



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature  
Second Session

# Alberta Hansard

Thursday afternoon, October 23, 2025

Day 1

The Honourable Ric McIver, Speaker

# Legislative Assembly of Alberta The 31st Legislature

Second Session

McIver, Hon. Ric, ECA, Calgary-Hays (UC), Speaker  
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UC), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees  
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UC), Deputy Chair of Committees

Al-Guneid, Nagwan, Calgary-Glenmore (NDP)  
Amery, Hon. Mickey K., ECA, KC, Calgary-Cross (UC),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Arcand-Paul, Brooks, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)  
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Hon. Jackie, ECA,  
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)  
Batten, Diana M.B., Calgary-Acadia (NDP)  
Boitchenko, Hon. Andrew, ECA, Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)  
Boparai, Parmeet Singh, Calgary-Falconridge (NDP)  
Bouchard, Eric, Calgary-Lougheed (UC)  
Brar, Gurinder, Calgary-North East (NDP)  
Brar, Gurtej Singh, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)  
Calahoo Stonehouse, Jodi, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)  
Ceci, Hon. Joe, ECA, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)  
Chapman, Amanda, Calgary-Beddington (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy Assistant Whip  
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)  
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)  
de Jonge, Chantelle, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)  
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)  
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, ECA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)  
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)  
Eggen, Hon. David, ECA, Edmonton-North West (NDP)  
Ellingson, Court, Calgary-Foothills (NDP)  
Ellis, Hon. Mike, ECA, Calgary-West (UC),  
Deputy Premier  
Elmeligi, Sarah, Banff-Kananaskis (NDP)  
Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (NDP)  
Fir, Hon. Tanya, ECA, Calgary-Peigan (UC)  
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., ECA, Calgary-Mountain View (NDP),  
Official Opposition Whip  
Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC)  
Glubish, Hon. Nate, ECA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UC)  
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)  
Gray, Hon. Christina, ECA, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP),  
Official Opposition House Leader  
Guthrie, Hon. Peter F., ECA, Airdrie-Cochrane (Ind)  
Haji, Sharif, Edmonton-Decore (NDP)  
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)  
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, ECA, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)  
Horner, Hon. Nate S., ECA, Drumheller-Stettler (UC)  
Hoyle, Rhiannon, Edmonton-South (NDP)  
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., ECA, Taber-Warner (UC),  
Government Whip  
Ip, Nathan, Edmonton-South West (NDP)  
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP),  
Official Opposition Assistant Whip  
Jean, Hon. Brian Michael, ECA, KC, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche  
(UC)  
Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC)  
Jones, Hon. Matt, ECA, Calgary-South East (UC)  
Kasawski, Kyle, Sherwood Park (NDP)  
Kayande, Samir, Calgary-Elbow (NDP)

LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, ECA, Red Deer-North (UC)  
Loewen, Hon. Todd, ECA, Central Peace-Notley (UC)  
Long, Hon. Martin M., ECA, West Yellowhead (UC)  
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)  
Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)  
McDougall, Hon. Myles, ECA, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)  
Metz, Luanne, Calgary-Varsity (NDP)  
Miyashiro, Rob, Lethbridge-West (NDP)  
Nally, Hon. Dale, ECA, Morinville-St. Albert (UC)  
Nenshi, Naheed K., Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP),  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Neudorf, Hon. Nathan T., ECA, Lethbridge-East (UC)  
Nicolaidis, Hon. Demetrios, ECA, Calgary-Bow (UC)  
Nixon, Hon. Jason, ECA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre  
(UC)  
Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)  
Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)  
Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)  
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)  
Sabir, Hon. Irfan, ECA, Calgary-Bhullar-McCall (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, ECA, Calgary-North West (UC)  
Sawyer, Tara, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC)  
Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, ECA, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)  
Schow, Hon. Joseph R., ECA, Cardston-Siksika (UC),  
Government House Leader  
Schulz, Hon. Rebecca, ECA, Calgary-Shaw (UC)  
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP),  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader  
Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, ECA, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)  
Sigurdson, Hon. R.J., ECA, Highwood (UC)  
Sinclair, Scott, Lesser Slave Lake (Ind)  
Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UC)  
Smith, Hon. Danielle, ECA, Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC),  
Premier  
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)  
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP)  
Tejada, Lizette, Calgary-Klein (NDP)  
Turton, Hon. Searle, ECA, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UC)  
Wiebe, Ron, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC)  
Williams, Hon. Dan D.A., ECA, Peace River (UC),  
Deputy Government House Leader  
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., ECA, Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UC)  
Wright, Justin, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)  
Wright, Peggy K., Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)  
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC),  
Deputy Government Whip  
Yaseen, Hon. Muhammad, ECA, Calgary-North (UC)

