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The 28th Legislature
Third Session

Alberta Hansard

Wednesday evening, December 10, 2014

Issue 16

The Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 28th Legislature

Third Session

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Woo-Paw, Hon. Teresa, Calgary-Northern Hills (PC)
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Young, Steve, Edmonton-Riverview (PC)

Party standings:

Progressive Conservative: 63 Wildrose: 14 Alberta Liberal: 5 New Democrat: 4 Independent: 1

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Cao	

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

[Mr. Rogers in the chair]

The Chair: Hon. members, I'll reconvene the committee. Please take your seats.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Oberle: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just before we move ahead with the debate on amendment A10, I wonder if I might ask that we waive the appropriate section of our standing rules in order to allow a one-minute time frame between division bells.

The Chair: I believe that because we just recessed, hon. Deputy Government House Leader, it continues. We don't? We have to redo it?

Mr. Oberle: Yeah. We have to redo it.

The Chair: Oh, okay, then. I stand corrected, and I appreciate your motion, hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Oberle: I didn't know that, actually. Your table officer told me.

The Chair: Okay.

Well, then. I'll ask the members of the House.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Government Bills and Orders

Committee of the Whole

Bill 2

Alberta Accountability Act

The Chair: We'll reconvene debate on amendment A10. Any more speakers to amendment A10? The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Mr. Mason: I'm not sure I was quite finished, Mr. Chairman.

I think that there are real limitations on the Ethics Commissioner's ability to undertake an investigation. The current Conflicts of Interest Act says that he can only do it under two circumstances: one, when he or she believes his or her advice has not been followed, which would require the member to approach the Ethics Commissioner in the first place and seek direction. That may not happen in all cases. Secondly, the Ethics Commissioner can undertake an investigation when he or she receives a formal complaint.

Otherwise, the Ethics Commissioner's hands are tied, but if it is apparent that something may have happened or, for example, if someone may want to bring something to his attention without laying a formal complaint for their own reasons – privacy, job security, other reasons may be valid – then the Ethics Commissioner is not in a position to open an investigation. I think that that is an unreasonable limitation that hamstring the ability of the Ethics Commissioner to look into matters that he or she should look into, and they certainly are not the kind of limitations that are put on other people who are responsible for investigating and enforcing legislation, for example police. I'm not trying to make the case that the Ethics Commissioner is a police officer or akin to one, but it's an example of how other officers responsible for investigating and enforcing legislation are not constrained by this kind of limitation, which the amendment will correct.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'd urge all members to support it.

The Chair: Other speakers to amendment A10?

Mr. Hehr: I think that this is a reasonable amendment. It actually would free up our Ethics Commissioner to maybe do his job more efficiently and effectively. He would be able to undertake investigations at his own behest. His hands wouldn't be tied, as noted by the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, where a complaint has to come through his office and the like before he can go out and look at certain situations or a member is going to have to seek his advice. If in the Ethics Commissioner's wisdom he deems the member hasn't followed that advice, then an investigation can occur. It seems like this limits his capacity not only to investigate but to hold people to account for what their true obligations are, to represent the public interest.

I think this would be a good move. I don't know if any other Ethics Commissioners have this wide a latitude, but it'd be a good place to start, right here in Alberta. So I applaud the amendment, and I would urge all members of this House to vote in favour.

The Chair: Other speakers to amendment A10?

Seeing none, I'll call the question.

[Motion on amendment A10 lost]

The Chair: We're back to the main bill.

You want to speak to the bill, hon. member?

Mr. Mason: I want to make another amendment, but I was really hoping for a standing vote on that one.

The Chair: Well, I did pause, hon. member, and at best I saw two.

Mr. Mason: Well, I think the hon. member . . .

The Chair: I didn't see him signal.

Mr. Mason: No?

The Chair: But I invite you to carry on.

Mr. Mason: Okay. All right, Mr. Chairman.

I have another amendment, which I will send to the table, and you let me know when you want to make it.

The Chair: Hon. member, you may speak to amendment A11.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of my colleague the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona I move that Bill 2, Alberta Accountability Act, be amended as follows. Section 2(4)(b)(1) is amended in the proposed schedule 1 in section 2(l) by striking out "became a former public officer within the previous 2 years" and substituting "is a former public office holder." Section 2(5)(b)(1) is amended in the proposed schedule 2 in section 2(k) by striking out "became a former public office holder within the previous 2 years" and substituting "is a former public office holder".

