



Province of Alberta

The 28th Legislature  
Third Session

# Alberta Hansard

Monday, November 17, 2014

Issue 1

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 28th Legislature

Third 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 (Ind)  
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (W)  
Bhardwaj, Hon. Naresh, Edmonton-Ellerslie (PC)  
Bhullar, Hon. Manmeet Singh, Calgary-Greenway (PC)  
Bikman, Gary, Cardston-Taber-Warner (W)  
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (ND),  
    New Democrat Opposition Whip  
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)  
Cao, Wayne C.N., Calgary-Fort (PC)  
Casey, Ron, Banff-Cochrane (PC)  
Cusanelli, Christine, Calgary-Currie (PC)  
Dallas, Cal, Red Deer-South (PC)  
DeLong, Alana, Calgary-Bow (PC)  
Denis, Hon. Jonathan, QC, Calgary-Acadia (PC),  
    Government House Leader  
Dirks, Hon. Gordon, Calgary-Elbow (PC)  
Donovan, Ian, Little Bow (W)  
Dorward, Hon. David C., Edmonton-Gold Bar (PC)  
Drysdale, Hon. Wayne, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)  
Eggen, David, Edmonton-Calder (ND),  
    New Democrat Opposition House Leader  
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (PC)  
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, Doug, Battle River-Wainwright (PC)  
Hale, Jason W., Strathmore-Brooks (W)  
Hehr, Kent, Calgary-Buffalo (AL)  
Horne, Fred, Edmonton-Rutherford (PC)  
Horner, Doug, Spruce Grove-St. Albert (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, QC, Calgary-Varsity (PC)  
Khan, Hon. Stephen, St. Albert (PC)  
Klimchuk, Hon. Heather, Edmonton-Glenora (PC),  
    Deputy Government House Leader  
Kubinec, Hon. Maureen, Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (PC)  
Lemke, Ken, Stony Plain (PC),  
    Deputy Government Whip  
Leskiw, Genia, Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)  
Luan, Jason, Calgary-Hawkwood (PC)  
Lukaszuk, Thomas A., Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)  
Mandel, Hon. Stephen, Edmonton-Whitemud (PC)  
Mason, Brian, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (ND)  
McAllister, Bruce, Chestermere-Rocky View (W)  
McDonald, Everett, Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)  
McIver, Hon. Ric, Calgary-Hays (PC)  
McQueen, Hon. Diana, Drayton Valley-Devon (PC)  
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (ND),  
    Leader of the New Democrat Opposition  
Oberle, Hon. Frank, Peace River (PC),  
    Deputy Government House Leader  
Olesen, Cathy, Sherwood Park (PC)  
Olson, Hon. Verlyn, QC, Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)  
Pastoor, Bridget Brennan, Lethbridge-East (PC)  
Pedersen, Blake, Medicine Hat (W)  
Prentice, Hon. Jim, PC, QC, Calgary-Foothills (PC),  
    Premier  
Quadri, Sohail, Edmonton-Mill Woods (PC)  
Quest, Dave, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (PC)  
Rodney, 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 Whip  
Scott, Hon. Donald, QC, Fort McMurray-Conklin (PC),  
    Deputy Government House Leader  
Sherman, Dr. Raj, Edmonton-Meadowlark (AL),  
    Leader of the Liberal Opposition  
Smith, Danielle, Highwood (W),  
    Leader of the Official Opposition  
Starke, 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, George, Whitecourt-Ste. Anne (PC),  
    Government Whip  
Weadick, Greg, Lethbridge-West (PC)  
Wilson, Jeff, Calgary-Shaw (W),  
    Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Woo-Paw, Hon. Teresa, Calgary-Northern Hills (PC)  
Xiao, David H., Edmonton-McClung (PC)  
Young, Steve, Edmonton-Riverview (PC)

### Party standings:

Progressive Conservative: 61      Wildrose: 16      Alberta Liberal: 5      New Democrat: 4      Independent: 1

### Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

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

## **Executive Council**

Jim Prentice	Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, Minister of Aboriginal Relations
Naresh Bhardwaj	Associate Minister of Persons with Disabilities
Manmeet Singh Bhullar	Minister of Infrastructure
Robin Campbell	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Jonathan Denis	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Gordon Dirks	Minister of Education
David Dorward	Associate Minister of Aboriginal Relations
Wayne Drysdale	Minister of Transportation
Kyle Fawcett	Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Jeff Johnson	Minister of Seniors
Stephen Khan	Minister of Service Alberta
Heather Klimchuk	Minister of Human Services
Maureen Kubinec	Minister of Culture and Tourism
Stephen Mandel	Minister of Health
Ric McIver	Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour
Diana McQueen	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Frank Oberle	Minister of Energy
Verlyn Olson	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Donald Scott	Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education
Teresa Woo-Paw	Associate Minister of Asia Pacific 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