## Party standings:

United Conservative: 47

New Democrat: 38

Independent: 2

## Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Shannon Dean, KC, Clerk  
Trafton Koenig, Law Clerk  
Vani Govindarajan, Parliamentary Counsel  
Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and  
Executive Director of Parliamentary  
Services

Nancy Robert, Clerk of *Journals* and  
Committees  
Aaron Roth, Committee Clerk  
Amanda LeBlanc, Managing Editor of  
*Alberta Hansard*

Terry Langley, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Paul Link, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms  
Gareth Scott, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms  
Lang Bawn, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

### **Executive Council**

|                      |                                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Danielle Smith       | Premier, President of Executive Council,<br>Minister of Intergovernmental and International Relations |
| Mike Ellis           | Deputy Premier, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services                                      |
| Mickey Amery         | Minister of Justice                                                                                   |
| Andrew Boitchenko    | Minister of Tourism and Sport                                                                         |
| Devin Dreesen        | Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors                                                     |
| Tanya Fir            | Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women                                                         |
| Nate Glubish         | Minister of Technology and Innovation                                                                 |
| Nate Horner          | President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance                                                   |
| Grant Hunter         | Associate Minister of Water                                                                           |
| Brian Jean           | Minister of Energy and Minerals                                                                       |
| Matt Jones           | Minister of Hospital and Surgical Health Services                                                     |
| Adriana LaGrange     | Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services                                                  |
| Todd Loewen          | Minister of Forestry and Parks                                                                        |
| Martin Long          | Minister of Infrastructure                                                                            |
| Myles McDougall      | Minister of Advanced Education                                                                        |
| Dale Nally           | Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction                                                    |
| Nathan Neudorf       | Minister of Affordability and Utilities                                                               |
| Demetrios Nicolaides | Minister of Education and Childcare                                                                   |
| Jason Nixon          | Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services                                                       |
| Rajan Sawhney        | Minister of Indigenous Relations                                                                      |
| Joseph Schow         | Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration                                                      |
| Rebecca Schulz       | Minister of Environment and Protected Areas                                                           |
| R.J. Sigurdson       | Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation                                                                |
| Searle Turton        | Minister of Children and Family Services                                                              |
| Dan Williams         | Minister of Municipal Affairs                                                                         |
| Rick Wilson          | Minister of Mental Health and Addiction                                                               |
| Muhammad Yaseen      | Associate Minister of Multiculturalism                                                                |

### **Parliamentary Secretaries**

|                           |                                                                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk | Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services and Ukrainian Evacuees |
| Chantelle de Jonge        | Parliamentary Secretary for Affordability and Utilities                |
| Nolan Dyck                | Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous and Rural Policing              |
| Shane Getson              | Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Corridor Development              |
| Chelsae Petrovic          | Parliamentary Secretary for Health Workforce Engagement                |
| Jason Stephan             | Parliamentary Secretary for Constitutional Affairs                     |
| Ron Wiebe                 | Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (North)                       |
| Justin Wright             | Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (South)                       |
| Tany Yao                  | Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development    |

## STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

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

Chair: Mr. Yao  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell  
Boitchenko  
Gurinder Brar  
Kasawski  
Kayande  
Stephan  
Wiebe  
Wright, J.

### **Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future**

Chair: Mr. Getson  
Deputy Chair: Vacant  
Boparai  
Cyr  
de Jonge  
Elmeligi  
Hoyle  
Stephan  
van Dijken  
Wright, J.