Well, Mr. Chairman, one of the objections that we've had to the act and to previous government decisions is this two-year time limit, this statute of limitations of a mere two years. Changes to the Lobbyists Act: the government inserted a two-year period, which didn't previously exist. This amendment removes that limited time period and makes the provisions in question apply to everyone who is a former public office holder. There are still other provisions in the act that allow for exceptions and exemptions, so there's no good reason here to insert a two-year time limit.

Those are my comments, Mr. Chairman.

The Chair: Speaking to the amendment?

Seeing none, I'll call the question.

[Motion on amendment A11 lost]

The Chair: Back to the main bill. Speaking to the bill, any other speakers?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

[The remaining clauses of Bill 2 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

The Chair: Shall the bill be reported? Are you agreed?

Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chair: Opposed? That is carried.

The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

7:40

Mr. Oberle: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we rise and report.

[Motion carried]

[The Speaker in the chair]

Mr. Horne: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has had under consideration a certain bill. The committee reports the following bill with some amendments: Bill 2. I wish to table copies of all amendments considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

The Speaker: Does the Assembly concur in the report just offered? If you do, say aye.

Hon. Members: Aye.

The Speaker: If you do not, say no. Accordingly, that is so ordered, carried.

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

Bill 2

Alberta Accountability Act

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Oberle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to rise today on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to move third reading of Bill 2, Alberta Accountability Act.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation is part of a package that will help restore public trust, improve accountability, and end entitlement. Bill 2 will strengthen the conflicts-of-interest guidelines for political staff. It will extend the cooling-off period for political staff and designated office holders, and it will clarify the distinction between the role of registered lobbyists and government consultants. Complementing the legislation will be two Treasury Board directives that will eliminate sole-source contracts except in clear and exceptional circumstances and restrict severance packages for political staff.

Bill 2 amends the Conflicts of Interest Act, the Lobbyists Act, and the Public Service Act. Changes to the Conflicts of Interest Act include prohibiting staff in Premiers' and ministers' offices from participating in discussions or using confidential information which would further a private interest and from using their office to improperly influence others for their own benefit. Bill 2 also

bans ministers, the Premier, and their staff from lobbying government for 12 months after leaving office. The cooling-off period for ministers' and the Premier's office staff would be extended from six months to 12.

Premiers' and ministers' staff will also be required to make financial disclosures to the Ethics Commissioner each year, Mr. Speaker. Bill 2 also makes available an administrative penalty for those who do not file their financial disclosures on time. With Bill 2 more detail is provided about when an MLA may accept a gift in a protocol situation and includes additional reporting requirements about gifts to the Ethics Commissioner.

The bill also revises the exceptions allowing travel on noncommercial aircraft, making them similar to the federal model. Members must disclose all noncommercial travel to the Ethics Commissioner within 30 days. The Ethics Commissioner will make this information public.

The Accountability Act also expands the authority of the Ethics Commissioner. Two examples of those changes are providing authority to post public disclosure statements on the Ethics Commissioner's website and providing for greater investigative powers for the Ethics Commissioner such as the authority to call witnesses and compel production of documents. These amendments reflect input from both the Ethics Commissioner and the Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee.

Mr. Speaker, under Bill 2 a person would be prohibited from lobbying and providing paid advice to government or a prescribed provincial body on any subject matter at the same time. With this bill anyone who is currently lobbying and consulting would be required to choose which activity will continue and end the other activity within 60 days of the bill coming into force. Bill 2 amends the Public Service Act so that it parallels many of the conflict-of-interest provisions applicable to MLAs.

The Alberta Accountability Act makes important changes to the government. The amendments, coupled with the Treasury Board directives, will change how things are done in government. It will ensure high ethical and accountability measures are in place as we work together to restore public trust.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to speak to Bill 2 and the changes that are being proposed by the government. Now, we've just heard the Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of Energy talk about how this will eliminate entitlements and restore public trust. I guess I will have to say that there are a few things about this act that are improvements, but I do not believe that it meets the goal of restoring public trust. If you compare the changes in this act to the government record over the past number of years and ask how this act would apply to various transgressions of members of this government over the past several years and whether it would fix those transgressions and prevent them from occurring in the future, the answer has to be no. I think that it bears some discussion.