Eggen	Pastoor
Hehr	Quadri
Kennedy-Glans	Rogers
Kubinec	Rowe
Lemke	Sarich
Luan	Stier
McDonald	

**Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund**

Chair: Mr. Casey  
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Jablonski

Amery	Khan
Barnes	Sherman
Dorward	Vacant
Eggen	

**Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Olesen  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Pedersen

Cusanelli	Leskiw
DeLong	McAllister
Fenske	Notley
Fox	Prentice
Fritz	Sandhu
Jablonski	Swann
Jeneroux	

**Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Chair: Mr. Jeneroux  
Deputy Chair: Mr. McDonald

Bikman	Leskiw
Blakeman	Quadri
Brown	Wilson
DeLong	Young
Eggen	

**Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

Chair: Mr. Zwozdesky  
Deputy Chair: Mr. VanderBurg

Casey	Mason
Forsyth	McDonald
Fritz	Sherman
Johnson, L.	Towle
Kubinec	

**Standing Committee on Private Bills**

Chair: Mr. Xiao  
Deputy Chair: Mrs. Leskiw

Allen	Notley
Brown	Olesen
Cusanelli	Rowe
DeLong	Stier
Fenske	Strankman
Fritz	Swann
Jablonski	

**Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing**

Chair: Ms Kubinec  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rogers

Calahasen	Pastoor
Casey	Pedersen
Kang	Saskiw
Khan	VanderBurg
Luan	Wilson
Notley	Young
Olesen	

**Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Chair: Mr. Anderson  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Dorward

Allen	Khan
Amery	Luan
Barnes	Pastoor
Bilous	Sandhu
Donovan	Sarich
Hehr	Young
Jeneroux	

**Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Mr. Khan  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Hale

Allen	Cao
Anglin	Casey
Bikman	Goudreau
Bilous	Johnson, L.
Blakeman	Xiao
Brown	Young
Calahasen	

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

3 p.m.

Monday, November 17, 2014

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order! All rise, please.

[The Clerk read the Royal Proclamation dated September 18, 2014, summoning the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to convene on this date]

**The Clerk:** Please be seated.

[The Sergeant-at-Arms left the Chamber]

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order! Order! Mr. Speaker.

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Speaker, accompanied by the officers of the Assembly, entered the Chamber and took the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Hon. members and gathered guests, let us pray and then remain standing thereafter. Almighty God, Creator and Holy Spirit, You are the author of all wisdom, of all knowledge and understanding, so we turn to You and ask Your blessings on all who are present here today. We ask for Your guidance in order that truth, justice, and good service may prevail in all of our judgments for the benefit of all Albertans. Amen.

It is now my great pleasure, ladies and gentlemen, to invite Mr. Robert Clark, who will be accompanied by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, to lead us in the singing of our national anthem. I invite all of you to join in in the language of your choice.

### Hon. Members and Guests:

O Canada, our home and native land!  
 True patriot love in all thy sons command.  
 With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
 The True North strong and free!  
 From far and wide, O Canada,  
 We stand on guard for thee.  
 God keep our land glorious and free!  
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
 O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

**Unidentified Speaker:** Wow.

**The Speaker:** Wow indeed. Thank you, all. You're invited every Monday for that same purpose should you wish.

Please be seated.

### Presentation to the Assembly of Hon. Jim Prentice Member for Calgary-Foothills

**The Speaker:** It is now my great pleasure to invite the longest serving member of our current Alberta Legislature, the hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake, to proceed to the main doors of the Chamber.

Hon. members, I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta the report of the returning officer for the constituency of Calgary-Foothills containing the results of the by-election conducted on October 27, 2014, which states that a by-election was held in the constituency of Calgary-Foothills and that the Hon. Mr. Jim Prentice was duly elected as the Member for Calgary-Foothills.

[Ms Calahasen escorted Mr. Prentice to the Mace]

**Ms Calahasen:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you the Hon. Mr. Jim Prentice, the new Member for Calgary-Foothills, who has taken the oath as a member of this Assembly, has inscribed the roll, and now claims the right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** Congratulations. Let the hon. member take his seat. [applause]

Thank you. The rest of us can be seated.

I would now invite the Premier to rise. Mr. Premier, if you would, please proceed to the main doors to escort in the next newly elected member.

### Presentation to the Assembly of Hon. Stephen Mandel Member for Edmonton-Whitemud

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta the report of the returning officer for the constituency of Edmonton-Whitemud containing the results of the by-election conducted there on October 27, 2014, which states that a by-election was held in the constituency of Edmonton-Whitemud and that the Hon. Mr. Stephen Mandel was duly elected as the Member for Edmonton-Whitemud.

