



Province of Alberta

The 28th Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Monday evening, April 22, 2013

Issue 50e

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 28th Legislature

First Session

Zwozdesky, Hon. Gene, Edmonton-Mill Creek (PC), Speaker
Rogers, George, Leduc-Beaumont (PC), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Jablonski, Mary Anne, Red Deer-North (PC), Deputy Chair of Committees

Allen, Mike, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (PC)
Amery, Moe, Calgary-East (PC)
Anderson, Rob, Airdrie (W),
Official Opposition House Leader
Anglin, Joe, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (W),
Official Opposition Whip
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)
Bhardwaj, Naresh, Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)
Bhullar, Hon. Manmeet Singh, Calgary-Greenway (PC)
Bikman, Gary, Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND)
Blakeman, Laurie, Edmonton-Centre (AL),
Liberal Opposition House Leader
Brown, Dr. Neil, QC, Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill (PC)
Calahasen, Pearl, Lesser Slave Lake (PC)
Campbell, Hon. Robin, West Yellowhead (PC),
Deputy Government House Leader
Cao, Wayne C.N., Calgary-Fort (PC)
Casey, Ron, Banff-Cochrane (PC)
Cusanelli, Christine, Calgary-Currie (PC)
Dallas, Hon. Cal, Red Deer-South (PC)
DeLong, Alana, Calgary-Bow (PC)
Denis, Hon. Jonathan, QC, Calgary-Acadia (PC),
Deputy Government House Leader
Donovan, Ian, Little Bow (W)
Dorward, David C., Edmonton-Gold Bar (PC)
Drysdale, Hon. Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)
Eggen, David, Edmonton-Calder (ND),
New Democrat Opposition Whip
Fawcett, Hon. Kyle, Calgary-Klein (PC)
Fenske, Jacquie, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (PC)
Forsyth, Heather, Calgary-Fish Creek (W)
Fox, Rodney M., Lacombe-Ponoka (W)
Fraser, Rick, Calgary-South East (PC)
Fritz, Yvonne, Calgary-Cross (PC)
Goudreau, Hector G., Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley (PC)
Griffiths, Hon. Doug, Battle River-Wainwright (PC)
Hale, Jason W., Strathmore-Brooks (W)
Hancock, Hon. Dave, QC, Edmonton-Whitemud (PC),
Government House Leader
Hehr, Kent, Calgary-Buffalo (AL)
Horne, Hon. Fred, Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)
Horner, Hon. Doug, Spruce Grove-St. Albert (PC)
Hughes, Hon. Ken, Calgary-West (PC)
Jansen, Sandra, Calgary-North West (PC)
Jeneroux, Matt, Edmonton-South West (PC)
Johnson, Hon. Jeff, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater (PC)
Johnson, Linda, Calgary-Glenmore (PC)
Kang, Darshan S., Calgary-McCall (AL),
Liberal Opposition Whip
Kennedy-Glans, Donna, Calgary-Varsity (PC)
Khan, Stephen, St. Albert (PC)
Klimchuk, Hon. Heather, Edmonton-Glenora (PC)
Kubinec, Maureen, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (PC)
Lemke, Ken, Stony Plain (PC)
Leskiw, Genia, Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)
Luan, Jason, Calgary-Hawkwood (PC)
Lukaszuk, Hon. Thomas A., Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)
Mason, Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (ND),
Leader of the New Democrat Opposition
McAllister, Bruce, Chestermere-Rocky View (W)
McDonald, Everett, Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)
McIver, Hon. Ric, Calgary-Hays (PC),
Deputy Government House Leader
McQueen, Hon. Diana, Drayton Valley-Devon (PC)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND),
New Democrat Opposition House Leader
Oberle, Hon. Frank, Peace River (PC)
Olesen, Cathy, Sherwood Park (PC)
Olson, Hon. Verlyn, QC, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)
Pastoor, Bridget Brennan, Lethbridge-East (PC)
Pedersen, Blake, Medicine Hat (W)
Quadri, Sohail, Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC)
Quest, Dave, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (PC)
Redford, Hon. Alison M., QC, Calgary-Elbow (PC),
Premier
Rodney, Hon. Dave, Calgary-Lougheed (PC)
Rowe, Bruce, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (W)
Sandhu, Peter, Edmonton-Manning (PC)
Sarich, Janice, Edmonton-Decore (PC)
Saskiw, Shayne, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills (W),
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Scott, Hon. Donald, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (PC)
Sherman, Dr. Raj, Edmonton-Meadowlark (AL),
Leader of the Liberal Opposition
Smith, Danielle, Highwood (W),
Leader of the Official Opposition
Starke, Hon. Dr. Richard, Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC)
Stier, Pat, Livingstone-Macleod (W)
Strankman, Rick, Drumheller-Stettler (W)
Swann, Dr. David, Calgary-Mountain View (AL)
Towle, Kerry, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (W),
Official Opposition Deputy Whip
VanderBurg, Hon. George, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne (PC)
Weadick, Hon. Greg, Lethbridge-West (PC)
Webber, Len, Calgary-Foothills (PC)
Wilson, Jeff, Calgary-Shaw (W)
Woo-Paw, Hon. Teresa, Calgary-Northern Hills (PC)
Xiao, David H., Edmonton-McClung (PC)
Young, Steve, Edmonton-Riverview (PC),
Government Whip