There are some improvements in terms of this. High-level political staff will now be subject to the same conflict-of-interest principles as current MLAs. That's one thing. I know that in my notes there are some good things to say about this bill.

Another good change in Bill 2 comes from recommendations that the NDP made in our minority report of the special committee. That's now: MLA disclosure statements may be posted to the website of the Ethics Commissioner. But there's still no requirement that they could be posted.

There are changes to the Lobbyists Act, a few improvements there: expansion of the definition of a former public servant and the clarification of many sections, including schedule 1, 1(3) and 2, and schedule 2, 1(2) and 2, whatever those are.

I think there are good changes as well to the Public Service Act: greater transparency, the ability of designated office-holders that would limit the ability of office-holders to influence government decisions, and so on. They've added adult interdependent partner to the definition of spouse.

But I want to talk about the application of this bill, if passed tonight and proclaimed, to some of the issues that we have seen in the last number of years. Now, the hon. leader of the NDP and MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona released a list of priorities for ethics legislation from the NDP a couple of days ago, and the focus there was on looking at some of the things that had occurred in the past under this government that were found to be very questionable by many Albertans but were not dealt with because of interpretations of existing legislation that allowed these transgressions to be unchallenged, I guess you could say.

First of all, we had one clause to deal with the donation by Daryl Katz to the Progressive Conservative Party before the last election of over \$400,000, clearly illegal under the act, but for some reason the interpretation was that you could divide it up, say that the different amounts had come from different people associated with Mr. Katz, either business or family, and it would all be okay.

7:50

We've proposed inserting a new clause under the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act that would say:

No person should

- (a) circumvent or attempt to circumvent a limit set out for maximum contributions, or
- (b) act in collusion with another person or entity for that purpose.

No person or entity shall

- (a) conceal or attempt to conceal the identity of the source of the contribution governed by this act, or
- (b) act in collusion with another person or entity for that purpose.

That was drafted in accordance with section 405.2 of the Canada Elections Act. That would have closed a loophole that this government used in the last election, but the government has chosen not to support that and to not make those changes.

Secondly, we have another proposal to deal with the appointment of a previous member of the cabinet, Mr. Berger, to a government position, and that would have amended section 31 of the Conflicts of Interest Act by changing the length of the ministerial cooling-off period to two years. That has not been accepted by the government. Those are based on a proposal from the B.C. NDP to their conflicts of interest act.

Thirdly, a clause to deal with actions taken by the Minister of Education in the recent by-election would insert a new section under part 6 of the Election Act, corrupt practices, that reads:

During the following periods a government department or Crown agency must not advertise or publish any information about its programs or activities:

- (a) in the last 90 days before an election and on election day in the case of a fixed-date election,
- (b) in the election period in the case of a by-election or a general election that is not a fixed-date election.

That does not apply to advertisements or publications required by law that are required for soliciting proposals to tenders or something that relates to an important matter of health and safety. It goes on to say that during the period of a by-election this also

applies. These are based on section 92 of Manitoba's Election Financing Act.

These aren't, Mr. Speaker, just figments of the NDP caucus's imagination. These are actual provisions that have been provided in other legislation in other provinces but remain gaping holes in Bill 2.

There was a clause which we tried to amend tonight, named after a previous Premier of the province, to insert a new clause under section 2(2) of the Conflicts of Interest Act that reads, "For the purposes of this act a member has an apparent conflict of interest if there is a reasonable perception which a reasonably well-informed person could properly have or the member's ability to exercise an official power or perform an official duty or function must have been affected by his or her private interest" and insert a new section:

A person or group of persons in a relationship with the Member which a reasonable person would conclude is a proximate political or business advisory relationship or with whom the Member shares closely aligned personal or business interests.

This is language, Mr. Speaker, based on the British Columbia Members' Conflict of Interest Act, and similar clauses also exist in other jurisdictions, including Saskatchewan. The latter is derived from deficiencies noted in the Alberta act when it was reviewed by the Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee in 2013.