[Mr. Prentice escorted Mr. Mandel to the Mace]

**Mr. Prentice:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting the Hon. Mr. Stephen Mandel, the newly elected Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, who has taken the oath of office as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, has inscribed the roll, and is prepared to take his seat, assuming his right.

**The Speaker:** Congratulations. Let the hon. member take his seat. [applause]

### Presentation to the Assembly of Hon. Gordon Dirks Member for Calgary-Elbow

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta the report of the returning officer for the constituency of Calgary-Elbow containing the results of the by-election conducted there on October 27, 2014, which states that a by-election was held in the constituency of Calgary-Elbow and that the Hon. Mr. Gordon Dirks was duly elected as the Member for Calgary-Elbow.

[Mr. Prentice escorted Mr. Dirks to the Mace]

**Mr. Prentice:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the Hon. Mr. Gordon Dirks, the newly elected Member for Calgary-Elbow, who has taken the oath of office as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, has inscribed the roll, and is prepared to exercise his right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** Congratulations. Let the hon. member take his seat. [applause]

### Presentation to the Assembly of Mr. Mike Ellis Member for Calgary-West

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta the report of the returning officer for the constituency of Calgary-West containing the results of the by-election conducted on October 27, 2014, which states that a by-election was held in the constituency of Calgary-West and that Mr. Mike Ellis was duly elected as the Member for Calgary-West.

[Mr. Prentice escorted Mr. Ellis to the Mace]

**Mr. Prentice:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the hon. Mr. Mike Ellis, the newly elected Member for Calgary-West, who has taken the oath as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, has inscribed the roll, and is prepared to exercise his right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** Congratulations. Let the hon. member take his seat. [applause]

### Entrance of the Lieutenant Governor

[The Premier, the Clerk, and the Sergeant-at-Arms left the Chamber to attend the Lieutenant Governor]

[The Mace was draped]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, the brass section of the Royal Canadian Artillery Band will now play a brief musical interlude. The piece to be performed today is entitled *Prelude No. 14* by Dmitri Shostakovich.

The RCA Band, Canada's oldest regular army band, was formed in Quebec City in 1879. It was subsequently stationed in Montreal and Halifax. It has seen service in both world wars and in Korea, and it has travelled across Canada and even beyond our borders. Reconstituted in Edmonton in 1997, the band is today under the direction of Captain Patrice Arsenault, CD, who is in the Speaker's gallery. Bienvenue, M. Arsenault.

May we now proceed with the interlude. Thank you.

[The Sergeant-at-Arms knocked on the main doors of the Chamber three times. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms opened the doors, and the Sergeant-at-Arms entered]

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Ladies and gentlemen, all rise, please.

Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor awaits.

**The Speaker:** Sergeant-at-Arms, admit His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

[A fanfare of trumpets sounded]

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Colonel (Retired) Donald S. Ethell, OC, OMM, AOE, MSC, CD, LLD, and Mrs. Ethell, their party, the Premier, and the Clerk entered the Chamber. His Honour took his place upon the throne]

**His Honour:** Thank you. Pray be seated.

Good morning – sorry. [interjections] You're all late.

### Speech from the Throne

**His Honour:** My fellow Albertans, welcome to the Third Session of the 28th Alberta Legislature. It is my honour to deliver the Speech from the Throne as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor.

Today we are in the midst of Metis Week. So I begin with a special greeting to Albertans of Métis descent. I invite all Albertans to learn about and celebrate the many contributions of Métis Albertans to our province.

We come here together to serve the people of Alberta, a province that has been blessed beyond all measure with the gifts of abundant natural resources, rich soil that sustains our agriculture and forestry sectors, and the beautiful forests and prairies, lakes and rivers, mountains and foothills that are our natural heritage.

But we value most what Albertans themselves bring to our province: an entrepreneurial spirit, hard work and innovation, a commitment to excellence, and the ethics of compassion and service to others. All these things make Alberta a place of promise and opportunity like no other.

As the elected representatives of the people of Alberta we all share a great responsibility: to capture that promise and seize the opportunity so that future Albertans, whether they are born here or are among the tens of thousands of newcomers who join our province every year, will have the best quality of life possible.

Ladies and gentlemen, your government will do exactly this. Nine weeks ago we put Alberta under new management. Our new government understands that we will be challenged like never before to balance strong fiscal stewardship and accountability with meeting the needs of a growing province. Today we are home to just over 4 million people. By 2040, in a little more than a generation, we will be home to more than 6 million. The decisions we make in the next five years must lay the foundation for our prosperity and success for today and for all those future Albertans.

This government is focused on the clear priorities of Albertans, reflecting Albertans' values and ambitions for today while ensuring that a strong foundation is set for future generations. Five key principles underline our efforts: a focused commitment to sound, conservative fiscal principles; ending entitlements and restoring public trust; maximizing the value of our natural resources and respecting property rights; establishing our province as an environmental leader; and increasing Albertans' quality of life by being a leader in the areas of health, education, seniors' care, and skills training.