Party standings:

Progressive Conservative: 61

Wildrose: 17

Alberta Liberal: 5

New Democrat: 4

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

W.J. David McNeil, Clerk	Stephanie LeBlanc, Parliamentary Counsel and Legal Research Officer	Philip Massolin, Manager of Research Services
Robert H. Reynolds, QC, Law Clerk/ Director of Interparliamentary Relations	Fiona Vance, Sessional Parliamentary Counsel	Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms
Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel/Director of House Services	Nancy Robert, Research Officer	Chris Caughell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
		Gordon H. Munk, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
		Liz Sim, Managing Editor of <i>Alberta Hansard</i>

Executive Council

Alison Redford	Premier, President of Executive Council
Thomas Lukaszuk	Deputy Premier, Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education, Ministerial Liaison to the Canadian Forces
Manmeet Singh Bhullar	Minister of Service Alberta
Robin Campbell	Minister of Aboriginal Relations
Cal Dallas	Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations
Jonathan Denis	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Wayne Drysdale	Minister of Infrastructure
Kyle Fawcett	Associate Minister of Finance
Doug Griffiths	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Dave Hancock	Minister of Human Services
Fred Horne	Minister of Health
Doug Horner	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Ken Hughes	Minister of Energy
Jeff Johnson	Minister of Education
Heather Klimchuk	Minister of Culture
Ric McIver	Minister of Transportation
Diana McQueen	Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Frank Oberle	Associate Minister of Services for Persons with Disabilities
Verlyn Olson	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Dave Rodney	Associate Minister of Wellness
Donald Scott	Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation
Richard Starke	Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation
George VanderBurg	Associate Minister of Seniors
Greg Weadick	Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs
Teresa Woo-Paw	Associate Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

Chair: Mr. Amery
Deputy Chair: Mr. Fox

Bhardwaj	Olesen
Cao	Pastoor
Donovan	Quadri
Dorward	Rogers
Eggen	Rowe
Hehr	Sarich
Luan	Strankman
McDonald	Xiao

Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund

Chair: Mr. Khan
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Jablonski

Anderson
Casey
Dorward
Eggen
Kubinec
Sandhu
Sherman

Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee

Chair: Mr. Rogers
Deputy Chair: Mr. Quadri

Blakeman	Leskiw
Eggen	McDonald
Goudreau	Saskiw
Lemke	

Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee

Chair: Mr. Allen
Deputy Chair: Mr. Luan

Blakeman	Notley
Dorward	Saskiw
Fenske	Wilson
Johnson, L.	Young
McDonald	

Standing Committee on Families and Communities

Chair: Mr. Quest
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Forsyth

Brown	Jeneroux
Cusanelli	Leskiw
DeLong	Notley
Fraser	Pedersen
Fritz	Swann
Goudreau	Towle
Jablonski	Wilson
Jansen	Young

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Chair: Mr. Cao
Deputy Chair: Mr. McDonald

Bikman	Leskiw
Blakeman	Quadri
Brown	Rogers
DeLong	Wilson
Eggen	

Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

Chair: Mr. Zwozdesky
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rogers

Casey	Mason
Forsyth	McDonald
Fraser	Quest
Kennedy-Glans	Sherman
Glans	Smith

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Chair: Mr. Xiao
Deputy Chair: Ms L. Johnson

Barnes	Jablonski
Bhardwaj	Leskiw
Brown	Notley
Cusanelli	Olesen
DeLong	Rowe
Fox	Strankman
Fritz	Swann
Goudreau	Webber

Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing

Chair: Ms Olesen
Deputy Chair: Mr. Lemke

Calahasen	McAllister
Cao	Notley
Casey	Pedersen
Hehr	Rogers
Jansen	Sandhu
Kennedy-Glans	Saskiw
Kubinec	Towle
Luan	Young

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Chair: Mr. Anderson
Deputy Chair: Mr. Dorward

Allen	Hehr
Amery	Jeneroux
Anglin	Khan
Bilous	Pastoor
Donovan	Quadri
Fenske	Quest
Goudreau	Sarich
Hale	Stier

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

Chair: Ms Kennedy-Glans
Deputy Chair: Mr. Anglin

Allen	Hale
Barnes	Johnson, L.
Bikman	Khan
Bilous	Kubinec
Blakeman	Lemke
Calahasen	Sandhu
Casey	Stier
Fenske	Webber

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

9:30 p.m.

