



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Eighth Legislature

Thursday, May 24, 2012

The Speaker took the Chair at 3:00 p.m.

After delivering the opening day prayer the Speaker invited Mr. Paul Lorieau, accompanied by a quartet comprised of members of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, to lead the Members of the Assembly and guests in singing Canada's National Anthem.

While awaiting the arrival of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra quartet played a brief musical interlude.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly and took his seat on the Throne.

Speaker's Address to the Lieutenant Governor

The Speaker said:

May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not the Assembly, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Province, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Honour's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Honour the most favourable construction.

Statement by the Provincial Secretary

The Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Denis, then said:

I am commanded by His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of this Assembly to Her Majesty's person and Government, and, not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, he grants and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all seasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor then read the following Speech from the Throne:

Speech From the Throne

Albertans, this is a great day for a number of reasons. One, it's the start of the 28th Alberta Legislature, but it's also Victoria Day, it's also the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign, and those are very important to all of us.

At the risk of getting off the subject for a moment, Canada was honoured in front of Buckingham Palace yesterday in that the RCMP mounted the guard. For the first time in history they mounted the guard. It's usually up to soldiers. Not only that, but one of the guards was a female, and that had not happened before. We are fortunate to have RCMP members of that ilk. Of course, as you are well aware, here in the Province of Alberta we have the first elected female Premier, and the Leader of the Official Opposition is also female. They are taking over the world.

Albertans, distinguished Members of the Legislative Assembly, visitors and guests, welcome to the First Session of the 28th Alberta Legislature. It is my privilege to deliver the Speech from the Throne and to serve this Province as Lieutenant Governor.

Today Alberta has the potential to reach greater heights than ever before. Economic recovery is under way in many parts of the world, and demand for our energy and skills will grow in the years to come.

Albertans are looking to the future with new hope and confidence. They see a chance to build the best lives possible for themselves and their families, and they are ready to make the most of that opportunity.

The people of this Province have declared that they are not content to gaze inward and build walls. They want to look outward and build bridges. They seek to engage with the world around them and, through investment and innovation here at home, play a leading role in making our world a better place. Alberta, your Government has heard you loud and clear, and its plans and policies will continue to reflect your values, goals, and aspirations.

This Province is the most economically free jurisdiction in North America. Nowhere else do businesses have so much room to operate without interference and adapt to market conditions. Your Government will further these freedoms and find new ways to simplify regulatory burdens so businesses continue to drive our prosperity.

We have one of the most technologically astute, safe, and responsible energy sectors in the world, a field that provides hundreds of thousands of Alberta families with reliable livelihoods. That sector is working hard to improve its efficiency and reduce its footprint as it expands production. Your Government will partner with industry on research and development through a second Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority to maintain a competitive, world-class resource economy for the 21st century, grow the marketplace for clean energy, and protect the jobs so many Albertans depend on.

We have strong and responsive public services that offer Albertans a great standard of living. Your Government will invest in those services, in the infrastructure that supports them, and in the families and communities that depend on them to secure Alberta's economic future, and it will keep those services public and bring new fiscal discipline to budgets so they deliver the outcomes Albertans want in a financially sensible way.

Your Government will accomplish all this because it has solid foundations to build on. The last 41 years have brought incredible benefits to our Province and seen society evolve in ways that have changed how Albertans think and live.

It was the decisions of past governments that helped us adapt and get to where we are today. Every one of those governments was distinct, and each put forward the right vision in response to the issues Alberta confronted. Each was suited to its time and place and pursued the right course for the right circumstances in sync with Albertans' values. This Government will uphold that tradition even as our Province adapts and changes faster than ever.

Technology has put more knowledge and power at Albertans' fingertips than at any time in history. Competition and rising expectations are placing heightened pressure on the energy industry that has sustained us for so long, and demographic shifts are asking more of Albertans and the public services that nurture, educate, and care for them.

