



PUBLIC SAFETY BLUEPRINT

A SAFER ALBERTA FOR ALL

Public Safety Blueprint

A Safer Alberta for All

Everyone, no matter where they live, deserves to feel safe in their community...

Yet, after five years of the UCP government, more Albertans report deep concerns about a rise in social disorder in our communities and believe their personal safety is at risk.

Your Alberta NDP Caucus has listened to Albertans, businesses, community organizations and law enforcement. We offer this blueprint as a map forward to advance a better, safer Alberta - for all of us.

Where are we now?

- ▶ **6 out of 10** Albertans say crime is getting worse where they live
- ▶ **Nearly 1 in 4** of us have been victims of crime in just the past 4 years
- ▶ **2 out of 3** women don't feel safe in their own neighborhoods
- ▶ **More than half** of all Albertans worry they'll become victims of crime

Where do Albertans want to be?

Albertans have been clear, they want to see:

- ▶ *Public spaces that are safe and welcoming for all Albertans*
- ▶ *Dedicated mental health-first crisis response teams*
- ▶ *Accessible addiction treatment and harm reduction services*
- ▶ *Increased shelter spaces and affordable and supportive housing options as well as programs to help prevent homelessness in the first place*
- ▶ *Engagement with residents to develop safety approaches that work for their unique circumstances and concerns*
- ▶ *Safety solutions developed in collaboration with Indigenous communities*
- ▶ *Improved social services for marginalized individuals*
- ▶ *An enhanced justice system with appropriate sentences*
- ▶ *Increased funding for police services*
- ▶ *A focus on reducing crime in rural areas*

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What would we do?

We are committed to building safe communities for all, grounded in our dual commitment: tackling crime head-on and tackling the root causes of crime. In doing this, we balance the need for compassion with the need for immediate action.

Tackling crime head-on

- ▶ *Ensure quick police response times and proper investigation.*
- ▶ *Crack down on repeat offenders by reforming the bail system of criminal justice.*
- ▶ *Ensure thorough investigation of gender-based violence and survivors of gender-based violence with immediate access to services.*
- ▶ *Support local businesses with practical solutions for theft prevention.*
- ▶ *Work with communities to address crime hotspots.*
- ▶ *Support Albertans impacted by the concerning rise in hate crimes.*
- ▶ *Appoint sufficient judges and hire enough support staff to handle cases in a timely manner.*
- ▶ *Include Indigenous perspectives and leadership by supporting Indigenous-led initiatives to tackle crime, and ensuring culturally appropriate services are widely available.*

Tackling the root causes of crime

- ▶ *Investing in mental health and addiction services.*
- ▶ *Supporting programs that prevent youth from entering a life of crime.*
- ▶ *Addressing poverty and homelessness as key factors in community safety.*
- ▶ *Advocating for increased shelter spaces and affordable and supportive housing options as well as programs to help prevent homelessness in the first place.*
- ▶ *Promoting job creation and economic opportunities to reduce motivations for crime.*
- ▶ *Ensuring that law enforcement is part of a broader, coordinated approach to public safety that includes social services, mental health support, and community-based initiatives.*
- ▶ *Supporting and growing crisis response teams that pair police with mental health professionals.*
- ▶ *Advocating for accessible addiction treatment and harm reduction services.*
- ▶ *Develop specialized solutions for fighting crime in rural communities.*

How did we get here?

UCP defunding of the police and social services

- ▶ *In 2024, the UCP slashed \$9 million from addiction and mental health services*
- ▶ *In 2024, the UCP reduced the use of photo radar in the province causing massive budgetary shortfalls for police services across Alberta.*
- ▶ *In 2020, the UCP eliminated provincial funding to the John Howard Society of Alberta (JHS), forcing JHS to scale back crucial programs that had helped offenders break the cycle of addiction and crime.*
- ▶ *The UCP is currently proposing to force the Alberta Law Foundation to double its Legal Aid funding from 25% to 50%, most likely to offset provincial funding cuts.*
- ▶ *In 2019, the UCP government made deep cuts to social support programs and municipal funding that was directed towards policing. That included confiscating municipal fine revenue by increasing the provincial take from 26.7% to 40%, resulting in a \$32 million loss in municipal police budgets.*
- ▶ *Public safety and emergency services saw a 15% spending cut in 2024-25 despite record population growth and an increasing need for their services.*
- ▶ *The UCP cut funding for Indigenous-led programs and essential services, while ignoring calls for culturally appropriate approaches to public safety and justice.*

Justice system mismanagement

- ▶ *In 2023, over 35,000 cases were stuck in Alberta's courts due to lack of proper funding and staffing of our justice system*
- ▶ *Cases continue to be thrown out of court because the UCP has not appointed enough judges or hired enough support staff.*
- ▶ *Victims are waiting longer for justice while repeat offenders cycle back onto our streets.*

Short-term thinking & lack of consultation

- ▶ *The UCP have undermined crucial social programs and supports by forcing through changes without consultation.*
- ▶ *UCP "one-size-fits all" models have especially failed Indigenous communities, where grassroots, culturally appropriate, community-led solutions are crucial and where a lack of consultation has meant policies do not address the unique needs and perspectives of Indigenous communities.*
- ▶ *In 2023, the UCP government didn't budget a single dollar for affordable housing, despite growing numbers of Albertans living houseless in major cities and a particularly alarming rise in rural areas including First Nations and Métis Settlements.*

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