

## ***ONWARD & UPWARD!***



We've had an exciting start to our spring session! After electing Ken Kowal as Deputy-Speaker, Richard Marz as Deputy-Speaker, and Shiraz Shariff as Chair of Committees, our new Governor delivered the Speech from the Throne. Normie Kwong's inaugural address outlined the government's commitment to: a \$3 billion post-secondary endowment fund created from budget surpluses; increases in benefits for the severely disabled; an increase in the minimum wage; a provincial water conservation strategy; an amended Police Act; new dental and eye care programs for seniors; a review of employment standards dealing with overtime, vacation, and long-term care; education programs to help prevent sexual exploitation of children; centennial measures for schoolchildren and residents over 100 years old; a new digital library for universities; a new use management framework; balanced budgets, no debt, and low taxes; inflation control; a new Heritage Fund; and helping Albertans to become the healthiest people in Canada. Other exciting programs, which will continue to be unveiled over the course of our centennial, would like copies of the Speech from the Throne 2005, please contact my office.

At the time of this writing (March 4, to meet the publisher's deadline) my agenda included: delivering my Private Member's Bill 201 ("Smoke-Free Buildings Act"); giving a member's statement on the awards gala that our "Mountain of Heroes" hosted on March 3; introducing the "Tourism Levy Act". (If you have any questions about any of these items, I would like to provide me with any feedback, please feel free—it's important that I hear from you.)

keynote speech at the World High School Debate Championships. If you have would your MLA to attend, please let me know; and I have two more important invit

- if you know of anyone who lives in Calgary-Lougheed and is celebrating a special you contact our office, we may be able to send them a congratulatory s  
Government Services is issuing a commemorative certificate to all Albertans born it will include information about the Centennial Education Savings Plan that towards a Registered Education Savings Plan to every child born or adopted residents this calendar year. You can also request scrolls for Graduation Anniversaries (25 yrs. and over), Birthdays (65 yrs. and over), Religious/Church and Reunions.
- as your MLA, I am always seeking your input; and I hope you will attend o meetings:

Thurs. May 5, from 7:30 - 9:00pm in the Spruce Room at Shaw-Nee Slopes Golf (James McKeivitt Rd SW)

Thurs. May 12, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the school gym at Woodbine Elementary (Way SW).

Let's continue to plan Alberta's future, together. Onward & upward!

*\* MLA Dave Rodney serves the Woodbine, Woodlands, Bridlewood, Evergreen, Sh Millrise, and Canyon Meadows (west of Elbow).*