There's another clause that we would propose to deal with actions of a member of the government caucus who voted on something that closely affected his business, and that would insert a new clause under a section of the Conflicts of Interest Act that reads:

An interest that affects a person as one of a broad class of public except where

- (a) the Member or person directly associated with the Member or the Member's minor or adult child gains a direct benefit exceeding other members of the class, or
- (b) where the activities of the Member exceed that of other members and are so closely linked to the interests of the Member, a person directly associated with the Member, or the Member's minor or adult child if it gives rise to the perception of a conflict of interest by a reasonable person.

This is based on recommendations that arose from the Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee when it reviewed the act in 2013, specifically in a discussion on how to strengthen the legislation in regard to the case of the Member for Edmonton-Manning.

There's a clause that we have identified, called the PC Party clause, which would amend the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act as follows: a prosecution under this act may be commenced within five years after the facts on which the information is based first came to the knowledge of the Chief Electoral Officer. These limitations were derived to take into account a typical election cycle. The latter clause was drafted to include the requirements that the Chief Electoral Officer be aware of the possibility of an offence before the limitation period has begun to run. That exists in legislation in Ontario, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan.

The next one that we proposed was called the building Alberta clause, to pass legislation that compels the government to publicly disclose criteria for determining public infrastructure investment priorities, a clear public infrastructure priority list, and a detailed explanation for changing the priority list when that occurs. I'm sure my friends in the Wildrose, who've been talking about this

for several years, would have been very interested in seeing such a provision in Bill 2.

Another clause that we propose, Mr. Speaker, is called the friends and insiders clause, and it would amend the Conflicts of Interest Act so that public officials who are subject to both the act and the authority of the Ethics Commissioner would include those who run major government organizations, including the Alberta Energy Regulator and Alberta Health Services. Now, it is the case that Alberta Health Services has been included, but I think we could go further and talk about other boards appointed by the government that have large responsibilities as well, including the university boards of governors and so on.

Finally, we have a clause called: all cattle, no hat. Now, we've certainly said that the government's Bill 2 is all hat, no cattle, so if we wanted to put some hooves on the ground rather than chapeaux on the head, then we would do this. We would make sure that the promises of the Premier to limit severances and sole-sourced contracts exist in legislation and not in a Treasury Board directive that can easily be changed and, potentially, not noticed at all. It should actually be in the act if the Premier wants to be counted on for keeping his promise.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that we will not be supporting Bill 2 at third reading. It's not that there are not some slight improvements. It is because the actual violations of ethics that have taken place on the part of this government in the past several years are mysteriously missing from Bill 2. In other words, Bill 2 would have done nothing to change the bad behaviour of this government in many, many respects, and they have left those things out. They haven't written them into the act. They're trying to pretend that they're going to fix the PC Party. They're going to try and pretend that they fixed this Progressive Conservative government and all of the bad things that happened under she who must not be named, or before her, and that they will never happen again because they have made sure that it can't happen again.

Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. In actual fact, almost every egregious example of ethical violations conducted by members of this government in the past few years are excluded from this legislation, and that's why we're not voting for it. That's why we don't buy it when the minister stands up and says: "Well, you know what? We promise that we're going to fix things. We're going to make sure that the ethical standards are of the highest nature, and all this bad stuff that we really want you to forget about will never happen again."

Well, Mr. Speaker, there's no guarantee that it will never happen again because the legislation doesn't make it an offence. The legislation doesn't fix the problem. The government is misleading the people of Alberta when it's claiming that their legislation will clean up their own act. You can't count on this government to fix the problems of this government. Only the voters can do that, and I hope that they will. Once they realize that this piece of legislation is, in fact, not what the government promised, I think the voters will have something to say about this government's ethical standards. They have not fixed the problems that they themselves have created, and I don't think that's any surprise to any of us, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that any of us that have been around for more than a day or two really expected this government to actually legally prohibit the kind of behaviour that they've exhibited over the last five years, and certainly they have not.

8:00

Mr. Speaker, with that, I just want to indicate once more that we are not going to support Bill 2. We really have a set of proposals, I

think, that would have made for some really strong and effective ethics legislation not based on a wish list as we're sitting around the caucus table or at an NDP convention but actually drawn from legislation that exists in other provinces that have dealt with some of these things that this government consistently refuses to do. I think that's really unfortunate. We could have really done some good work here together if the government had been serious about ending entitlement and ending the culture of corruption that has enveloped it in the last number of years, but unfortunately I have to say that they have not done so. They don't seem to have a desire to do so, and I leave it to the people of Alberta to draw the appropriate conclusion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, before we proceed, could I have unanimous consent from you to revert to the Introduction of Guests briefly?

