



Province of Alberta

The 30th Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

Tuesday afternoon, May 21, 2019

The Honourable Nathan Cooper, Speaker

**Legislative Assembly of Alberta**  
**The 30th Legislature**

First Session

Cooper, Hon. Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP), Speaker  
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UCP), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees  
Milliken, Nicholas, Calgary-Currie (UCP), Deputy Chair of Committees

Aheer, Hon. Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Strathmore (UCP)  
Allard, Tracy L., Grande Prairie (UCP)  
Amery, Mickey K., Calgary-Cross (UCP)  
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Jackie,  
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UCP)  
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)  
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP),  
Official Opposition House Leader  
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)  
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)  
Copping, Hon. Jason C., Calgary-Varsity (UCP)  
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South (NDP)  
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)  
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)  
Eggen, David, Edmonton-North West (NDP),  
Official Opposition Whip  
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP),  
Government Whip  
Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)  
Fir, Hon. Tanya, Calgary-Peigan (UCP)  
Ganley, Kathleen T., Calgary-Mountain View (NDP)  
Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UCP)  
Glasgo, Michaela L., Brooks-Medicine Hat (UCP)  
Glubish, Hon. Nate, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UCP)  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)  
Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche (UCP)  
Gotfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)  
Gray, Christina, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)  
Guthrie, Peter F., Airdrie-Cochrane (UCP)  
Hanson, David B., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UCP)  
Hoffman, Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)  
Horner, Nate S., Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)  
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., Taber-Warner (UCP)  
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy Whip  
Issik, Whitney, Calgary-Glenmore (UCP)  
Jones, Matt, Calgary-South East (UCP)  
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UCP),  
Premier  
LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, Red Deer-North (UCP)  
Loewen, Todd, Central Peace-Notley (UCP)  
Long, Martin M., West Yellowhead (UCP)  
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UCP)  
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)  
Luan, Hon. Jason, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)  
Madu, Hon. Kaycee, Edmonton-South West (UCP)  
McIver, Hon. Ric, Calgary-Hays (UCP),  
Deputy Government House Leader

Nally, Hon. Dale, Morinville-St. Albert (UCP)  
Neudorf, Nathan T., Lethbridge-East (UCP)  
Nicolaides, Hon. Demetrios, Calgary-Bow (UCP)  
Nielsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (NDP)  
Nixon, Hon. Jason, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre  
(UCP), Government House Leader  
Nixon, Jeremy P., Calgary-Klein (UCP)  
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP),  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (UCP)  
Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)  
Panda, Hon. Prasad, Calgary-Edgemont (UCP)  
Phillips, Shannon, Lethbridge-West (NDP)  
Pon, Hon. Josephine, Calgary-Beddington (UCP)  
Rehn, Pat, Lesser Slave Lake (UCP)  
Reid, Roger W., Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)  
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)  
Rosin, Miranda D., Banff-Kananaskis (UCP)  
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UCP)  
Rutherford, Brad, Leduc-Beaumont (UCP)  
Sabir, Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)  
Savage, Hon. Sonya, Calgary-North West (UCP),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, Calgary-North East (UCP)  
Schmidt, Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)  
Schow, Joseph R., Cardston-Siksika (UCP),  
Deputy Government Whip  
Schulz, Hon. Rebecca, Calgary-Shaw (UCP)  
Schweitzer, Hon. Doug, Calgary-Elbow (UCP),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Shandro, Hon. Tyler, Calgary-Acadia (UCP)  
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)  
Sigurdson, Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)  
Sigurdson, R.J., Highwood (UCP)  
Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UCP)  
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (UCP)  
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UCP)  
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Toews, Hon. Travis, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)  
Toor, Devinder, Calgary-Falconridge (UCP)  
Turton, Searle, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UCP)  
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UCP)  
Walker, Jordan, Sherwood Park (UCP)  
Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UCP)  
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UCP)  
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UCP)  
Yaseen, Muhammad, Calgary-North (UCP)

**Party standings:**

United Conservative: 63

New Democrat: 24

**Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly**

Merwan N. Saher, Clerk  
Shannon Dean, Law Clerk and Executive  
Director of House Services  
Stephanie LeBlanc, Senior Parliamentary  
Counsel  
Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel

Philip Massolin, Manager of Research and  
Committee Services  
Nancy Robert, Research Officer  
Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of  
*Alberta Hansard*

Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Chris Caughell, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms  
Tom Bell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms  
Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms

## **Executive Council**

Jason Kenney	Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations
Leela Aheer	Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women
Jason Copping	Minister of Labour and Immigration
Devin Dreeshen	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Tanya Fir	Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism
Nate Glubish	Minister of Service Alberta
Grant Hunter	Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction
Adriana LaGrange	Minister of Education
Jason Luan	Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Kaycee Madu	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Ric McIver	Minister of Transportation
Dale Nally	Associate Minister of Natural Gas
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Advanced Education
Jason Nixon	Minister of Environment and Parks
Prasad Panda	Minister of Infrastructure
Josephine Pon	Minister of Seniors and Housing
Sonya Savage	Minister of Energy
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Community and Social Services
Rebecca Schulz	Minister of Children's Services
Doug Schweitzer	Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Tyler Shandro	Minister of Health
Travis Toews	President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
Rick Wilson	Minister of Indigenous Relations

## **Parliamentary Secretary**

Muhammad Yaseen	Parliamentary Secretary of Immigration
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## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

[The Mace was on a cushion below the table]

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

**The Clerk:** Good afternoon.

[The Clerk read the Royal Proclamation dated April 30, 2019, summoning the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to convene on this date]

**The Clerk:** Please be seated.

### Entrance of the Lieutenant Governor

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

**The Sergeant-at-Arms:** Order! All rise, please.  
Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, her party, the Premier, and the Clerk entered the Chamber. Her Honour took her place upon the throne]

**Her Honour:** Please be seated.

**Mr. Schweitzer (Provincial Secretary):** Hon. members, I am commanded by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that she does not see fit to declare the causes of her summoning of the present Legislature of this province until a Speaker of the Assembly shall have been chosen according to law. She is therefore pleased to retire from the Assembly, to return at a subsequent hour on the next sitting day to declare the causes of her calling of this Legislature.

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

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Lieutenant Governor and her party left the Chamber]

### Election of a Speaker

**The Clerk:** Hon. members, pursuant to the Lieutenant Governor's direction in section 16(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act nominations are invited for the Office of Speaker of this Assembly for the 30th Legislature. Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1) the Speaker shall be elected according to the procedure set out in schedule A of the standing orders. I therefore call for nominations.

**Mr. Hanson:** Thank you. I rise today to nominate the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills for the position of Speaker of this Legislative Assembly of Alberta. I've had the absolute privilege of working with Mr. Cooper as his deputy House leader for two years in opposition. I very quickly learned that he is indeed an absolute parliamentary and political nerd and that there is no one more suitable for the title of Mr. Speaker than the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. I was impressed with his knowledge of and respect for the parliamentary traditions based on the respected Westminster parliamentary system. I was impressed with his respect for our democratic institutions and the decorum required to maintain respectful, productive debate and with his knowledge of protocol, which will be necessary as he represents this House to

visiting dignitaries and while he's representing us in other jurisdictions.

The Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills is someone I am proud to call a friend and someone we can all be proud to call our Speaker.

Thank you.

**The Clerk:** Mr. Cooper, do you wish to accept the nomination?

**Mr. Cooper:** I do.

**The Clerk:** Are there further nominations?

**Ms Gray:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Belated congratulations on your new role, and thank you, hon. members. It's an honour to once again speak in this Chamber as the elected representative for Edmonton-Mill Woods, and I'd like to congratulate and welcome everyone. I see we have a lot of first-time representatives with us today. I can still remember the strange mix of excitement and pressure that each of you is likely feeling at this moment.

The learning curve for new members is a steep one, and that's why I would encourage all of us to set aside partisanship at this moment and, instead, trust the incredible value that comes from experience as we make this very important choice for Speaker. There is no substitute for experience in a role. Knowing how things ought to work and how they do work allows an individual to excel in a particular role. That is why it is my honour to nominate the only member in this Chamber who already has the experience of presiding over this Assembly as its chair to be our next Speaker. I am proud to nominate Heather Sweet, the Member for Edmonton-Manning, who has served ably in the 29th Legislature as the Deputy Chair of Committees, to now take on the role as our Speaker.

Now, I know that Heather would bring to the role of Speaker a wealth of experience and a true desire to serve this Assembly impartially and with the considerable grace and wisdom that she has to offer. Ms Sweet has already shown that she can lead this Chamber through the fiercest of debates while keeping members of all parties in order and protecting the privileges that make our work as members of the Assembly possible.

We should also consider representation of the people of this great province, with the goal to have the Speaker's office contain members that represent north, south, and certainly representation from our capital city.

I hope Heather will accept this nomination, and I hope you will join with me in valuing experience as we choose who will preside as our Speaker. Your ability to fulfill your duties as a member of this place depends on us making a wise choice for this role, and I know that Heather Sweet would allow each of us to represent our constituents to our fullest.

Thank you.