Monday, April 22, 2013

Committee of Supply

[Mr. Rogers in the chair]

The Chair: Hon. members, I would now call the Committee of Supply to order. Members, please take your seats.

Hon. members, prior to beginning, the chair will outline the process for this evening's proceedings. The Committee of Supply will first call on the chairs of the legislative policy committees to report on their meetings with the various ministries under their mandate. No vote is required when these reports are presented according to Standing Order 59.01(10).

Members are reminded that there were amendments introduced during the legislative policy committee meetings, so the committee will vote on all proposed amendments.

The committee will then proceed to the vote on the estimates of the Legislative Assembly as approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. The vote for the main estimates will then take place.

Finally, the chair would like to remind all hon. members of Standing Order 32(3.1), which provides that after the first division is called in Committee of Supply during the vote on the main estimates, the interval between division bells shall be reduced to one minute for any subsequent division.

Committee Reports

The Chair: I would now invite the chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future to present the committee's report. The hon. Member for Calgary-East.

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As chair of the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2013-2014 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, two hours; Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education, three hours; Executive Council, two hours; Ministry of Infrastructure, two hours; Ministry of International and Intergovernmental Relations, two hours; Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, two hours.

Mr. Chair, I would like to table amendments to the following ministries that were introduced during our meetings for the Committee of Supply's consideration: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, one amendment; Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education, one amendment; Executive Council, one amendment; Ministry of Infrastructure, one amendment; Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, one amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I'd also like to table copies of documents tabled during consideration of the main estimates for the official record of the Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

I would now call on the acting chair of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities to present the committee's report. The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

Ms Kennedy-Glans: Thank you. On behalf of the chair of Standing Committee on Families and Communities and pursuant to

Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2013-14 proposed estimates and business plans for the following ministries: Ministry of Culture, two hours; Ministry of Education, six hours; Ministry of Health, six hours; Ministry of Human Services, six hours; Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, six hours; Ministry of Service Alberta, three hours.

I'd like to table amendments to the following ministries that were introduced during our meetings for the Committee of Supply's consideration: Ministry of Culture, one amendment; Ministry of Education, one amendment; Ministry of Health, one amendment; Ministry of Human Services, one amendment; Ministry of Service Alberta, one amendment.

The Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

I would now call the chair of the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship. Again the Member for Calgary-Varsity.

Ms Kennedy-Glans: Thank you. As chair for the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship and pursuant to Standing Order 59.01(10) I am pleased to report that the committee has reviewed the 2013-14 proposed estimates and business plans for the following departments: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, two hours; Ministry of Energy, six hours; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, six hours; Ministry of Municipal Affairs, five hours; Ministry of Transportation, three hours; Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance, six hours.

I'd also like to table amendments to the following departments that were introduced during our meetings for the Committee of Supply's consideration: Ministry of Energy, one amendment; Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, one amendment; Ministry of Municipal Affairs, one amendment; Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance, one amendment; Ministry of Transportation, one amendment.

I would also like to table copies of a document tabled during consideration of the main estimates for the official record of the Assembly.

Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, hon. member.

Vote on Main Estimates 2013-14

The Chair: Hon. members, the next order of business is the vote on the amendments introduced during the legislative policy committee meetings. There are a total of 15 amendments, and they will be identified as amendments A1 through A15. Members have received copies of all the amendments on your desks. We will begin with A1 and carry on in sequence.

- A1. Mr. Donovan moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development be reduced as follows:
- for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 22 by \$205,000,
 - for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 22 by \$54,000,
 - for corporate services under reference 1.4 at page 22 by \$1,900,000,
 - for communications under reference 1.5 at page 22 by \$36,000,
 - for human resources under reference 1.6 at page 22 by \$224,000, and
 - for policy, strategy and intergovernmental affairs under reference 2.3 at page 22 by \$120,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 21 for operational is \$557,021,000.

[Motion on amendment A1 lost]

A2. Mr. Pedersen moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Culture be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 36 by \$119,000,
- (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 36 by \$30,000,
- (c) for human resources under reference 1.3 at page 36 by \$156,000,
- (d) for communications under reference 1.4 at page 36 by \$45,000,
- (e) for program support under reference 2.1 at page 36 by \$452,000,
- (f) for program support under reference 3.1 at page 36 by \$359,000,
- (g) for community engagement under reference 3.2 at page 36 by \$2,268,000, and
- (h) for program support under reference 4.1 at page 36 by \$316,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 35 for operational is \$137,410,000.

[Motion on amendment A2 lost]

A3. Mr. McAllister moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Education be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 52 by \$101,000,
- (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 52 by \$137,000,
- (c) for the corporate services under reference 1.3 at page 52 by \$1,761,000, and
- (d) for the information and program services under reference 1.4 at page 52 by \$2,817,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 51 for operational is \$4,011,441,000.

