



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2009

The Alberta Legislature is open for you to discover during the holidays

Edmonton—Get into the spirit of the holiday season with a visit to the Legislature Grounds. Starting December 3 with the Christmas Light-up, visitors to the Legislature will enjoy free displays, ice sculptures and choral performances.

Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly invites visitors to: “Take time to visit the Alberta Legislature and celebrate the season with family and friends as we usher in the holiday spirit with the sights and sounds of the season.”

Free Holiday Events at the Alberta Legislature

Christmas Light-up, December 3

Enjoy the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus in the rotunda at 4 p.m. and watch Premier Ed Stelmach switch on the festive outdoor lights at 4:45 p.m. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served. The centerpiece to the festively lit grounds, the Christmas tree, is a white spruce from the Edson area that stands about 16 metres tall and features 5,000 multi-coloured LED bulbs.

Voices in the Rotunda, December 3 to December 23

Starting December 3 on scheduled days during noon hours and evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., celebrate the season by listening to local school and community choirs, in the Legislature Rotunda. For choir schedules check our website at www.assembly.ab.ca. Hot chocolate will be served in the evenings.

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Winter Wonderland

Following the December 3 Light-up, the Legislature Grounds will be a holiday wonderland featuring ice sculptures by members of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta and 300 festively lit trees decorated with 120,000 LED bulbs. And don't forget your skates! Weather permitting; skating is available on the grounds daily.

Events in the Pedway, December 1 to December 23

The craft table will keep little hands busy making Christmas cards and other holiday creations within the decked halls of the pedway. This year the pedway will feature Christmas trees decorated with homemade ornaments by Edmonton and area schools and a display featuring sleighs donated by Dr. Al Oeming and the Remington Carriage Museum in Cardston, Alberta.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. December 2 to 3 the Christmas Craft Sale will once again showcase goods from 55 vendors in the Legislature pedway. Everything from baking and preserves to ornaments and jewellery all under one roof. You don't want to miss it!

The Interpretive Centre, pedway and gift shop will be open evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

All bulbs on the Legislature grounds are LED lights, which last longer and use a fraction of the energy used by conventional incandescent lights. This is the fourth year that LED lights have been used in decorating the Legislature Grounds.

While it tis the season for giving we do ask that those not feeling well avoid attending public events where germs may be spread to others. Various hand sanitation stations are located in the public areas of the Legislature Building and Pedway.

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Backgrounder

This is the 27th year that the Legislature Grounds have been decorated.

Christmas Tree

- The Christmas tree on the Legislature Grounds is a white spruce from the Edson area. It is approximately 16 metres tall and stands at the north end of the Legislature grounds, serving as the centerpiece for the annual festive lighting display.
- There are 5,000 multi-colored bulbs on the main tree. Overall, 120,000 bulbs decorate 300 trees.
- All bulbs are LED lights, which last longer and use a fraction of the energy used by conventional incandescent lights. This is the fourth year that LED lights have been used in decorating the Legislature Grounds.