

(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)  
SPEECH

HONOURABLE DAVE HANCOCK  
MINISTER  
ALBERTA HUMAN SERVICES

ROBIN HOOD  
ASSOCIATION 50<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY GALA

OCTOBER 5, 2013  
6:30 P.M. CHAMPAGNE  
7:30 P.M. PROGRAM

STRATHCONA COUNTY  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
AGORA ROOM  
401 FESTIVAL LANE  
SHERWOOD PARK

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Thank you Iris for your kind introduction and for hosting this wonderful event.**

### **Acknowledgements**

- **Mayor Linda Osinchuk;**
- **Fort Saskatchewan MLA  
Jacquie Fenske; and**
- **Sherwood Park MLA  
Cathy Olesen.**

**Good evening... It is my pleasure to bring you greetings on behalf of Premier Alison Redford and the Government of Alberta.**

**A previous engagement prevented Frank Oberle, Associate Minister of Services for Persons with Disabilities, from being here with us tonight.**

**But I know we share very similar thoughts.**

**First, I would like to congratulate the Robin Hood Association on 50 years of improving the lives of Albertans with developmental disabilities.**

**The Robin Hood Association is one of the largest and longest serving organizations of its kind in the province.**

**You are renowned for helping individuals with developmental disabilities live as independently as they can.**

**Also, for enabling them to feel included in their communities, and achieve their full potential.**

**You've helped thousands of people living in Strathcona County live more meaningful lives over the past 50 years.**

**Your good work has not gone unnoticed.**

**Being awarded the Sir Fredrick Haltaine award for excellence AND the 2013 Pride of Strathcona Award are significant achievements.**

**You've also been nominated for the Sherwood Park Chamber of Commerce's long-term service award.**

**We are all grateful for the excellent services you provide for individuals and their families.**

**And, it wouldn't be possible without your committed staff, board members or the support of the community.**

**The community has rallied behind the Robin Hood Association from the beginning.**

**The bus service, furniture and equipment service, and employment program would not have been possible without the support of local business owners, service club members, and individual donors.**

**We all have a role to play in making our communities more inclusive and better places to live for all Albertans.**

**We heard that message loud and clear during our Social Policy Framework conversations with Albertans.**

**For example, the transformation of the PDD program focuses on providing better outcomes for individuals living with developmental disabilities.**

**This can be achieved by building close ties with the community... something that we can learn about from the Robin Hood Association and one of the reasons your organization has been so successful.**

**And so I will close by applauding the community and the Robin Hood Association for showing us what can be accomplished when we work together.**

**Thank you and enjoy the rest of your evening.**