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: We have three quick introductions, one by the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, followed by the Associate Minister of Aboriginal Relations, followed by the Minister of Seniors.

Please proceed.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for your indulgence and to every member here. I just wanted to introduce to you and through you a long-time friend of mine with a great sense of humour. Lesley Kasper has joined us this evening. Please stand and be recognized.

The Speaker: The hon. associate minister.

Mr. Dorward: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not often that we get visitors in the evening, and it's not often that we get visitors to stay more than about 30 seconds. So we thank all the visitors for coming tonight.

I had 14 years of basketball coaching, and in amongst all the youth and children that I coached were included Cameron and Lauren, the kids of Cindy and Rob Green, and they're here tonight. Cindy and Rob, could you stand up and say hello to the group, please?

Mr. J. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege to introduce a very special individual, whom we lured out of retirement to be the president of Athabasca University, and we've managed to convince him to stick around for another year or so to help with that university. He's got quite a resumé, including being the president of the University of Saskatchewan for 13 years, I believe, and the dean of law there for a decade. He's a former chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada. He's a former chair of the Canadian Association of Law Teachers. In 2006 he was one of three people shortlisted for the Supreme Court of Canada vacancy at the time. He's on the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on the Public Service. He has the Order of Canada. The original building at the University of Saskatchewan, a national historical site, is named the Peter MacKinnon Building, and he holds honorary degrees from five universities. So, Peter, please rise and be recognized.

The Speaker: Thank you, and welcome, all.

Are there any others?

If not, let us go back to third reading of Bill 2.

Government Bills and Orders
Third Reading

Bill 2
Alberta Accountability Act
(continued)

The Speaker: We're looking for the third speaker, after which 29(2)(a) will be available. Are there any other speakers at third reading on Bill 2? I see one. That would be the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

Mr. Hehr: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't tend to go long, but we'll look at the Accountability Act. I think it did go some small way to making things somewhat better here in Alberta. You can look at some of those things that on the face of it sound reasonable, and they have been put forward in this bill: extending the cooling-off period to a full year for elected officials and political staff and senior civil servants who leave government, and some other things like that. Then we go on, looking at gifts and when they're going to be allowed to happen and when they're not and the like in that matter.

But to be clear, there was so much more that this act could have done. We could have actually done a wholesale look at some of the things that have been happening in this province and made this accountability legislation the strongest in the country, which at this time it is clearly not. Look at some of the things that were promised to be brought in: amendments to the Fiscal Management Act that would require budgeting to be presented in a clear and consolidated format; producing a biannual report card on savings; and merit-based appointments for agencies, boards, and commissions. Some of these things were left off the radar, so to speak, and were not included in this bill.

I listened with great interest to the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, and I, too, believe that we could have used this opportunity to look at our Election Act and how we could have done better primarily around financing elections in this province. Everyone knows Alberta has the loosest arrangements when it comes to allowing donations. Extreme limits are present for corporations and unions and, in fact, individuals to give to what can only be called obscene limits when you compare them to other provinces and how they have moved in the direction of allowing only individuals to contribute, like our federal financing laws that say that only individuals can make up to \$1,200 a year in contributions. I think that would go a long way, if we'd gone in that direction, to limit those rules on financing.

We also looked at ways where we could have empowered the office of the Ethics Commissioner to be more judicious and to have more freedom to investigate on his own and use the reasonable man test to ascertain whether, in fact, things are as they are and whether they could have been done differently. I think we lost an opportunity to do some of those things.

I think it was brought clear that this act has been brought forward to try and restore public trust. You know, it's great to put out a press release saying that we're actually going to change things and actually be different, but it takes more than that. I think this act fails to do that in that it would not have stopped many of the flagrant abuses and violations that we've seen of the public trust and, in fact, with the public purse over the course of the last number of years. That is disappointing.

Many good amendments were brought forward by all parties in the opposition, that I believe could have strengthened this Accountability Act. I think the government knew full well that when it brought in this legislation, it was merely scratching the

surface of where it could and should have gone, and I think we need to do better. I think we have to look to other provinces that have moved ahead.