### **Standing Committee on Families and Communities**

Chair: Ms Lovely  
Deputy Chair: Ms Goehring  
Batten  
Haji  
Johnson  
Lunty  
McDougall  
Petrovic  
Singh  
Tejada

### **Standing Committee on Legislative Offices**

Chair: Mr. Getson  
Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken  
Chapman  
Cyr  
Dyck  
Eremenko  
Lovely  
Miyashiro  
Petrovic  
Shepherd

### **Special Standing Committee on Members' Services**

Chair: Mr. McIver  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Getson  
Eggen  
Gray  
Hunter  
Metz  
Petrovic  
Sabir  
Singh  
Yao

### **Standing Committee on Private Bills**

Chair: Ms Pitt  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Cyr  
Bouchard  
Ceci  
Deol  
Dyck  
Hayter  
Johnson  
Sigurdson, L.  
Wright, J.

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

Chair: Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Wiebe  
Arcand-Paul  
Bouchard  
Ceci  
Cyr  
Dach  
Gray  
Sinclair  
Stephan

### **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Chair: Mr. Sabir  
Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell  
Armstrong-Homeniuk  
de Jonge  
Ellingson  
Johnson  
Lunty  
McDougall  
Renaud  
Schmidt

### **Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship**

Chair: Mr. Rowswell  
Deputy Chair: Ms Sweet  
Al-Guneid  
Armstrong-Homeniuk  
Boitchenko  
Calahoo Stonehouse  
Dyck  
Eggen  
Hunter  
Yao

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 23, 2025

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

[The Clerk read the Royal Proclamation dated October 22, 2025, 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! All rise, please. 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:** Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and to his government, to Members of the Legislative Assembly, and to all in positions of responsibility the guidance of Your spirit. May they never lead the province wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but, laying aside all private interest and prejudice, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all. Amen.

Elder Saddleback, I invite you to come up and offer a blessing.

**Elder Saddleback:** [Remarks in Cree] All my relations. I'm grateful to be here today. You know, I did 58 years of sun dance. Fifty-eight years ago my Cree Nation of Samson was told never to do the ceremony. When Indian affairs came, I was seven years old for my first sun dance. They were told, the police that came: we can't charge him. So we had that sun dance going for a reason, because reconciliation is important.

We have a right to pray our way, and it's no different from the way you pray to Jesus. I always ask for kindness, but today there's a song that we sang for the King and the Queen. I'm the only one left that knows that song, so I'm going to sing that. It's a prayer song, you know, for the King to be safe, to be guarded, to be protected, and, also, that treaty right that we have. So I'm going to sing that song here. Then I'm going to do a prayer with that. It goes like this. [Singing in Cree]

[Remarks in Cree] The sun, the thunderbird, the wind, the land. [Remarks in Cree] Where there is darkness, there'll be light. [Remarks in Cree] Legislature Building, their session. [Remarks in Cree] Assembly. [Remarks in Cree] Somehow to work together. [Remarks in Cree] Our ancestors. [Remarks in Cree] Those that are here who speak my language, you hear my prayers there. [Remarks in Cree] For the kids that we live for, for our grandchildren that we live for. [Remarks in Cree] Hard work. [Remarks in Cree]

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Elder Saddleback, for getting us started in a good way.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now invite Ariana Whitlow, accompanied by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, to lead us in the singing of our national anthem. Please join us in the language of your choice.

**Hon. Members and Guests:**

O Canada, our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us 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.

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

### Presentation to the Assembly of Mrs. Tara Sawyer Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

**The Speaker:** I now invite the Premier 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 Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills containing the results of the by-election conducted on June 23, 2025, which states that a by-election conducted in the constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills was completed and that Mrs. Tara Sawyer was duly elected as the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills.

[Ms Smith escorted Mrs. Sawyer to the Mace]

**Ms Smith:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Mrs. Tara Sawyer, the new Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, who has taken the oath as a member of this Assembly, has inscribed the roll, and now claims the right to take her seat.

**The Speaker:** Let the hon. member take her seat.

### Presentation to the Assembly of Mr. Naheed Nenshi Member for Edmonton-Strathcona

**The Speaker:** I now invite the Official Opposition House Leader 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 Edmonton-Strathcona containing the results of the by-election conducted on June 23, 2025, which states that a by-election was held in the constituency of Edmonton-Strathcona and that Mr. Naheed Nenshi was duly elected as the Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

[Ms Gray escorted Mr. Nenshi to the Mace]

**Ms Gray:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting to you Mr. Naheed K. Nenshi, the new Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, who has taken the oath as a member of this Assembly, has inscribed the roll, and now is here to claim the right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** Of course, let the hon. member take his seat.

