The Official Opposition

BACKGROUND

Members of the Opposition are MLAs who are not part of the governing party. The role of the opposition is to hold the government accountable, criticize government activity, propose amendments to policies, and present themselves to the public as an alternative to the party in office. They work to ensure that legislation is carefully considered, and alternate views are expressed and debated.

The opposition party with the most seats is called the Official Opposition, and the leader of that party is known as the Leader of the Opposition. When bills or motions are introduced, the Leader of the Opposition, or an Official Opposition Critic, is usually called on after a Cabinet Minister who speaks on behalf of the Government. (From CCVO’s Election Toolkit in the Chapter 4: Navigating the Alberta Government).

On the following page is a list of the current Members of the Opposition, following the 2019 Alberta provincial election. Please take note of portfolios that are important to your organization’s mission and mandate as it is often productive to work with both the Opposition as well as the governing party.
OFFICIAL OPPOSITION CRITIC ROLES

**Leader of the Opposition:** Rachel Notley (MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona)

**House Leader, Economic Development, Trade and Tourism:** Deron Bilous (MLA for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview)

**Service Alberta:** Jon Carson (MLA for Edmonton-West Henday)

**Caucus Chair, Municipal Affairs:** Joe Ceci (MLA for Calgary-Buffalo)

**Agriculture & Forestry:** Lorne Dach (MLA for Edmonton-McClung)

**Infrastructure:** Thomas Dang (MLA for Edmonton-South)

**Multiculturalism:** Jasvir Deol (MLA for Edmonton-Meadows)

**Whip, Advanced Education:** David Eggen (MLA for Edmonton-North West)

**Indigenous Relations:** Richard Feehan (MLA for Edmonton-Rutherford)

**Justice:** Kathleen Ganley (MLA for Calgary-Mountain View)

**Culture, Military Liaison:** Nicole Goehring (MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs)

**Labour & Immigration:** Christina Gray (MLA for Edmonton-Mill Woods)

**Deputy Leader, Education:** Sarah Hoffman (MLA for Edmonton-Glenora)

**Deputy Whip, Women, LGBTQ Issues:** Janis Irwin (MLA for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood)

**Transportation:** Rod Loyola (MLA for Edmonton-Ellerslie)

**Red Tape Reduction:** Chris Nielsen (MLA for Edmonton-Decore)

**Children's Services:** Rakhi Pancholi (MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud)

**Caucus Vice-Chair, Finance:** Shannon Phillips (MLA for Lethbridge-West)

**Community & Social Services, Francophone Issues:** Marie Renaud (MLA for St. Albert)

**Energy, Natural Gas:** Irfan Sabir (MLA for Calgary-McCall)

**Environment:** Marlin Schmid (MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar)

**Health:** David Shepherd (MLA for Edmonton-City Centre)

**Seniors & Housing:** Lori Sigurdson (MLA for Edmonton-Riverview)

**Deputy House Leader, Democracy & Ethics, Mental Health & Addictions:**
Heather Sweet (MLA for Edmonton-Manning)