I thought one thing that we should be doing – and it's become patently clear over the course of the last little while – is that we should be bringing in election laws that limit what, in fact, the government can do during elections and by-elections. It is abundantly clear that this time period should not be used to make government announcements that are clearly trying to buy votes. We see other jurisdictions – Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and others – that have moved in that direction, that have actually said: look here; elections are no time period for us to make government announcements that are clearly derived for winning that election. Look, there's the business of the government to do, and then there's politicking. We should try to separate the two roles and responsibilities, and that has not been done in this act.

My hope is that the government will follow the lead of these other jurisdictions that have brought in comprehensive electoral reform. That, sadly, has been lacking here over the course of my time in this Legislature. It tends to suit the government of the day's purpose to allow election financing laws and other loose laws like this to exist. You know, really, I think it's time; we could have done better. We didn't do that, and I think the public record will show that.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, those are my final comments. I, too, will be voting against this bill for those and many other reasons.

8:10

The Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. members, 29(2)(a) is available. Does anyone wish to participate?

If not, do we have any other speakers who wish to speak at third reading? I see none.

Hon. Members: Question.

[The voice vote indicated that motion for third reading carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division.]

The Speaker: Just to be clear, I am aware of a previous motion that the time between bells would be limited to one minute. Is that still the agreement of the House? Is anyone opposed to that? I hear no opposition, so the distance between the two bells will be limited to one minute.

[The division bell was rung at 8:11 p.m.]

[One minute having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

[The Speaker in the chair]

For the motion:

Anglin	Hale	McQueen
Bhardwaj	Horne	Oberle
Brown	Horner	Olesen
Calahasen	Jansen	Pastoor
Campbell	Jeneroux	Pedersen
Cao	Johnson, J.	Quadri
Casey	Kennedy-Glans	Quest
Cusanelli	Khan	Rodney
Dallas	Klimchuk	Sandhu
DeLong	Kubinec	Sarich
Denis	Lemke	Scott
Dirks	Leskiw	Towle
Dorward	Luan	Weadick
Drysdale	Lukaszuk	Wilson

Fenske	Mandel	Woo-Paw
Fox	McAllister	Xiao
Goudreau		
Against the motion:		
Hehr	Mason	
Totals:	For – 49	Against – 2

[Motion carried; Bill 2 read a third time]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's been a pleasure working with you this session, my first session as Government House Leader. I want to thank the deputy House leaders and also the opposition House leaders for working with us this session.

Without further ado, it is my privilege to advise the House that the government business for the fall sitting has now been completed. Therefore, pursuant to Government Motion 5 the Assembly stands adjourned.

Statement by the Speaker

Decorum

The Speaker: Hon. members, I will adjourn the House in a moment. However, I want to make a couple of points known to

all. I've had the privilege of being in this Assembly for over 20 years, and I have never seen the level of decorum that you offered, particularly during question period, in all 20 of my years. I don't know if you are fully aware of the gravity of what I'm alluding to, so let me put it to you in different terms. You have gone for four weeks without even a single point of order being raised during Oral Question Period. I emphasize during Oral Question Period, and the reason this is significant is because you may well have set not only a record in that respect for this Alberta Legislative Assembly, but you may well have set a record for all Legislatures in Canada, perhaps throughout the entire Commonwealth. We will research that and let you know. Over 700 minutes of questions, responses, replies, and answers were offered, which equates to over 10 hours of serious accountability during question period, and that totalled well over 1,300 questions, answers, responses, replies, what have you. I want to sincerely thank and congratulate you. You did well. Thank you.

With that, I also want to say thank you to our table officers and to others participating.

Therefore, pursuant to Government Motion 5, agreed to on November 18, 2014, the Assembly will stand adjourned until 2015 at a date to be identified in the sessional calendar, that will be published sometime during January 2015.

We stand adjourned.

[The Assembly adjourned at 8:19 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 5]

Bill Status Report for the 28th Legislature - 3rd Session (2014)

Activity to December 10, 2014

The Bill sponsor's name is in brackets following the Bill title. If it is a money Bill, (\$) will appear between the title and the sponsor's name. Numbers following each Reading refer to Hansard pages where the text of debates is found; dates for each Reading are in brackets following the page numbers. Bills numbered 1 to 199 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 200 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills numbered with a "Pr" prefix are Private Bills.

