute a preventative health care and wellness program.
27. ... increase funding for physical fitness and amateur sports.
28. ... enhance efforts and funding to prevent drug and alcohol abuse and addiction.

F. Pre-Hospital Care

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

29. ... accept that decisions about the provision of pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services are best made by local authorities in consultation with local hospitals and the citizens they serve.
30. ... acknowledge that many rural and mid-sized urban communities benefit from providing their own EMS within a Fire / EMS combined service model.
31. ... immediately cease further Alberta Health Services assumption of local EMS responsibilities, and work to return all EMS to local control, where possible.
32. ... maintain the predictable baseline funding to municipalities for EMS that existed prior to AHS take-overs.

VI JUSTICE

A. Courts

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... institute a program whereby all sentences given in provincial court will be subject to a truth in sentencing provision.
2. ... support the right of compensation from convicted persons to the victims of their crimes.
3. ... introduce initiatives for maintenance enforcement to achieve improved compliance with maintenance and visitation orders.
4. ... support legally enforceable arbitration between all parties in a legal dispute to settle non-criminal actions.
5. ... ensure that all Albertans have access to legal representation and justice.
6. ... explore technological opportunities to update the Rules of Court and reduce cost to users.

B. Policing

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

7. ... ensure the roles of RCMP officers, municipal officers, peace officers and sheriffs are efficiently integrated and that all are accountable to Albertans first and foremost.
8. ... ensure sufficient funding for municipal policing to allow for effective policing and protection of Albertans.
9. ... require young offenders to participate in crime prevention courses and other measures.
10. ... explore the feasibility of creating a provincial police force.
11. ... review of traffic policing across the province to clearly determine what works and what does not and to amend legislation to remove all financial incentives to traffic law enforcement in Alberta.

C. System Confidence

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

12. ... ensure that the rights of crime victims take precedence over those found guilty of committing crimes.

D. Firearms

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

13. ... recognize that Ottawa's Firearms Program only affects and penalizes law-abiding citizens, and that such programs are ineffective at reducing violent crime.
14. ... support stern sentencing for violent crimes, especially those involving firearms.
15. ... uphold the property and civil rights of all Albertans, including firearms owners.
16. ... appoint a Chief Firearms Officer to direct the Firearms Program in Alberta.
17. ... create and maintain a registry of individuals prohibited by a court from possessing firearms.
18. ... table periodic reports in the Legislature concerning the frequency, causes and prevention of all categories of violent crime in Alberta, and the social, environmental, and economic effects of all firearms-related activities.

VII SOCIAL

A. Equality

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

1. ... recognize that all Albertans have equal rights, privileges and responsibilities.

B. Arts and Culture

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

2. ... encourage, support, and fund community projects, school arts programs and cultural activities as an essential enrichment of life and an integral part of Alberta's communities and cultural diversity.

C. Families

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

3. ... implement educational activities to help the abused overcome the effects of abuse, and stop further abuse from abusers and provide access to therapy where required.
4. ... work with foster parents to help them improve the care and placements of foster children.
5. ... enhance and increase the training, resources and authority of social service providers to properly protect children at risk and improve services to families.
6. ... seek to reduce its budgetary dependence on gambling revenues, it should nevertheless earmark a significant portion of the revenues generated from gambling for the rehabilitation of gambling addicts, and for educational programs aimed at reducing gambling.

7. ... collaborate with non-profit agencies to enhance their ability to meet the needs of children, youth, and families;
8. ... commit funding for emergency residences for victims of violence.

D. Protecting Seniors

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

9. ... enact a legislative program which recognizes the vital contribution made by our seniors to our prosperity and repeal any legislation and/or policy which unjustly discriminates against seniors, violates their safety, privacy or democratic rights arbitrarily or fails to recognize their vital contribution to Alberta.

E. First Nations and Aboriginal Issues

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

10. ... create a permanent First Nations Forum to provide aboriginal citizens living on and off reserves direct communication with government about their priorities and ideas to materially improve their quality of life.
11. ... devote special attention and resources to addressing the challenges and needs of aboriginal women and youth.

F. Responsibility

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

12. ... support social responsibility within the framework of a free enterprise economic system and promote compassionate service, volunteerism, individual responsibility and care for those unable to care for themselves.

G. Social Assistance

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

13. ... implement a timely and effective social assistance to work program.

H. Delivery

Wildrose members believe the Government of Alberta should:

14. ... provide social services through community organizations rather than government whenever possible.