Alberta has robust traditions in which to find answers. Our western spirit and heritage and our entrepreneurial energy have always served us well. The unique pride, self-reliance, and fiscal conservatism that have made this Province such a special place to live are as strong as they have ever been, and this Government will use these traits to forge a brighter future. They define us as Albertans, and they are too precious to put aside.

But the challenge of change demands a response. It requires leadership ready to strike the right balance between progressive and conservative thinking. Your Government will find that balance. Your Government has a policy framework for this time and place, a plan in harmony with Albertans' socially progressive values and fiscally conservative beliefs, and implementation has begun.

Your Government promised to increase both AISH payments and the allowable income exemption. Budget 2012 raised the former by \$400 per month and doubled the latter.

Your Government promised to offer subsidized child care for families earning less than \$50,000 annually. Budget 2012 provided \$12 million in funds for that purpose.

Your Government pledged to make Alberta's Child and Youth Advocate independent to better help at-risk youth and investigate when things go wrong. At the beginning of April the Advocate's office became fully independent.

This Government's fiscal and economic plan includes no new taxes, no sales tax, and multi-year budgets to control public spending.

On every single count those promises were met, and this Government will continue to do so in every area.

Albertans have expressed a desire for change and no-nonsense, effective leadership. They know that a great province starts from the inside out, with an efficient and responsive public service that judiciously uses their tax dollars to provide support and create the conditions for success.

To support these outcomes, this Government formed a new Cabinet and government structure, combining departments and designing new ministries to focus on the things that matter to Albertans: having a strong fiscal framework, caring for families and the vulnerable, promoting and protecting our resources, and having solid consultation processes that ensure Albertans are heard. These tasks will stay at the top of the Government's agenda as it moves forward.

Your Government will invest in Alberta's future by supporting the families in whose hands that future rests. This means providing an accessible primary care system and giving Albertans the tools and guidance they need to take charge of their health.

Your Government will continue to expand family care clinics in consultation with local stakeholders and the dedicated professionals who staff the system, building on primary care networks. It will bring more allied health workers like nurse practitioners to the front lines of primary care to lower wait times. It will design and implement a plan to extend the Province's network of continuing care centres so seniors can find accommodations that suit their budget and family arrangements.

Your Government will extend improved access to care for the very Albertans devoted to providing it when we need it most. Bill 1, to be brought forward in this Session, will guarantee workers' compensation coverage for first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. PTSD's devastating effects on individuals and their families are well understood, and it is time legislation reflected that fact. First responders rush to our aid in times of trouble, and this Government will be the first in Canada to do the same for them.

Your Government will promote trustworthy leadership that genuinely takes Albertans' concerns to heart and establish openness and transparency as guiding principles. The new Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation will review Alberta's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and oversee fundamental changes to the way the Province does business. As part of this effort your Government will survey conflict-of-interest issues and then introduce a new package of legislation that draws on the best solutions from around the world. As promised, this will include whistle-blower legislation. Albertans will be able to see with new depth and clarity how government works for them.

Your Government will also secure Alberta's economic future by demonstrating fiscal restraint and foresight, spending wisely and saving intelligently. Starting with Budget 2012, our most critical public sectors – education, advanced education, health, and municipal services – are receiving stable funding in the form of three-year budgets. Institutions and municipalities know in advance what to expect so they can plan ahead, guaranteeing reliable service delivery for all Albertans.

And to enforce unprecedented discipline in public spending, this Government is pioneering results-based budgeting. Government will engage with Albertans to identify the outcomes they expect from public programs. Every part of the Government's operations will then be scrutinized on a three-year cycle. Program budgets will be reset to reflect findings, and the Treasury Board will publicly report on the progress made each year so Albertans can see how their tax dollars are being used.

Your Government will also advance world-leading resource stewardship, developing our natural resources responsibly to safeguard Alberta's environment, grow its markets, and keep our economy strong. The Regulatory Enhancement Project, which combines multiple bodies into a single regulator for upstream oil, gas, and coal, is a critical part of this plan. Your Government will simplify the system and give energy firms the nimble, responsive regulator they need to stay competitive.

