

Notes of the Remarks of Sandeep Dhir at the
Alberta Liberal Party Leader's Dinner
May 17, 2006
Westin Hotel, Edmonton

Check Against Delivery

Good evening. My name is Sandeep Dhir and I am the Chairperson for tonight's dinner.

Over the last few days I have been thinking on what I would say tonight. I had many thoughts.

Like Premier Klein holding up an Oilers jersey in the papers yesterday.

The incidents on Whyte Avenue last weekend and what those events and the police conduct say about our City.

The on-going soap opera in the PC Party about who the new Leader will be.

But the thing I kept coming back to was Ted Morton's recent attempt to pass legislation which would allow marriage commissioners to avoid marrying gay couples.

The discussion around his initiative involved catchy phrases that we have all heard before like “family values” and “Alberta values.”

I was struck that I too believe that there has been a loss of family values in our province.

In Edmonton, there are over 2000 people that are homeless.

The Mayor’s Taskforce on Homeliness declared it a crisis.

My family values; my values as an Albertan say that the situation is intolerable.

My government and my Premier do nothing.

In Alberta, more and more families are struggling with the costs of obtaining an education for their children at our universities and colleges.

Tuition has gone up 273% in Alberta since 1990.

My Alberta values say that all my neighbours should be able to get the education they want for their children without barrier due to costs.

My Government and my Premier do nothing.

In Alberta, more and more parents are forced to choose between the jobs they need and the children they love.

Our Province needs affordable, accessible daycare.

My Government and my Premier do nothing.

Real issues and real policy choices and my Premier hands out \$400.00 cheques.

Friends, the next election is about what type of Province we all want to live in.

Kevin Taft and the Alberta Liberal Party are engaging these real issues.

Our Focus Is Forward; our future is bright and it begins tonight.

Let me introduce you to the members of the Liberal Caucus who are working everyday to bring about the change we all want.