

*ACSW Income Disparity Campaign*

*Sample letter to the Editor*

*Note: Newspapers will not publish anonymous letters.*

Date

Dear Editor:

I am disappointed that candidates in my constituency spend more time talking about the economic situation of our province than our social infrastructure. A government commitment to reinvest in social programs and to close a major crack in our social infrastructure is desperately needed.

Research shows that the income gains made during the current economic boom in Alberta have been made almost entirely by the top 40% of income earners. This means the remaining 60% have either maintained or lost financial ground during this same period of time.

Alberta's prosperity has increased the gap between the haves and have nots. The inequitable distribution of resources has magnified the impact.

Research and my personal experiences as a social worker make it clear that our economic boom has not helped most income earners and disadvantaged populations. It has actually pushed them deeper into debt and poverty. There is now more homelessness, more working poor, an affordable housing crisis, an employment crisis in non-profit agencies and many other social problems.

Alberta's prosperity should benefit everyone. The only way this can happen is if we have effective social policies and programs. Creating a social infrastructure plan needs to be a priority if every Albertan is to live with dignity.

Alberta deserves political leaders who will not sacrifice an Albertan's quality of life for economic gain.

Yours truly,

Your name, RSW

Address

Phone number