The industry depends just as much on access to new markets, so through the Canadian energy strategy your Government will pursue cooperation with other provinces, working with our neighbours to build the infrastructure needed to reach those markets.

At the same time your Government will improve environmental monitoring. Together with Ottawa, Alberta will usher in a comprehensive, transparent, and scientifically credible system. The joint monitoring program will gather more information more frequently and allow faster detection of changes to the environment so industry and government can mitigate them.

Alberta's prosperity cannot come at the expense of its beauty; the two must go hand in hand. This Government will ensure they do, and in support of this strong relationship with the Government of Canada we will be opening a new office in Ottawa. The office will help forge stronger relations in Canada's capital and advocate Alberta's perspective on important federal and provincial matters.

Strengthening our links with the federal government and our provincial neighbours will help to develop new opportunities that benefit all Albertans. This is about looking beyond our borders to build the bridges the people of this province want and meeting their expectations.

Albertans have entrusted their leadership with a mandate to respond to change. Over the next four years this Government will rise to the occasion and deliver and fulfill a clear, focused, target-driven mandate. Albertans will know where the Province is headed and how progress is being made because this is a government that will stay true to its promises.

It will partner with Albertans from every walk of life to arrive at solutions. It will treat all Albertans with fairness and respect no matter where they live. It will mirror their concerns and goals and make manifest their values and beliefs. And, most importantly, it will get out of Albertans' way so they can unleash their creative potential and build a prosperous province, one that is not only rich in resources but in opportunity, and a quality of life that uplifts everyone it touches.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. May God bless you all.

God bless Alberta. God bless Canada. God save the Queen.

The Speaker then invited Mr. Paul Lorieau, accompanied by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra quartet, to lead the Members and guests in the singing of God Save the Queen.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor then retired from the Assembly.

Speaker's Statement - Characteristics of the Members of the 28th Legislature

Honourable Members and honoured guests, a few interesting reflections for you. On April 23, 2012, 87 individuals were elected to serve the people of Alberta as Members of the Legislative Assembly. This is the largest number of seats ever in Alberta's history. In the first general election in the new Province of Alberta, on November 9, 1905, 25 people were elected to represent Alberta's entire population of 185,412 people. Effectively, one Member represented 7,416 people. I wonder how many doors they had to knock. Today, as we all know, we are approximately 3.8 million people in Alberta, with one Member representing on average approximately 41,900 citizens.

We are 87 individuals here. We come from various backgrounds and experiences.

In fact, we have occupations that cover the alphabet from A to V – we didn't quite make it Z, unfortunately, but we'll work on it – from an agronomist to a veterinarian. We have one Member who has served as a Member of Parliament, 23 Members who have served as councillors or aldermen, and nine who have served as mayors or reeves. Twenty-four Members are businesspeople, and 10 have been consultants or advocates. Fourteen Members have worked in the civil service or as assistants to Members at all levels of government. Eleven Members are lawyers, six of whom are Queen's Counsel members. Nine Members have been involved in agriculture, farming, and ranching. Eighteen Members have been teachers, educators, instructors, or lecturers. Six Members have been school board trustees. Five Members have served as front-line health-care professionals: two doctors, two nurses, and one paramedic. Five Members have worked in media – print, radio, and television – and four Members have experience in fine arts or languages. Four have worked in the financial sector. Two Members have law enforcement backgrounds. Five Members have worked in real estate and four in the oil and gas industry. Seven Members have worked in the trades and six in non-profit environments. Members have also held the following occupations: biologist, bus driver, forester, geologist, miner, and professional bullfighter.

Members are bringing a local as well as a global perspective to our Alberta Assembly. We have Members who were born in nine of Canada's provinces and territories. We have Members who were born in 10 different countries from around the world, including Brazil, China, India, Jamaica, Lebanon, Poland, Wales, and Vietnam.

Historically the average age of Members in previous Legislatures, of which there were 27, has been 48.5 years at the time of election. Based on the information received to date, the average age of the Members of today's 28th Legislature is 51. The ages of the Members range from 31 to 72, but the majority of Members come between the ranges of 50 and 59 years of age.