[Motion on amendment A3 lost]

A4. Mr. Anglin moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Energy be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 66 by \$44,000,
- (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 66 by \$19,000,
- (c) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 66 by \$127,000,
- (d) for corporate services under reference 1.4 at page 66 by \$227,000,
- (e) for biofuel initiatives under reference 3 at page 66 by \$32,000,000, and
- (f) for costs of marketing oil under reference 4 at page 66 by \$3,100,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 65 for operational is \$196,566,000.

[Motion on amendment A4 lost]

A5. Mr. McAllister moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 78 by \$79,000,
- (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 78 by \$70,000,
- (c) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 78 by \$110,000,
- (d) for corporate services under reference 1.4 at page 78 by \$3,156,000,
- (e) for corporate costs under reference 1.5 at page 78 by \$241,000,
- (f) for international partnerships under reference 1.6 at page 78 by \$153,000, and
- (g) for transfer to Alberta Enterprise Corporation under reference 5.5 on page 78 by \$1,149,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 77 for operational is \$2,588,567,000.

[Motion on amendment A5 lost]

A6. Mr. Stier moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 92 by \$198,000,
- (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 92 by \$60,000,
- (c) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 92 by \$246,000,
- (d) for human resources under reference 1.4 at page 92 by \$444,000,
- (e) for legal services under reference 1.5 at page 92 by \$115,000,
- (f) for corporate services under reference 1.6 at page 92 by \$2,097,000, and
- (g) for Land Use Secretariat under reference 5.4 at page 92 by \$1,482,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 91 for operational is \$456,676,000.

[Motion on amendment A6 lost]

A7. Ms Smith moved that the estimates for Executive Council be reduced as follows:

- (a) for Public Affairs corporate services under reference 2.1 at page 110 by \$1,437,000 and
- (b) for Public Affairs corporate communications under reference 2.2 at page 110 by \$8,563,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 109 for operational is \$38,430,000.

[The voice vote indicated that the motion on amendment A7 lost]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 9:36 p.m.]

[Ten minutes having elapsed, the committee divided]

[Mr. Rogers in the chair]

For the motion:

Anderson	Fox	Sherman
Anglin	Hale	Smith
Barnes	Hehr	Stier
Bikman	Kang	Strankman
Bilous	McAllister	Swann
Blakeman	Pedersen	Towle
Donovan	Rowe	Wilson
Eggen	Saskiw	

Against the motion:

Allen	Fritz	Lemke
Amery	Goudreau	Leskiw
Bhardwaj	Griffiths	McDonald
Calahasen	Hancock	Oberle
Campbell	Horner	Olesen
Cao	Hughes	Pastoor
Casey	Jablonski	Quadri
Cusanelli	Jansen	Sandhu
Dallas	Jeneroux	Sarich
Denis	Johnson, J.	Scott
Dorward	Johnson, L.	Starke
Drysdale	Kennedy-Glans	VanderBurg
Fawcett	Khan	Weadick
Fenske	Klimchuk	Xiao
Fraser	Kubinec	

Totals: For – 23 Against – 44

[Motion on amendment A7 lost]

A8. Mrs. Towle moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Health be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 116 by \$27,000,
- (b) for the associate ministers' offices under reference 1.2 at page 116 by \$548,000,
- (c) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.3 at page 116 by \$60,000,
- (d) for communications under reference 1.4 at page 116 by \$1,001,000,
- (e) for strategic corporate support under reference 1.5 at page 116 by \$6,547,000, and
- (f) for policy development and strategic support under reference 1.6 at page 116 by \$1,733,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 115 for operational is \$17,010,573,000.

[Motion on amendment A8 lost]

A9. Mr. Wilson moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Human Services be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the associate minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 126 by \$256,000,
- (b) for strategic services under reference 1.5 at page 126 by \$1,732,000, and
- (c) for corporate services under reference 1.6 at page 126 by \$1,164,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 125 for operational is \$4,236,493,000.

[Motion on amendment A9 lost]

9:50

A10. Mr. Barnes moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Infrastructure be reduced as follows:
under operational vote by program

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 150 by \$29,000,
 - (b) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 150 by \$39,000,
 - (c) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 150 by \$27,000,
 - (d) for strategic services under reference 1.4 at page 150 by \$629,000,
 - (e) for strategic capital planning under reference 4 at page 150 by \$128,000,
- under capital vote by program
- (f) for strategic capital planning under reference 4 at page 150 by \$125,000, and
 - (g) for government-owned facilities preservation under reference 5.3 at page 151 by \$1,000,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 149 for operational is \$506,518,000, and the amount to be voted at page 149 for capital is \$782,400,000.