We will deliver good, prudent government, characterized by accountability and transparency. We will work tirelessly to earn and keep Albertans' trust. We will serve Albertans with the honour and respect they deserve. We will keep our province on a firm fiscal foundation, characterized by balanced budgets, a small cabinet and a small government, low taxes and no sales tax, a responsible program of capital investment, and a disciplined savings plan.

And we will deliver excellence in all the things Albertans want and need: top quality health care; education and skills training; safe, respectful care for our seniors; modern, efficient roads and infrastructure; vibrant cities and inclusive communities; and a clean, healthy environment.

The government's priorities will be those set by Albertans themselves, and the government's actions will reflect Albertans' values. We will always remember that we are here to serve the people of this province.

### A Focused Commitment to Sound, Conservative Fiscal Principles

Albertans rightly expect their government to use taxpayer dollars wisely and to achieve the best possible outcomes for money spent. This government will deliver in a manner that is both transparent and accountable to Albertans.

Our province was built on solid, conservative fiscal principles that have served Albertans well. However, a budget tied to volatile energy prices imperils our fiscal resilience over the long term. We must align spending with a realistic assessment of the financial capacity we can sustain responsibly, without risking the prosperity of our children and grandchildren. Your government will be cautious in budgeting, prudent in spending, and diligent in saving.

At the same time Alberta's tremendous population and economic growth have shown us the peril of failing to maintain what we have and the importance of investing in what we need. To ensure fiscal

prudence and discipline, your government will continue to use conservative revenue forecasts for budget purposes.

The results-based budgeting review will be completed with a focus on more efficient and effective program delivery. The rate of increase on spending for government operations will be kept below the rate of population growth and inflation.

At the same time we will protect what is most important to Albertans. Government will maintain a contingency fund to protect priority programs from revenue volatility and to respond to emergencies like flood mitigation. New emphasis will be placed on better maintaining our assets and on investing to extend the life, use, and cost of what we have.

We will pursue opportunities for more innovative delivery of needed provincial capital infrastructure. We will only borrow for capital purposes, never for operations, and only with a clear debt repayment plan in place. We will introduce a straightforward budget presentation to ensure that Albertans have a clearer understanding of the province's finances and where and how their taxpayer dollars are being used. And we will issue a semi-annual update on Alberta's savings plan to report to the people of Alberta on the performance of their savings.

### **Ending Entitlements and Restoring the Public Trust**

Public service is a privilege, and the actions of public servants must be guided by this fundamental principle. Your government pledges to honour the trust Albertans have placed in their elected representatives and respect those it serves in everything we do.

A review has already begun of agencies, boards, and commissions, to ensure they are performing to the maximum benefit of Albertans. New accountability legislation and complementary Treasury Board directives will begin to reshape the legislative framework governing ethical standards and accountability measures for those who serve Albertans. Actions here will strengthen conflict-of-interest guidelines for political staff, extend cooling-off periods for political staff and senior civil servants, eliminate excessive severance packages for political staff, eliminate sole-sourced contracts in all but exceptional circumstances, and clarify the distinction between the role of registered lobbyists and government consultants.

### **Maximizing the Value of Our Natural Resources and Respecting Property Rights**

Our province's natural resources are the cornerstone of the strongest and best performing economy in Canada. In addition to conventional resources like oil, natural gas, and coal, Alberta is rich in renewable resources, including biomass, wind, hydro, and solar resources. And our natural conditions come together with human ingenuity to make our province a world leader in agricultural production and forestry.

Many people come to Alberta in search of opportunity. And they find it here, in an economy that runs on entrepreneurialism, innovation, and hard work. Albertans are truly global citizens with aspirations and abilities that extend far beyond our province's borders.

But limited access to global markets restricts Alberta's potential and costs Albertans and Canadians billions of dollars every year, limiting our prosperity and ability to control our economic destiny.

Your government will focus on enhancing market access for all our exports so we can diversify our client base, capture global prices, and open Alberta to the widest range of emerging opportunities.

Alberta will focus its efforts on the Asia Pacific region, which holds the greatest potential for growth in exports. Much focused work has been done here, including through the Asia Advisory Council, which considered opportunities to expand economic, research, education, and cultural opportunities between Alberta and Asia.

There are also emerging opportunities in our traditional market, the United States, and in Europe, where the conclusion of negotiations on the Canada-EU free trade agreement, once ratified, will further open the world's largest market for Alberta's products and services.

Government will develop a focused regional strategy to expand Alberta's presence in key markets, ensure the right supports are in place for exporters, and build the relationships that will underpin long-term, mutually beneficial trade partnerships.