Twenty-two Members of our Legislative Assembly today are women, representing 25.3 per cent of the total number of Members here. Comparatively, the most women ever elected were elected in the general election of 1997, when 24 of the 83, or 28.9 per cent of the Members elected, were women.

The average number of months served in the Legislative Assembly by all 87 Members is 60 months, or five years. Thirty-eight Members present today are in their first term of office. Thirty-eight Members. I would ask those 38 Members to please rise and receive our collective thanks for serving. Twenty-six Members are in their second term of office, including one Member who's been re-elected after a gap of four years; seven Members are in their third term of office; six Members are in their fourth term of office, including one Member elected in a by-election; five Members are in their fifth term of office, including two Members elected in by-elections; four Members are in their sixth term of office, including your Speaker; and one Member truly has distinguished herself. She is now entering her seventh term of office, and she deserves our collective thanks, the Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

In conclusion, Honourable Members and guests, the diversity of backgrounds and experiences that we all bring to our work as Members makes our province of Alberta so much stronger and so much more reflective of the daily lives and concerns of our constituents, whom we are honoured to serve. We are here to represent them and to work together constructively to improve the lives of all Albertans.

Tabling Documents

The Speaker informed the Assembly he had obtained a copy of the Speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, which was laid on the Table.

Sessional Paper 1/2012

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Ordered, that the Honourable Ms Redford have leave to introduce a Bill entitled "Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2012." Hon. Ms Redford accordingly presented the Bill and the same was received and read a First time.

Announcement by the Clerk of the Assembly of Members Elected

Mr. Speaker, I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta, pursuant to the Election Act, a report containing the results of the General Election conducted on the 23rd of April 2012. The report states that an election was conducted in the following electoral divisions, and the said report further shows that the following Members were duly elected:

Airdrie	Rob Anderson
Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater	Jeff Johnson
Banff-Cochrane	Ron Casey
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock	Maureen Kubinec
Battle River-Wainwright	Doug Griffiths
Bonnyville-Cold Lake	Genia Leskiw

Calgary-Acadia	Jonathan Denis
Calgary-Bow	Alana S. DeLong
Calgary-Buffalo	Kent Hehr
Calgary-Cross	Yvonne Fritz
Calgary-Currie	Christine Cusanelli
Calgary-East	Moe Amery
Calgary-Elbow	Alison Redford
Calgary-Fish Creek	Heather Forsyth
Calgary-Foothills	Len Webber
Calgary-Fort	Wayne Cao
Calgary-Glenmore	Linda Johnson
Calgary-Greenway	Manmeet S. Bhullar
Calgary-Hawkwood	Jason Luan
Calgary-Hays	Richard William (Ric) McIver
Calgary-Klein	Kyle Fawcett
Calgary-Lougheed	Dave Rodney
Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill	Neil Brown
Calgary-McCall	Darshan S. Kang
Calgary-Mountain View	David Swann
Calgary-North West	Sandra Jansen
Calgary-Northern Hills	Teresa Woo-Paw
Calgary-Shaw	Jeff Wilson
Calgary-South East	Rick Fraser
Calgary-Varsity	Donna Kennedy-Glans
Calgary-West	Ken Hughes
Cardston-Taber-Warner	Gary Bikman
Chestermere-Rocky View	Bruce McAllister
Cypress-Medicine Hat	Drew Barnes
Drayton Valley-Devon	Diana McQueen
Drumheller-Stettler	Rick Strankman
Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley	Hector Goudreau
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	Deron Bilous
Edmonton-Calder	David Eggen
Edmonton-Castle Downs	Thomas Lukaszuk