*An asterisk beside a Bill number indicates an amendment was passed to that Bill; the Committee line shows the precise date of the amendment.

The date a Bill comes into force is indicated in square brackets after the date of Royal Assent. If a Bill comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel, Alberta Justice, for details at (780) 427-2217. The chapter number assigned to the Bill is entered immediately following the date the Bill comes into force. SA indicates Statutes of Alberta; this is followed by the year in which it is included in the statutes, and its chapter number. Please note, Private Bills are not assigned chapter numbers until the conclusion of the Fall Sitings.

1 Respecting Property Rights Act (Prentice)

First Reading -- 6 (Nov. 17, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 30-31 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft.), 142-46 (Nov. 24, 2014 eve, passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 169-73 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 206-11 (Nov. 26, 2014 aft.), 277-79 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

2* Alberta Accountability Act (Denis)

First Reading -- 404-05 (Dec. 8, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 456-67 (Dec. 9, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 500-14 (Dec. 10, 2014 aft.), 515-16 (Dec. 10, 2014 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 516-20 (Dec. 10, 2014 eve., passed on division)

3 Personal Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014 (Quadri)

First Reading -- 22 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 89 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 165 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 173 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 259-75 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

4 Horse Racing Alberta Amendment Act, 2014 (Campbell)

First Reading -- 22 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 89 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 165-67 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 174-75 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft.), 177-79 (Nov. 25, 2014 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 279-81 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

5 Securities Amendment Act, 2014 (Campbell)

First Reading -- 22 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 89-90 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 167-68 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 173 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 281-83 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)

6 Statutes Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2) (Olson)

First Reading -- 22-23 (Nov. 18, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 90-92 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft.), 175 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 193-206 (Nov. 26, 2014 aft.), 283 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 321 (Dec. 2, 2014 eve., passed)

7 Chartered Professional Accountants Act (McIver)

First Reading -- 159 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 275-76 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve.), 319 (Dec. 2, 2014 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 425 (Dec. 8, 2014 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 480 (Dec. 9, 2014 eve., passed)

- 8*** **Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2014 (Kennedy-Glans)**
First Reading -- 159 (Nov. 25, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 276-77 (Dec. 1, 2014 eve.), 319-21 (Dec. 2, 2014 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 425-28 (Dec. 8, 2014 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 480 (Dec. 9, 2014 eve., passed)
- 9*** **Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2014 (Olesen)**
First Reading -- 237 (Dec. 1, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 336-38 (Dec. 3, 2014 aft.), 428-33 (Dec. 8, 2014 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 470-75 (Dec. 9, 2014 aft.), 477-80 (Dec. 9, 2014 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 495-500 (Dec. 10, 2014 aft., passed)
- 10*** **An Act to Amend the Alberta Bill of Rights to Protect our Children (Jansen)**
First Reading -- 238 (Dec. 1, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 300-18 (Dec. 2, 2014 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 338-55 (Dec. 3, 2014 aft.), 357-66 (Dec. 3, 2014 eve.), 367-74 (Dec. 3, 2014 eve., passed with amendments)
- 11** **Savings Management Repeal Act (Campbell)**
First Reading -- 334 (Dec. 3, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 433-41 (Dec. 8, 2014 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 468-70 (Dec. 9, 2014 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 494-95 (Dec. 10, 2014 aft., passed)
- 201*** **Electric Utilities (Transparency in Billing) Amendment Act, 2014 (Anglin)**
First Reading -- 86 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 125-28 (Nov. 24, 2014 aft.), 238-52 (Dec. 1, 2014 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 406-08 (Dec. 8, 2014 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 408 (Dec. 8, 2014 aft., passed)
- 202** **Safe and Inclusive Schools Statutes Amendment Act, 2014 (Blakeman)**
First Reading -- 86 (Nov. 20, 2014 aft., passed), (Dec. 3, 2014 aft., withdrawn)
- 203** **Safety Codes (Sustainable Structures) Amendment Act, 2014 (VanderBurg)**
First Reading -- 192 (Nov. 26, 2014 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 409-18 (Dec. 8, 2014 aft., passed)
- 204** **Traffic Safety (Distracted Driving Demerit) Amendment Act, 2014 (Amery)**
First Reading -- 388 (Dec. 4, 2014 aft., passed)

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