Our success in the 21st century will depend on how well we seize the opportunities that exist in the Asia Pacific region. That is why we will continue to work closely within the New West Partnership, a powerful partnership across British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, representing a market of nearly 10 million people and economies worth half a trillion dollars, to drive national focus toward the urgency of ensuring that Canada's market access challenges are addressed.

Yet we have a 20th-century export infrastructure preventing Alberta and Canada from realizing its full economic potential. There is a lack of pipeline infrastructure to move energy products to tidewater. There is a shortage of rail capacity to move agriculture, energy, and forest products to export terminals.

Despite sustained advocacy and multiple World Trade Organization rulings in our favour mandatory country of origin labelling requirements in the United States continue to be a significant barrier to beef and pork exports into that country.

Your government will continue to work in partnership with other Canadian provinces, territories, and the federal government. These efforts will include advocating for expanded export and transportation capacity, whether by truck, air, pipeline, or rail, to improve access to all markets, including Atlantic Canada, the west coast, the Gulf coast, and others. Alberta will also seek a fundamental renewal of the pan-Canadian agreement on internal trade in order to achieve a broad, comprehensive agreement that will eliminate trade barriers within our country and create an open, efficient, and stable domestic market.

Alberta is also taking steps to support innovation in the development of new products, including value-added opportunities in the resource sector. Our province already produces high-quality food products while demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship, animal welfare, plant health, and food safety. We will make annual investments to enhance agricultural research and innovation and further develop the food processing industry. Government has introduced the rural economic development action plan and is continuing to implement the Rural Alberta Business Centre to support continued economic growth in rural Alberta.

We are also making investments to support economic growth all over Alberta, beginning with our transportation infrastructure. Every day Albertans rely on our provincial highway network to get them to school and work safely. As a province we also rely on this network to develop our natural resources and get products to market. With over 28,000 kilometres of paved highway and more than 4,000 bridges we know that proper maintenance and renewal are essential to ensuring that Albertans have safe, reliable travel.

In addition to completing major projects like highway 63 and the ring roads, we must focus more on rehabilitation, intersection improvement, and bridge maintenance and repair, especially across rural Alberta. Investment now means improved safety for

the travelling public and less spent replacing aging infrastructure later.

Work continues on the development of a long-term transportation strategy, reflecting public consultations last spring, including the importance of public transit, the need for more free-flow highway corridors, and the desire to reduce our environmental footprint.

Market access, product innovation, and investments in infrastructure are all key elements of a thriving free-market economy. But its foundation must be the recognition and protection of private property. Private ownership of land is a fundamental and essential principle of our democracy and our economy. This government respects the property rights of Albertans and has heard the strong recommendations provided through the Property Rights Task Force. The introduction of Bill 1 today will begin to foster a culture of respect by acting on what landowners have told us already. Bill 1 signals the beginning of government's commitment to rebuild relationships with property owners in Alberta.

Other steps that will be taken to strengthen Alberta's economy include new supports for small businesses and exploring how government can continue to deliver public land titles services in new ways that provide enhanced access for Albertans.

Alberta will also work in partnership with employers, municipalities, and the government of Canada to integrate labour force strategies that provide durable solutions to the challenges of people without jobs and jobs without people. These will include tackling the mismatch between some of the educational paths Albertans follow and where the jobs are, removing barriers to labour mobility, and recognizing that local, national, and international workers are crucial to the success of our province. We will also continue to provide supports for those who are looking for work or who are underrepresented in the workforce, including people with disabilities.

### **Establishing Alberta as an Environmental Leader**

If we talk about being a leader in the energy, agriculture, or forestry business, then we are in the environment business. Our customers expect this, and Albertans themselves demand it. Clean air, fresh water, and thriving biodiversity are part of our identity as Albertans and Canadians, something which Alberta shares with visitors from around the world through our exceptional tourism industry.

But we cannot just spread the word on the steps we have already taken. Alberta must take meaningful, effective action to show we are as serious about the environment business as we are about the energy business. This includes ongoing work with stakeholders and industry on the development of a new tailings management framework and taking action to protect the Athabasca River and its neighbouring ecosystems.

Alberta must build on the leadership that made us the first jurisdiction in North America to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and among the first to put a price on carbon. We will bring all parties – industry, environmental groups, aboriginal groups, and all affected Albertans – to the table to find common ground on environmental, economic, and social priorities.

In the year ahead our work will expand through the development of a new climate change framework that will outline strategies to drive emissions reductions. This means moving increasingly towards lower emissions sources, including natural gas and renewables. It means ensuring Alberta communities are more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. It includes advancing efforts to monitor, measure, and report on our progress. It means pursuing local and global partnerships and alliances to

maximize our results. We will ensure that Alberta industry remains competitive, and we will meet the challenge of demonstrating real environmental leadership through meaningful action.