**The Clerk:** Ms Sweet, do you accept the nomination?

**Ms Sweet:** I do. Thank you.

**The Clerk:** Are there further nominations?

I declare the nominations closed.

The nominees for the position of Speaker are Mr. Nathan Cooper and Ms Heather Sweet. Voting will commence after the list of nominees is posted at each voting booth.

Thank you.

[The lists of candidates were posted]

**The Clerk:** Voting will now begin. Members will vote by printing the first and last names of their preferred candidate on the ballot

paper, then placing their completed ballot in the ballot box on the Sergeant-at-Arms' desk.

Thank you.

[Members voted from 1:50 p.m. to 1:57 p.m.]

**The Clerk:** Have all voted who wish to?

[Ballots were counted from 1:58 p.m. to 2:09 p.m.]

**The Clerk:** Number of ballots cast for the election of Speaker, 87; number of spoiled ballots, one; number of votes required to achieve the 50 per cent plus one majority, 44. The member having received the majority of votes cast is Mr. Nathan Cooper. [applause] Mr. Cooper is hereby declared the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 30th Legislature.

[The Speaker, with apparent reluctance, was escorted to the chair by Mr. Kenney and Ms Notley]

**The Speaker:** Members, before I begin, let me just take a moment to honour – I see former Speaker Ken Kowalski in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. It's a pleasure to have you here. So nice of you to join us on this fantastic day. Thank you for joining us.

As this is my first opportunity to do so, I wish to send my greatest and deepest thank yous to the outstanding constituents of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills for placing their trust back in me. I also wish to congratulate all members of the Assembly, whether it was your first election or your re-election. Congratulations on being here today, and thank you – thank you so very much – from the very bottom of my heart for placing your trust in me to serve as Speaker of the 30th Legislative Assembly.

Whether it's your first time as an MLA or you have faithfully served this institution like the Leader of the Official Opposition for 4,097 days or, in the case of the Member for Calgary-Hays or Cypress-Medicine Hat, for 2,585 days, I'm sure that all of them will tell you that coming to the Chamber for the very first time after an election is a very, very, very special time. This is a special place, where the weight of history meets our own unbridled hopes as we race towards the future. My hope is that in your debates we will be vigorous, thoughtful, and amicable. To date in this Chamber only 954 people have ever been elected to serve and represent Albertans. As we honour their legacy and service, let us be mindful that we now set the standard for those who come after us. May we not take this duty or calling lightly. Together we have an incredible opportunity and responsibility.

With that in mind, may I indulge you just for a brief moment to recognize a special guest in the Assembly today for the very first time, Louise Cooper. She is a remarkable woman in every single way, and she also happens to be my grandmother. I can tell you all that I would not be here today if it was not for her. Her courage and bravery in lockstep with her loving generosity have played such a pivotal role in my life. I've learned many, many lessons from her words and her examples. Not the least of this: in our haste to do good, we must never forget to be good for our families, our communities, and for our province. It is her example that I will endeavour to live up to in this new role.

It is with a servant's heart that I seek to serve this Assembly to ensure the rules and conventions and standing orders are applied equally and that all members of the Assembly have access to the resources you need to effectively represent your constituents. I will seek to uphold the high standard of those who have come before us. I intend to serve you to the best of my ability. You set the tone and orders of the Assembly and I am a servant for you, for it is in my view that the primary role of the Speaker is to first serve the House. It is the Speaker's responsibility to ensure that all members can

exercise their rights and privileges in the Assembly. The Speaker's authority comes from you, its members, and that allows this parliament to function properly and fairly and in the manner expected by the people of Alberta who have sent us here today.

As Speaker Betty Boothroyd once famously said, "You've got to ensure that the holders of an opinion, however unpopular, are allowed to [get their points across]." It is with this in mind that I commit to you that as long as I have the privilege of serving as Speaker, your privileges and duties as elected members of this Assembly will be recognized and defended. I encourage and entrust all of you to remember that in our haste to do good for each other, we must never forget to be good for each other.

I have reviewed the calendar, and there are many busy days ahead, so let us proceed.

[The Sergeant-at-Arms placed the Mace on the table]

**The Speaker:** I'd invite you all to rise for the prayer.

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Let us pray. Father, on this day of new beginnings we ask for Your guidance in the responsibility we have undertaken and Your help in fulfilling our duties. As Members of the Legislative Assembly may we faithfully serve all Albertans and, in serving them, serve You. Amen.

Please be seated.

### Election of a Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, pursuant to section 17(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act and to Standing Order 58(1)(a) nominations are invited for the Office of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of this Assembly for the 30th Legislature. I therefore call for nominations.

The Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, please.

**Mr. van Dijken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It truly is a pleasure to rise in this House today and be the first to congratulate you on your new role as Speaker of this Assembly. I know that your extensive experience and your eagerness for the role will serve all members of this Assembly well.

Now moving on to the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees. The role of the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees is not just a figurehead position but, rather, a role that serves a vital function in this Assembly in keeping order, preserving tradition, and holding decorum. As with the Speaker of this House, the deputy position serves an essential purpose and is not to be taken lightly.

I believe the person who would be best suited to this role is one that is familiar with House proceedings, a member in good standing, and who I've witnessed first-hand to be fair to all. It is also important that they have a presence that can command the House. With that said, it is my honour to nominate the Member for Airdrie-East, Angela Pitt.

Following her role as deputy whip to our legacy caucus, Mrs. Pitt has served as our deputy House leader in the United Conservative caucus for almost two years. She has proven herself to be attentive to the role while being a leader to those around her. She is respected amongst all members of our caucus and has a deep admiration for our parliamentary process and the historic traditions of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I must reflect on my first opportunities in getting to know the Member for Airdrie-East. When we were first elected in this Legislature in 2015, Mrs. Pitt was my seatmate, just off to my right. One of the things that I got to know about Angela was her

passion and commitment to the proceedings of this House. In fact, she was the first person I had ever met who took the time to actually watch question period regularly in her home. Now, to a farmer from Westlock that seemed rather absurd. Imagine spending an hour of what could be a productive afternoon watching politicians banter back and forth. What it did tell me, though, was Mrs. Pitt's passion and commitment to the proceedings in this House.

Mrs. Pitt is extremely committed to public service and has always sought the best for not only her constituents but for all Albertans. It is my sincere belief that, if elected, Mrs. Pitt would bring her hard-working nature to this role and serve all members of the House with dedication and fairness as we collectively strive to serve Albertans.

It is my hope that all members of this House will support and vote for Mrs. Pitt. I'm truly confident that, given her experience and dedication, she would fulfill the role of Chair of Committees and Deputy Speaker with dignity, with confidence, and respect for all members of this Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Mrs. Pitt, do you wish to accept the nomination?

**Mrs. Pitt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be an honour to serve alongside you for all members of this Assembly. I graciously and humbly accept the nomination.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other nominations? The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Speaker and setting a tone of service to this Assembly.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank former Speaker Bob Wanner, who is in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker. The guidance and service you provided to the 29th Legislature will never be forgotten. Your actions changed this place for the better, and we thank you.

Mr. Speaker, the tradition of a nonpartisan chair and a nonpartisan Office of the Speaker is of critical importance for the functioning of this Legislature. It helps to achieve improved civility and decorum, objectives that, I understand, the new government caucus holds dear. To achieve those ends, Canada's federal House of Commons has frequently used the practice of choosing a Deputy Speaker from the opposition caucus. Not only does this contribute to the good functioning of the House but also ensures nonpartisan functioning of the Speaker's office.

When our new Premier served in the federal government's Executive Council, he and his colleagues did so with multiparty representation in Parliament's Speaker's office. So I invite us to adopt that same tradition here in our Legislature. It's my honour to nominate Heather Sweet for Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of this House.

As I said in my earlier nomination, Heather Sweet would be a very capable Deputy Speaker of this Assembly, bringing a wealth of experience along with her demonstrated ability to work with all members. We have an important opportunity right now to set the tone for this 30th Legislature and to significantly improve decorum and civility in this House. So I ask all members to join me because together we can build a sweet House.

**The Speaker:** There are very few days in which you're allowed to use names in this Chamber. I appreciate what you've done there.

Ms Sweet, do you choose to accept the nomination?

**Ms Sweet:** I do, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Are there any other nominations for the position of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees?

Seeing none, I declare the nominations closed. The nominees for the position of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees are Angela Pitt and Heather Sweet. Voting will commence after the list of nominees is posted at each voting booth.

[The lists of candidates were posted]

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, we'll use the same voting process for the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees. Please file through the table officers to receive your ballot.

The voting will now begin.

[Members voted from 2:26 p.m. to 2:32 p.m.]

**The Speaker:** Members, have all voted that wished to do so?

Sergeant.

[Ballots were counted from 2:32 p.m. to 2:42 p.m.]

**The Clerk:** Number of ballots cast for the position of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, 85; number of spoiled ballots, none; number of votes required to achieve the 50 per cent plus one majority, 43. The member having received the majority of the votes cast is Mrs. Angela Pitt. Mrs. Angela Pitt is hereby declared Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 30th Legislature.