Edmonton-Centre	Laurie Blakeman
Edmonton-Decore	Janice Sarich
Edmonton-Ellerslie	Naresh Bhardwai
Edmonton-Glenora	Heather Klimchuk
Edmonton-Gold Bar	David C. Dorward
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	Brian Mason
Edmonton-Manning	Peter Sandhu
Edmonton-McClung	David Xiao
Edmonton-Meadowlark	Raj Sherman
Edmonton-Mill Creek	Gene Zwozdesky
Edmonton-Mill Woods	Sohail Quadri
Edmonton-Riverview	Steve Young
Edmonton-Rutherford	Fred Horne
Edmonton-South West	Matt Jeneroux
Edmonton-Strathcona	Rachel Notley
Edmonton-Whitemud	Dave Hancock
Fort McMurray-Conklin	Don Scott
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	Mike Allen
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	Jacquie Fenske
Grande Prairie-Smoky	Everett McDonald
Grande Prairie-Wapiti	Wayne Drysdale
Highwood	Danielle Smith
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	Kerry Towle
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills	Shayne Saskiw
Lacombe-Ponoka	Rod Fox
Leduc-Beaumont	George Rogers
Lesser Slave Lake	Pearl Calahasen
Lethbridge-East	Bridget Pastoor
Lethbridge-West	Greg Weadick
Little Bow	Ian Donovan
Livingstone-Macleod	Pat Stier
Medicine Hat	Blake Pedersen
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	Bruce Rowe
Peace River	Frank Oberle

Red Deer-North	Mary Anne Jablonski
Red Deer-South	Cal Dallas
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre	Joe Anglin
Sherwood Park	Cathy Olesen
Spruce Grove- St. Albert	Doug Horner
St. Albert	Stephen Khan
Stony Plain	Ken Lemke
Strathcona-Sherwood Park	Dave Quest
Strathmore-Brooks	Jason Hale
Vermilion-Lloydminster	Richard Starke
West Yellowhead	Robin Campbell
Wetaskiwin-Camrose	Verlyn Olson
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne	George VanderBurg

Government Motions

1. Moved by Hon. Ms Redford:

Be it resolved that the Speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration the week of May 28, 2012.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

2. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that Select Standing Committees for the present Legislature be appointed for the following purposes:

- (1) Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing,
- (2) Public Accounts,
- (3) Private Bills,
- (4) Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, and
- (5) Legislative Offices

and, in addition thereto, there be appointed for the present Legislature a Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

3. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that the following Members be appointed to the Assembly's five Select Standing Committees and one Special Standing Committee:

Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund (9 Members)

Quest (Chair)	Casey	Kubinec
Jablonski (Deputy Chair)	Dorward	Sandhu
Anderson	Eggen	Sherman

Legislative Offices (11 Members)

Xiao (Chair)	Brown	Quadri
McDonald (Deputy Chair)	DeLong	Rogers
Bikman	Eggen	Wilson
Blakeman	Leskiw	

Private Bills (21 Members)

Cao (Chair)	Fritz	Pastoor
Johnson (Calgary-Glenmore) (Deputy Chair)	Goudreau	Rowe
Barnes	Jeneroux	Sarich
Bhardwaj	Kennedy-Glans	Starke
Brown	Luan	Strankman
DeLong	Notley	Swann
Fox	Olesen	Webber

Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing (21 Members)

Starke (Chair)	Jansen	Notley
Lemke (Deputy Chair)	Jeneroux	Pedersen
Allen	Johnson (Calgary-Glenmore)	Sandhu
Amery	Kennedy-Glans	Saskiw
Bhardwaj	Kubinec	Towle
Casey	McAllister	Xiao
Hehr	McDonald	Young

Public Accounts (17 Members)

Anderson (Chair)	Calahasen	Hale
Dorward (Deputy Chair)	DeLong	Hehr
Allen	Donovan	Pastoor
Amery	Fenske	Quadri
Anglin	Fraser	Sarich
Bilous	Fritz	

Members' Services (11 Members)

Zwozdesky (Chair)	Forsyth	Quest
Young (Deputy Chair)	Goudreau	Sherman
Calahasen	Jablonski	Smith
Dorward	Mason	

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:51 p.m. until Monday, May 28, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Gene Zwozdesky,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, May 24, 2012