### **Enhancing Albertans' Quality of Life**

Every effort of your government is focused on the fundamental goal of ensuring Albertans have the best quality of life possible. Albertans want to know that there will be schools for their children, supportive care and services for aging parents, and access to high-quality health care for everyone. They want to know that even while we deliver on fiscal promises, we are focused on ensuring our health and education systems, our communities, and cities will be able to meet the needs of our province as it grows to become a home for 6 million Albertans. They want to see smart investment and system improvement, getting full value for the money we do invest, reflected in system improvement across all areas of government.

Nowhere is this need more urgent than in the delivery of their health care. Albertans want a system that is patient focused and sustainable. They want to see outcomes improve. We know there is tremendous local knowledge in our communities and great expertise in our front-line health care workers. We want to empower health care providers to have more input into decision-making at the local level. This will take shape through refined relationships with health advisory councils and through a renewed focus on clinical standards, with input from medical professionals and key stakeholders.

Your government is focused on improving flow into and through the health system through multiple, integrated initiatives. This includes the continuing care capacity plan that will open 464 existing continuing care spaces and create more than 1,500 new spaces. This is in addition to the 1,400 spaces already set to open between 2016 and 2018. New continuing care spaces will ensure that seniors and others with complex needs receive the care they need in safe, comfortable, and appropriate settings while freeing up beds in hospital wards and emergency departments. Your government is committed to providing the right kind of care and housing options for seniors, at the right time, and as close to home as possible.

Additional work is also under way to address specific challenges within the health system, including patient access, waiting times, the need to speed up the transfer of patients from ambulances, the challenges of rural and remote communities, the availability of mental health supports for Alberta's children, and the need to develop a wellness strategy for Albertans.

A good education is the first step to a productive, fulfilling life. Albertans rightly expect excellence in education. Government must focus on providing students with the quality education they will need to thrive in the future. The recent announcement of 75 school projects brings the three-phase plan for Alberta's school infrastructure to 230 capital projects, creating more than 78,000 new spaces. This is the largest school construction project in Canadian history, and it is essential to keep pace with 10 years of record growth in Alberta's student population.

We are also committed to improving the way we teach and support our students and teachers. This government will work to ensure that the basics of literacy and numeracy are the foundation for all student learning from kindergarten through grade 12. We will also work to ensure students have opportunities to acquire 21st-century competencies such as innovation, communication, and collaboration.

We are working with education partners to deliver innovative learning opportunities such as dual-credit programming, which



allows high school students to develop high-demand skills and get a head start on postsecondary learning or workplace training through one of the many institutions under the Campus Alberta umbrella. Your government will work with postsecondary institutions to meet our province's need for skilled entrepreneurs, professionals, researchers, and workers. We are exploring new ways to strengthen the system that will allow all learners to access and transfer within Campus Alberta. Innovation investments will be aligned to better support and encourage innovative thinking and revenue generation within the Campus Alberta system.

We will also target supports for apprentices, low-income, northern, and aboriginal learners, all of whom have a vital role to play in meeting the growing need for skilled workers across Alberta.

Excelling in health, education, seniors' care, and skills training means investing in the structures these systems need. Government is broadening the planning horizon for its capital plan with the development of a five-year intermediate plan and a 25-year long-term plan. These will ensure priority needs will be met in an orderly and cost-effective way.

We also recognize the need to take care of the infrastructure that is already in place and have begun to deal with the maintenance backlog using a planned and deliberate approach. To ensure transparency and accountability, your government will introduce regular, twice-yearly report cards on the status of infrastructure projects across the province. The first will be tabled in the Legislature during this session.

Strong, modern, culturally vibrant cities and municipalities are at the heart of our province. Your government will provide Alberta municipalities with a solid foundation for growth. We will continue to provide significant, predictable funding to support local infrastructure and services through the municipal sustainability initiative. We will review the Municipal Government Act, working in partnership with the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, all of our other municipal partners, and other stakeholders. And we will build on the recent signing of the framework agreement with Edmonton and Calgary and work with both municipalities to achieve the key milestones in the framework by spring of 2016.

Your government is also focused on being better partners to aboriginal communities, including those living in urban Alberta. Aboriginal people have important contributions to make to our cities, but sometimes the transition from rural or isolated communities to urban centres can be challenging. Your government will work directly with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities along with urban aboriginal organizations and federal and municipal governments to develop and support initiatives to ease transitions to urban centres and into new opportunities. We will devote new energy to addressing the unacceptable gaps in education achievement between aboriginal and nonaboriginal students by building partnerships and support for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people to use their skills, knowledge, and perspectives in the workforce.

In addition, a new bill will be introduced to improve protection for condo owners and buyers, improve transparency and accountability of condo boards, and create a faster, more affordable dispute resolution system.

Your government will work with the Premier's Council on Culture to develop a culture plan to promote sustainability and long-term growth across Alberta's vibrant arts and culture sector.