### Presentation to the Assembly of Mr. Gurtej Brar Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie

**The Speaker:** I now invite the Leader of the Official Opposition 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 Edmonton-Ellerslie containing the results of the by-election conducted on June 23, 2025, which states that a by-election that was held in the constituency of Edmonton-Ellerslie and that Mr. Gurtej Brar was duly elected as the Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

[Mr. Nenshi escorted Mr. Brar to the Mace]

**Mr. Nenshi:** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to present to you Mr. Gurtej Singh Brar, the new Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie. He has taken his oath as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, he has inscribed the roll, and he claims the right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** Let the hon. member take his seat.

I now invite the Premier to proceed to the southeast door of the Chamber.

[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, with a complement of 30 full-time professional musicians, the Royal Canadian Artillery Band takes great pride in supporting the 3rd Canadian Division of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and the Canadian Armed Forces. The band performs extensively as a parade band and wind ensemble, but they also perform in various smaller groups like we are seeing here today. These include the jazz, brass, and woodwind ensembles. As musical ambassadors the Royal Canadian Artillery Band regularly provides music for formal concerts, ceremonies, military parades, government functions, tattoos, and special events, representing Canada across the country and around the world. Hon. members, I would like to welcome the Royal Canadian Artillery Band to play a brief musical interlude. The piece to be performed is *Rondeau* by Jean-Joseph Mouret.

### Entrance of the Lieutenant Governor

[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, Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor awaits.

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

[A fanfare of trumpets sounded]

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Salma Lakhani, AOE, BSc, LL.D., and His Honour Dr. Zaheer Lakhani, their party, the Premier, and the Clerk entered the Chamber. Her Honour took her place upon the throne]

**The Speaker:** May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has elected me their Speaker though I am but little able to fulfill the important duties thus assigned to me. If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the Assembly, whose servant I am.

**Her Honour:** Please be seated.

**Mr. Amery (Provincial Secretary):** Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from her the most favourable construction.

**Her Honour:** Well, good afternoon, all, and welcome to our newest Members of the Legislative Assembly. Before we begin the business at hand, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all members of the Assembly for your dedicated service to our province. The role that each of you plays is important to our system

of government, and the work that you collectively do in this Chamber is essential to the quality of life enjoyed by all Albertans. I wish each and every one of you a most productive and constructive session. I hope that you will share my thanks with the leaders and volunteers in your constituencies who work so hard to keep our communities and province moving forward. Please also convey my gratitude to your families, who make daily sacrifices to support you.

With that, I will begin the Speech from the Throne.

## Speech from the Throne

### Introduction

**Her Honour:** Mr. Speaker, hon. Members of the Legislative Assembly, and fellow Albertans:

I open this Second Session of the 31st Legislature as His Majesty the King's representative.

Today we gather on Treaty 6 territory, and I invite all hon. members to reflect upon and acknowledge the traditional territories of the First Peoples of this land and their invaluable contributions to our province and country. I also recognize Métis people in Alberta, who share a deep connection with this land.

### Federal and U.S. Relations

Two and a half years ago we gathered in this Chamber following the 2023 provincial election for the first throne speech of this 31st Legislature. At that time Albertans found themselves in the midst of a tumultuous political storm that threatened our province's very economic and social fabric in profound ways as the then federal government's policies constrained our energy sector, interfered in multiple areas of provincial jurisdiction, and undermined the integrity of the power grid Albertans rely on for light and to keep their families safe on cold Alberta winter nights. That political storm then intensified further as our largest trading partner and ally threatened unprecedented tariffs on all Canadian exports headed south, including on all Alberta energy and agricultural products, which would have resulted in tens of thousands of lost Alberta jobs and billions in lost provincial revenues.

In the midst of that tumultuous time, at perhaps the most critical juncture in our province's modern history, Alberta's government made a promise in that 2023 throne speech. It was, "The world needs more Alberta energy, not less, and Alberta's government intends to empower Albertans to deliver it." Hon. members, that is exactly what this government has done every moment since that time, and it will continue to do so until the job is done.

This government has driven back the antienergy movement in our country and helped to turn the tide of national public opinion from anti oil and gas sentiment into a national consensus that Alberta's energy resources are a national treasure that can and must be developed aggressively using the made-in-Alberta technologies that allow us to do so in the most environmentally responsible manner. This turning of Canadian political power and public opinion was unthinkable just a few short years ago. Alberta is winning and will continue to win this battle for our freedom and provincial rights because your government believes we are on the right side of history, and Albertans will not be denied their prosperous future.