[Motion on amendment A10 lost]

A11. Mr. Rowe moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 182 by \$339,000,
- (b) for the associate minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 182 by \$285,000,
- (c) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.3 at page 182 by \$110,000,
- (d) for support services under reference 1.4 at page 182 by \$824,000,
- (e) for major legislative projects and strategic planning under reference 2.1 at page 182 by \$1,255,000,
- (f) for municipal services under reference 2.2 at page 182 by \$1,736,000,
- (g) for grants and education property tax under reference 2.3 at page 182 by \$1,353,000,
- (h) for assessment services under reference 2.4 at page 182 by \$883,000, and
- (i) for the Municipal Government Board under reference 8 at page 182 by \$178,000

so that the amount to be voted at page 181 for operational is \$402,375,000.

[Motion on amendment A11 lost]

A12. Mrs. Forsyth moved that the estimates for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 196 of the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Service Alberta be reduced by \$255,000 so that the amount to be voted at page 195 for operational is \$302,063,000.

[Motion on amendment A12 lost]

A13. Mr. Strankman moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Tourism, Parks and Recreation be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 206 by \$162,000 and

- (b) for the assistance to Travel Alberta corporation under reference 2.5 at page 206 by \$10,000,000 so that the amount to be voted at page 205 for operational is \$144,196,000.

[Motion on amendment A13 lost]

A14. Mr. Barnes moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Transportation be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 220 by \$150,000,
 (b) for communications under reference 1.3 at page 220 by \$26,000,
 (c) for strategic services under reference 1.4 at page 220 by \$1,723,000,
 (d) for traffic safety services under reference 3 at page 220 by \$1,473,000, and
 (e) for the grant to Alberta Transportation Safety Board under reference 4 at page 220 by \$121,000 so that the amount to be voted at page 219 for operational is \$474,633,000.

[Motion on amendment A14 lost]

A15. Mr. Bikman moved that the 2013-14 main estimates of the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance be reduced as follows:

- (a) for the minister's office under reference 1.1 at page 234 by \$137,000,
 (b) for the associate minister's office under reference 1.2 at page 234 by \$266,000,
 (c) for the deputy minister's office under reference 1.3 at page 234 by \$149,000,
 (d) for the strategic and business services under reference 1.4 at page 234 by \$2,265,000,
 (e) for communications under reference 1.5 at page 234 by \$153,000,
 (f) for budget development and reporting under reference 2 at page 234 by \$1,132,000,
 (g) for fiscal planning and economic analysis under reference 3 at page 234 by \$1,164,000,
 (h) for risk management and insurance under reference 4.2 at page 234 by \$332,000,
 (i) for the office of the Controller under reference 5 at page 234 by \$873,000,
 (j) for the corporate internal audit services under reference 6 at page 234 by \$827,000,
 (k) for tax and revenue management under reference 7 at page 234 by \$6,956,000,
 (l) for the financial sector regulation and policy under reference 8.1 at page 234 by \$1,322,000,
 (m) for the Automobile Insurance Rate Board under reference 8.2 at page 234 by \$290,000, and
 (n) for air services under reference 9 at page 234 by \$908,000 so that the amount to be voted at page 233 for operational is \$114,531,000.

[Motion on amendment A15 lost]

The Chair: Hon. members, we will now proceed to the vote on the estimates for the Legislative Assembly Office as approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. Pursuant to Standing Order 59.03(5), which requires that the estimates of the offices of the Legislative Assembly be decided without debate or amendment prior to the vote on the main estimates, I must now

put the question on all matters relating to the 2013-14 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014.

Agreed to:

Offices of the Legislative Assembly \$128,616,000

The Chair: Shall the vote be reported?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? So ordered.

We shall now proceed to the final vote on the main estimates. Those members in favour of the resolution for the 2013-14 government estimates for the general revenue fund and the lottery fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, please say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Chair: Those opposed, please say no. That motion is carried.

I would now invite the hon. Government House Leader to move that the committee rise and report the 2013-14 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates and the 2013-14 government estimates for the general revenue fund and the lottery fund.

Mr. Hancock: So moved, Mr. Chair.

[Motion carried]

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-East.

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions relating to the 2013-14 offices of the Legislative Assembly estimates and the 2013-14 government estimates for the general revenue fund and the lottery fund, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again.

Mr. Speaker, the following resolutions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014, have been approved.

Offices of the Legislative Assembly.

Support to the Legislative Assembly, \$71,421,000; office of the Auditor General, \$26,635,000; office of the Ombudsman, \$3,359,000; office of the Chief Electoral Officer, \$5,683,000; office of the Ethics Commissioner, \$967,000; office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, \$6,867,000; office of the Child and Youth Advocate, \$12,224,000; office of the Public Interest Commissioner, \$1,460,000.

Mr. Speaker, the government main estimates.

Aboriginal Relations: operational, \$166,965,000; capital, \$25,000.

Agriculture and Rural Development: operational, \$559,560,000; capital, \$24,196,000.