**The Speaker:** Congratulations.

Before we proceed, I would be remiss – and I thank the Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods for recognizing the immediate former Speaker, Mr. Bob Wanner. I know that you served diligently and dutifully, and as the Official Opposition House Leader I appreciated your candour at times. I wish you and the former Mrs. Speaker nothing but the best and an incredible amount of hugs from those grandbabies.

### Election of a Deputy Chair of Committees

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, pursuant to section 17(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act and Standing Order 58(1)(b) nominations are invited for the office of Deputy Chair of Committees for the 30th Legislature. I therefore call for nominations.

The Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

**Ms Gray:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations to our new Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees.

Mr. Speaker, in this nomination I would like to stress again the unique opportunity that members of this House have to make significant and genuine improvements to decorum and civility by ensuring that the Speaker's office has representation from the opposition caucus. This is the moment to set a new tone. This is the time to set a bold, new direction and begin an era of nonpartisan co-operation to ensure that the privileges of all members are protected. So it's my honour to nominate Heather Sweet for Deputy Chair of Committees.

We've now elected a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker, neither of whom has experience with the offices they are taking on. We would be remiss to leave that team with no link to the past, with no one who can offer how it was done before and to share the wisdom that comes from experience. Let us offer them Heather Sweet's guidance and tutelage, her experience as the only member of this Assembly to have presided over our proceedings. She has represented our province at Speakers' conferences on multiple occasions, she is familiar with the administrative functions of the

Speaker's office, and she is also a representative of the Edmonton area, which brings an availability to participate in all the demanding activities of the Speaker's role.

Finally, we have a shortage of women in leadership positions in this House and in Executive Council. By electing Heather Sweet, we will be sending an important message to all Albertans and recognizing the value of having strong, experienced, and talented women in all-important roles.

I encourage all members to support Heather Sweet in the role of Deputy Chair of Committees.

**The Speaker:** Ms Sweet, do you accept the nomination?

**Ms Sweet:** I do.

**The Speaker:** Are there further nominations? The Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

**Mr. Gotfried:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise before you today, with deep gratitude, of course, to the people of Calgary-Fish Creek for this great privilege, and to extend my sincere congratulations after your hard-earned and well-deserved ascendancy to the Speaker's chair. I would also like to congratulate Angela Pitt, the hon. Member for Airdrie-East, on her election as Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees. We are very proud of you both and know that we shall all be well served by your shared commitment and that of your excellent staff to all members of the Legislature and indeed to all Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honoured to have the privilege today of nominating Nicholas Milliken, the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees. While the hon. member was only recently elected to his first term as an esteemed member of this Assembly, I've gotten to know him over the past year while witnessing his sense of duty in his roles, first as a nominee and more recently through the campaign period as a hard-working, dedicated, and passionate Albertan, ready, willing, and more than able in serving his constituents. Yet he is always willing to lend a hand to his new colleagues and emerging political family, which I am hopeful he will be given the honour of including all of us in as we consider him for this humble role.

Nick's background includes volunteering and fund raising for charities in his community, many of them, in fact, while he also has a professional background in finance, law, and entrepreneurship, those skills that he can bring to this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, he is

also a proud family man and honours and appreciates that balance in our lives also allows us to bring balance to this Chamber in the forms of compassion, honesty, fairness, generosity, humility, and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, my nomination of Nicholas Milliken on this auspicious day in the history of Alberta is without reservation. I encourage all members to support him in his quest to serve this great Assembly.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Mr. Milliken, do you accept the nomination?

**Mr. Milliken:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Needless to say, simply being part of this process is a humbling experience, and it is my honour to accept this nomination from the hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

**The Speaker:** Are there any further nominations?

I declare the nominations closed. The nominees for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees are Heather Sweet and Nicholas Milliken. Voting will commence after the list of nominees is posted in each voting booth.

[The lists of candidates were posted]

**The Speaker:** The voting will begin now.

[Members voted from 2:50 p.m. to 2:57 p.m.]

**The Speaker:** Members, have all voted who wished to do so? Has everybody voted that wanted to?

[Ballots were counted from 2:57 p.m. to 3:06 p.m.]

**The Clerk:** Number of ballots cast for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees, 84; number of spoiled ballots, none; number of votes required to achieve the 50 per cent plus one majority, 43. The member having received the majority of the votes cast is Mr. Nicholas Milliken. Mr. Nicholas Milliken is hereby the Deputy Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 30th Legislature.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk, and congratulations to Mr. Milliken.

Members, the House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, at 3 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 3:06 p.m.]







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