And work on a new volunteerism strategy will commence to ensure that our province's nonprofit and voluntary sector, comprising almost 25,000 charities and organizations, remains strong in its exceptional contributions to Albertans' quality of life.

Your government is also working to ensure children, low-income Albertans, and others who are vulnerable are protected. Changes in the justice system will put the needs of children and families first through reforms focusing on early and final resolution of disputes and by improving the efficiency of the maintenance enforcement program. Legal aid funding is being increased to allow more low-income Albertans, including AISH recipients, to access the justice system.

From prenatal to young adult, plans are under way to support young Albertans by tackling youth homelessness under the 10-year plan to end homelessness and through the early years strategy. They will provide important supports for Alberta's children and youth, helping them transition between community systems and support services to healthy adulthood.

Finally, for the many Alberta communities that are still recovering from the 2013 flooding, government is taking immediate action to resolve outstanding disaster recovery program appeals before the end of this year. A comprehensive flood mitigation plan will include the construction of a south diversion of the Highwood River and a dry reservoir near Springbank. These are components of a program that ensures Alberta communities are better protected from future flooding through solutions that are affordable, environmentally defensible, and quickly actionable.

### Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, this is your government's plan for Alberta. It begins with the understanding that government's role is to serve Albertans honourably, respectfully, and ethically. Government's priorities must be those set by Albertans themselves.

It follows that our province must remain on a firm fiscal foundation, characterized by the sound, conservative fiscal principles that have served Alberta well. We must make the most of the many natural gifts bestowed on Alberta and through wise management and hard work turn the blessings we have been given into long-lasting security and prosperity. We must act now and act together to conserve our greatest gift of all, the natural splendour, majesty, and beauty of Alberta.

And we must work together thoughtfully and deliberately to preserve and enhance the tremendous quality of life enjoyed by Albertans. This is a precious legacy handed down to us from those who built our province. And it is our most solemn duty, in turn, to bestow what we received on our own children and grandchildren and everyone who will one day call this great province home.

This is your government's commitment to this Assembly and to all Albertans.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

God bless Alberta.

God bless Canada.

God save the Queen.

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order! All rise, please.

**The Speaker:** Ladies and gentlemen, I would now invite Robert Clark, accompanied by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, to lead us in the singing of *God Save The Queen*. Please remain standing at the conclusion of our singing.

**Hon. Members and Guests:**

God save our gracious Queen,

long live our noble Queen,

God save The Queen!

Send her victorious,

happy and glorious,

long to reign over us;  
God save The Queen!

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order!

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Their Honours, their party, and the Premier left the Chamber as a fanfare of trumpets sounded]

**The Speaker:** Thank you.  
Please be seated.

[The Mace was uncovered]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, ladies and gentlemen, today we welcomed four new members to our Legislative Assembly. As we know, Alberta became a province on September 1, 1905. Since that time there have been 28 general elections in Alberta and 104 by-elections, the most recent of which were held on October 27.

The 1905 federal statute establishing Alberta as a province and the Legislative Assembly of Alberta was the Alberta Act. It specified that the Legislative Assembly would be comprised of 25 members. The first official census of our newly created province was held in 1906, and it determined that our population was then 185,412 people. Accordingly, at that time there was 1 elected member per 7,416 residents.

In 1909 during the Fourth Session of the First Legislature the members of the Assembly passed the Legislative Assembly Act. That act increased the number of elected members in the Assembly to 41. The population of our province was of course growing at an astounding pace. This fact was borne out by the next official census, in 1911, when our population totalled 374,663 people, more than double the population of 1906. Therefore, there was now 1 member for every 9,138 residents.

Over the years the number of elected members has grown, just to keep pace with the burgeoning population of Alberta, as follows: in 1913 there were 56 members, in 1930 63 members, in 1957 65 members, in 1970 75 members, in 1985 83 members, and as of our last adjustment back in 2012 there are now 87 members. Today, according to the latest estimates, our population now boasts a resounding 4,121,692 people, which means we now have 1 elected member for every 47,376 residents. Quite a jump.

[The Premier returned to the Chamber]

In 2008 the Legislature Library undertook a project to establish definitively how many individuals have been honoured by being elected to this Assembly since 1905. Once elected, each member takes a special oath, signs the oath of allegiance book on the day he or she is sworn in, and begins his or her duties. The stats and numbers that I mentioned earlier reflect on our place in the illustrious history of the province of Alberta, and as members get elected to this Assembly, each of them gets a number. Let me recite three of them for you. Member 1, of course, was our first Premier, the hon. Alexander C. Rutherford. Member 46 was R.B. Bennett, who served as an MLA from 1909 to 1911, then as Prime Minister of Canada from 1930 to 1935. Member 93 was Louise McKinney, who was also the first woman elected to this Assembly and, of course, helped champion the cause of having women become recognized as persons. Through the aforementioned 28 general elections and 104 by-elections a total of only 833 individuals have taken their place in this Assembly as an elected member.