Culture: operational, \$141,155,000; capital, \$53,100,000; financial transactions, \$2,243,000.

Education: operational, \$4,016,257,000; capital, \$505,235,000; financial transactions, \$21,899,000.

Energy: operational, \$232,083,000; capital, \$6,315,000; financial transactions, \$30,500,000.

Enterprise and Advanced Education: operational, \$2,593,525,000; capital, \$68,347,000; financial transactions, \$425,000,000.

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development: operational, \$461,318,000; capital, \$65,916,000; financial transactions, \$1,410,000.

Executive Council: operational, \$48,430,000.

Health: operational, \$17,020,489,000; capital, \$104,450,000; financial transactions, \$50,226,000.

Human Services: operational, \$4,239,645,000; capital, \$9,442,000.

Infrastructure: operational, \$507,370,000; capital, \$783,525,000; financial transactions, \$52,000,000.

International and Intergovernmental Relations: operational, \$37,144,000; capital, \$25,000.

Justice and Solicitor General: operational, \$1,193,526,000; capital, \$87,412,000.

Municipal Affairs: operational, \$409,338,000; capital, \$855,740,000.

Service Alberta: operational, \$302,318,000; capital, \$40,524,000; financial transactions, \$8,750,000.

Tourism, Parks and Recreation: operational, \$154,358,000; capital, \$18,812,000.

Transportation: operational, \$478,126,000; capital, \$1,935,408,000; financial transactions, \$63,914,000.

Treasury Board and Finance: operational, \$131,305,000; capital, \$2,853,000; financial transactions, \$20,125,000; lottery fund transfer, \$1,485,671,000.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my report.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Does the Assembly concur in the report?

Hon. Members: Concur.

The Deputy Speaker: Opposed? So ordered.

10:00

Introduction of Bills

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance.

Bill 20 Appropriation Act, 2013

Mr. Horner: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 20, the Appropriation Act, 2013. This being a money bill, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having been informed of the contents of this bill, recommends the same to the Assembly.

[Motion carried; Bill 20 read a first time]

Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

Bill 14 RCMP Health Coverage Statutes Amendment Act, 2013

[Adjourned debate April 18: Mr. VanderBurg]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills.

Mr. Saskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise and speak to Bill 14, the RCMP Health Coverage Statutes Amendment Act, 2013, in second reading. As the Assembly is well aware, this bill will fill the gap that is coming from the federal government in the provision of health care coverage for RCMP officers in Alberta. This is a very important bill, and I am pleased to stand in support of it. This bill is going to afford a vital provision for health care coverage for RCMP officers in Alberta. This provision was granted through federal legislation until recently.

We as Albertans must step up and ensure RCMP in our province don't lose their coverage. It is important that this

Assembly does what it can to support these men and women. I do thank the minister for putting this bill forward in such a manner that it can be supported by all members of the Assembly. I don't think there's a single member in this Assembly who disagrees with the assertion that the RCMP deserve this sort of coverage. These brave men and women proudly serve Albertans with a special focus on small towns and rural communities. The protection they provide and the feeling of security it produces profoundly affect Alberta province-wide.

The examples abound. When the RCMP shuts down a gang that is trying to establish itself in a small town, parents can rest assured knowing their children won't be targeted as new members. When the RCMP shuts down a grow op or a meth lab, the innocent neighbours are no longer victims to the threat of violence or danger to their wealth. When the RCMP engages with students in their school and teaches them about important issues, from the rules of the road to explaining the basic structure of the criminal court system, they make connections that inspire these students and help keep our communities safer and more productive.

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that this is a necessary bill which will ensure that we as Albertans do our due diligence to ensure that those who protect us are properly covered when it comes to health care issues. These RCMP officers deserve no less. I ask all members to take the opportunity this bill presents to engage with their local RCMP detachment, thank those officers for their services, and assure them that we as parliamentarians have their back.

Again, I'd like to thank the minister for putting this bill forward, and I encourage all members to vote in favour of this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak in favour of this bill. I'm a little flabbergasted that the federal government would punt the RCMP off their health care insurance plan, but they did. It's one of those cases where the province has got to step in and pick them up and offer them the opportunity to sign on to the provincial program. You know, how could we not? And I'm glad that the provincial government did do that. That's a bit of a staggering concept, that you'd punt the RCMP, isn't it? But there you go.

In fact, they have a very short bill, and that's exactly what they do. They used to have the RCMP specifically excluded, and they've basically taken that exclusion out, so now they are included. Thank you for stepping up and doing that, but I will remind the government that the municipalities do this on your behalf many times. Keep that in mind, will you?

Thanks so much.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

I'll recognize the hon. Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to echo the comments from the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills as well as the Member for Edmonton-Centre. At the end of the day every one of us likely knows that when we get up in the morning and we go to work, we're going to be coming back to our friends and family later, at night. Our RCMP don't have that luxury. They put themselves often in harm's way. Many times they don't know, necessarily, that they're going to be coming home to their friends and family that particular night.

Mr. Speaker, in the year and a half or so that I've been Solicitor General for this province I can tell you that I've actually visited some RCMP in hospital that have suffered gunshot wounds while in the line of duty. This is a very serious matter.

I'm very happy to see multiparty support for this particular initiative, and I thank all the members opposite for supporting it. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. minister.

The hon. Member for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, followed by Calgary-Buffalo.

Mrs. Towle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege to rise today to speak on Bill 14, the RCMP Health Coverage Statutes Amendment Act, 2013. I would like to thank the Associate Minister of Seniors for bringing this forward as I believe it's a bill that all parties can support.

We know that the RCMP officers who serve and live in Alberta are some of the finest citizens in many of our rural and urban communities. They're the officers who keep our streets safe and are among the special few who are brave enough to put their lives on the line to ensure that our communities are protected. There was an all-too-real example of this earlier this year when we heard about a sheriff in the town of Whitecourt who sustained a serious hand injury from a prisoner fleeing the scene.

With the type of sacrifices these officers make here in the province, having the province recognize our RCMP officers and provide coverage for them now through the province is an important first step. These are men and women who are serving and protecting, and it seems appropriate for us to recognize that in adjustments to our own health care legislation. These are also men and women who serve in our communities and volunteer their time with our children. Further, with RCMP officers being provincial taxpayers for our great province, it only makes sense that the taxes they pay into are part of the provincial insurance coverage that Albertans across our province universally enjoy.

Now, there are some minor concerns about this bill on how the changes will be financed. My understanding of the history of health coverage for the RCMP officers is that they were exempted from provincial insurance coverage because the Canada Health Act did not list them as an insured person. As a result, the federal government covered their insurance needs in the past.

I know that the federal government has done some important work in securing long-term sustainable funding in transfers to the provinces, announcing that beginning in 2014-2015 the Canada health transfer payment will now be made on an equal per capita cash basis only. These transfer payments finally recognize that Canadians, no matter where they live, are deserving of extra payment and will allow Alberta to receive further funding from the federal government, and we thank them for that. All the same, it would be good to know if this government planned for the extra funding required to now list our RCMP officers to be included for provincial insurance coverage here in Alberta, what the total cost of it was, and how it was to be paid.

Outside of these concerns it's obvious that these changes are part of the maintenance required by the provincial government due to the appropriate changes from the federal government providing more autonomy for the provinces to provide provincial care for the brave RCMP officers who serve our community. With some further clarity from the province on some of the more technical aspects of this bill, this legislation will have my support and will be an important first step in making our RCMP officers more tightly bound with the communities they so bravely serve each and every day.

On a side note, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the RCMP officers who donate their time, who volunteer in our communities, who offer programs such as the DARE program, which my 11-year-old daughter recently completed, and who help to educate our children and also bring stability and safety to many of our communities, whether they're in the rural communities or in the urban communities all across this province.

Thank you again to the Associate Minister of Seniors.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Seeing none, I recognize the Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

Mr. Hehr: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be quick. I'd like to thank the Associate Minister of Seniors for putting forward this bill. It seems like an appropriate thing to do, to cover RCMP officers working in Alberta with coverage under our health care system.

It seems odd, like the Member for Edmonton-Centre indicated, that the federal government, who primarily runs the RCMP program, would be getting out of the business of providing them health care, but I guess that is the day and age that we live in. We often see governments downloading responsibility to other levels of government and expecting them to foot the bill.

10:10

Inevitably it's the senior levels of government, both federal and provincial, that have the taxation power. When we do that in this House particularly, I guess, to our municipalities and further on down the line, they don't have the power of taxation that we have here. We should recognize that if we don't have the ability to pay or the guts to raise revenue, one of the two, then it's even doubly more difficult for those jurisdictions that don't have the ability to do such a thing. We should keep that in mind when we download our services.

Just a quick comment, a big shout-out to the RCMP on what they do for all citizens of not only this great province but of our nation. I recognize that they do a difficult job and often have to deal with people when they're at their worst, whether they're in a crime situation, a domestic dispute, or are simply pulling someone over on the highway for speeding. It's not always the easiest to deal with human beings who are not always happy to see them, yet they do it with honour and respect and an ability to serve our communities and keep us safe.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this bill. It's good that we're doing such a thing when the federal government doesn't seem able or fit to do the coverage for the RCMP.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Seeing none, the Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise. There are a lot of issues relating to this transfer of authority, transfer of costs, transfer of responsibility to the provincial government. No question that the RCMP are a credible, important player in our security in the provinces and in Alberta. I guess my one registered concern – and I hope the government is listening – is that this is yet another example of downloading onto the province without a serious debate, without a serious discussion of why we would take on a significant extra funding requirement at a time, particularly, when the federal government appears to be withdrawing from health care funding in this country. At one time, when medicare was brought in, they paid 50 per cent to the provinces for health care. It's now a fraction of that, and in 2014

the federal government is going to cut even more from their contributions to health care, as I understand it, probably to below 10 per cent of what our health care budgets are.