We take our responsibilities very seriously. We all believe strongly in the work we do here. We all believe strongly in the democratic process, we all believe in the healthy legislative debate

in which we engage in this Chamber, and we are reminded of the events that just took place on Parliament Hill, which in turn remind all of us of just how precious those rights and freedoms are to each and every one of us as contributing members of society and that all of us, each and every one of us, has a role to play, be it great or be it small, in ensuring those rights and freedoms are maintained and used for the greater good of us all.

Thank you.

## Tablings

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, I have the honour now to table a copy of the speech graciously given by His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

## Introduction of Bills

**The Speaker:** The hon. Premier.

### Bill 1 Respecting Property Rights Act

**Mr. Prentice:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce a bill being Bill 1, the Respecting Property Rights Act.

It is a great honour to rise today and introduce our new government's first piece of legislation, Bill 1, Respecting Property Rights Act. Mr. Speaker, I am passionate about property rights, and during the leadership race this summer I made a commitment to restore trust with landowners and introduce legislation to ensure Albertans' property rights are respected. Bill 1 is the first step to accomplishing this.

We reviewed the existing legislation and listened to the concerns of Albertans. By repealing the Land Assembly Project Area Act, we are responding to Albertans' concerns. Further, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Property Rights Advocate Act the 2012 and 2013 Property Rights Advocate's reports will be referred to committee for review during this fall session. We look forward to hearing from the committee following their review.

Property rights are a bedrock and a foundation of this province, so much so that we as a province incorporated the protection of property rights into the Alberta Bill of Rights. I am standing up today in defence of the property rights of Albertans, as I have my entire life. It is the responsibility of this government to find a balance between individual rights on the one hand and the rights of the public and the province as a whole on the other. By introducing Bill 1 today, this government is keeping its commitment to the people of Alberta to ensure a balanced approach to property rights. It's our commitment to a clear and fair process, Mr. Speaker, a process that respects this Legislative Assembly and respects the input of members of this Assembly in that process.

It gives me great pleasure to stand today to introduce this bill to address landowners' concerns and uphold their rights.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[Motion carried; Bill 1 read a first time]

## Motions

**Mr. Prentice:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration on Tuesday, November 18, 2014.

[Motion carried]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Denis:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move that the Assembly stand adjourned until Tuesday, November 18, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 4:14 p.m. to Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.]







## Table of Contents

Prayers .....	1
Presentation to the Assembly of Hon. Jim Prentice, Member for Calgary-Foothills .....	1
Presentation to the Assembly of Hon. Stephen Mandel, Member for Edmonton-Whitemud .....	1
Presentation to the Assembly of Hon. Gordon Dirks, Member for Calgary-Elbow .....	1
Presentation to the Assembly of Mr. Mike Ellis, Member for Calgary-West .....	1
Entrance of the Lieutenant Governor .....	2
Speech from the Throne	
A Focused Commitment to Sound, Conservative Fiscal Principles .....	2
Ending Entitlements and Restoring the Public Trust .....	3
Maximizing the Value of Our Natural Resources and Respecting Property Rights .....	3
Establishing Alberta as an Environmental Leader .....	4
Enhancing Albertans' Quality of Life .....	4
Conclusion .....	5
Tablings .....	6
Introduction of Bills	
Bill 1   Respecting Property Rights Act .....	6
Motions .....	6

If your address is incorrect, please clip on the dotted line, make any changes, and return to the address listed below. To facilitate the update, please attach the last mailing label along with your account number.

Subscriptions  
Legislative Assembly Office  
1001 Legislature Annex  
9718 – 107 Street  
EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E4

---

Last mailing label:

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

New information:

Name:

Address:

---

Subscription information:

Annual subscriptions to the paper copy of *Alberta Hansard* (including annual index) are \$127.50 including GST if mailed once a week or \$94.92 including GST if picked up at the subscription address below or if mailed through the provincial government interdepartmental mail system. Bound volumes are \$121.70 including GST if mailed. Cheques should be made payable to the Minister of Finance.

Price per issue is \$0.75 including GST.

Online access to *Alberta Hansard* is available through the Internet at [www.assembly.ab.ca](http://www.assembly.ab.ca)

Subscription inquiries:

Subscriptions  
Legislative Assembly Office  
1001 Legislature Annex  
9718 – 107 St.  
EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E4  
Telephone: 780.427.1302

Other inquiries:

Managing Editor  
*Alberta Hansard*  
1001 Legislature Annex  
9718 – 107 St.  
EDMONTON, AB T5K 1E4  
Telephone: 780.427.1875