In addition, having watched this Prime Minister and his omnibus bills and his defiance of due process in the Parliament of Canada and the downloading of environmental impact assessments to the province, navigable waters, now relegated to the province to manage, this federal government is clearly trying to deal with fiscal problems as well as other issues by simply downloading. I guess I'm a bit surprised at this government that it doesn't have any push-back, it doesn't have any debate, and it doesn't have any comments about how this government is slowly but surely downloading more and more responsibilities onto the province without any debate or discussion.

Having said that, I will be supporting the bill. It's clear we have to support our RCMP. It was a bureaucratic process that they had to run through to get their bills paid that's unnecessary, really. But it does reflect a very dangerous trend, in my view, that this federal government is looking to balance its own books on the backs of the provinces.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Are there other speakers?

Seeing none, hon. associate minister, would you like to close debate?

Mr. VanderBurg: Well, I would like to thank all members of the Assembly for their kind remarks. I think all of us know the situation that went on in Mayerthorpe in my constituency, and none of us would ever deny the RCMP and their families this right just like any other Albertan.

I ask for your support, and I call the question.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

[Motion carried unanimously; Bill 14 read a second time]

Government Motions

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee

31. Mr. Hancock moved:

Be it resolved that:

- (1) A Select Special Chief Electoral Officer Search Committee of the Legislative Assembly be appointed consisting of the following members, namely Mr. Rogers, chair; Mr. Quadri, deputy chair; Ms Blakeman; Mr. Eggen; Mr. Goudreau; Mr. Lemke; Mrs. Leskiw; Mr. McDonald; and Mr. Saskiw, for the purpose of inviting applications for the position of Chief Electoral Officer and to recommend to the Assembly the applicant it considers most suitable to this position.
- (2) Reasonable disbursements by the committee for advertising, staff assistance, equipment and supplies, rent, travel, and other expenditures necessary for the effective conduct of its responsibilities shall be paid, subject to the approval of the chair.

- (3) In carrying out its responsibilities, the committee may with the concurrence of the head of the department utilize the services of members of the public service employed in that department and of the staff employed by the Assembly.
- (4) The committee may without leave of the Assembly sit during a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued.
- (5) When its work has been completed, the committee shall report to the Assembly if it is sitting. During a period when the Assembly is adjourned or prorogued, the committee may release its report by depositing a copy with the Clerk and forwarding a copy to each member of the Assembly.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to move Government Motion 31. As we know, as was tabled by the Speaker some weeks ago, Brian Fjeldheim, the current Chief Electoral Officer, has determined that he does not want to seek a renewal of his term, which expires, I think, today. As such, it's necessary to go through the process with a committee. A special select committee is usually the process undertaken to seek candidates for this very, very important job in our province, and I would ask for the support of the House in passing this so that the committee can now begin to meet and start its work to find a new Chief Electoral Officer for the province of Alberta.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. Government House Leader.

Are there speakers to the motion? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's always interesting to me how the government chooses to decide on the allocation of seats for committees such as this. This is considered a subcommittee of the Legislative Offices Committee, which leads us into the wider conversation about how those seats are assigned. I find fault with this government for continually narrowing the number of seats that are available to members of the opposition.

I have offered up an alternative, as I am wont to do. I think that to better represent the people of Alberta, these committees should be peopled on the basis of the popular vote, which I think would give us a nice redistribution of the seats on all of the select special, standing, and legislative policy committees as a counterbalance to the steadfast and block-like voting that we get from the government members. Just a little thing for you all to consider. I can tell that it's receiving an overwhelmingly thudding response.

Nonetheless, it is always top of mind for us because it is used in a quite heavy-handed way, and it's very frustrating to sit on these committees, to do good work, to work hard, to do your research, and to be constantly voted down by a government majority who just comes in and votes as a block. It's very frustrating. Nonetheless, I'm sure that myself and the other members of the opposition will continue to do the good work that we do, but I just thought I'd put that little thorn, that little pointy bit that might be a petard, underneath the, ahem, lower extremities of the members of the government.

Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you, hon. member.

Are there others that wish to speak to this?

Seeing none, the hon. Government House Leader to close debate or call the question.

Mr. Hancock: Call the question.

The Deputy Speaker: The question has been called.

[Government Motion 31 carried]

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, much to my surprise we are finished the business that we wanted to accomplish tonight but for one bill, which, I understand, given a little bit more time members will be

prepared to pass with alacrity. Rather than waste time talking about it tonight, I would move that we adjourn till 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 10:20 p.m. to Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.]

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