As a result, this government is now partnering with Canada's greatest oil pipeline companies and First Nations to end the land-locking of Alberta's oil sands by building new oil pipelines to our nation's west coast in order to access the largest market on earth, Asia. This pipeline will bring wealth and prosperity to millions across Canada, and because it will be co-owned by First Nations in

Alberta and British Columbia, no people will benefit more than the First Peoples whose lands this pipeline will cross. It's one thing to speak about economic reconciliation with First Nations; it is quite another to actually do it. And Alberta is leading the way.

Alberta is also working with the province of Ontario to build an oil pipeline to southeastern Ontario to ensure the energy security of Canada's two largest provinces, Ontario and Quebec, which currently rely entirely on the U.S.-controlled line 5 for their energy needs.

In addition, this government is co-operating with Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and First Nations to open up the Hudson Bay to oil and gas export and to access the massive European market desperate for a non-Russian supply of energy from a trusted friend and ally.

And through hundreds of hours of advocacy and diplomacy this government has thus far convinced our American friends and allies that they do indeed need Alberta's energy resources. We have shown them that their country enjoys a tremendous amount of wealth and jobs because of the vast amount of energy exports pouring over their northern border from our province.

In fact, both the American and Canadian governments now agree that strengthening and increasing the Canadian-U.S. energy partnership will be critical to achieving a lasting and mutually beneficial trade deal for both countries. As a result of this government's diplomatic victory with the United States, the vast majority of Alberta exports, from energy to agriculture and almost everything else, have remained tariff-free. This success would not have been achieved had this province taken a different approach, burning bridges with our U.S. friends while waiting for the federal government to protect our provincial interests, as many in certain quarters demanded. And this government will continue with its direct Alberta-U.S. diplomacy and respectful dialogue rather than using anti-American rhetoric. The results of both strategies have spoken for themselves, and Alberta's approach is clearly the right one.

Now, hon. members, make no mistake. The job with the federal government and the Americans is not done. There are many important issues to work through with our federal and provincial partners along with First Nations to fully unleash the Alberta energy sector. And the threat of future large American tariffs on all Canadian exports is still a real possibility.

But the tide of this nation has undeniably turned, and your government will not rest until Alberta has doubled its oil and gas production, increased and diversified agricultural and other exports to the U.S. and the rest of the world, and restored constitutional balance to this country with provincial and federal governments working as equal partners, respecting each other's exclusive areas of jurisdiction while co-operatively working together on areas of shared responsibility. If we wish to have a strong, independent, and unified Canada, this is the way to achieve it. And your government will not stop until that job is done.

### **Economy and Budget**

Hon. members, although the change in fortunes federally gives us much to be hopeful for, Alberta remains in choppy economic waters. The U.S. world-wide imposition of tariffs, world conflicts, and intentional increases in OPEC production have significantly depressed the price of oil, resulting in a loss of billions in royalty revenues and a significant budget deficit after several years of large surpluses. Albertans are well aware of the effects of both high and low oil prices and inherently understand there is no need to panic or overreact. This isn't Alberta's first oil price roller coaster, after all.

The vast majority of Albertans do not want deep and disruptive cuts, nor do they want declarations of economic emergency used as

a pretext for a proliferation of government programs and spending. They want calm, steady, and smart fiscal leadership until the dip in energy prices inevitably passes, as it always does. They expect this government to continue to hold spending increases to below inflation plus population growth, to find and eliminate government waste and inefficiencies, and to invest wisely in priorities such as health, education, roads, policing, and other core social services. And that is exactly how this government will manage Alberta's current challenging economic situation.

However, unlike many past Alberta governments, this government has set in motion a three-part plan to ensure that by the year 2050 Albertans will never again be reliant on nonrenewable resources to maintain our low-tax advantage and excellent core social services and infrastructure. First, this government is committed to grow the Alberta heritage trust fund to well over \$250 billion by 2050, mirroring sovereign wealth funds in other energy-rich nations such as Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. This will be accomplished by prohibiting government from spending the investment returns earned in the heritage fund until at least 2050 and instead using those investment returns as well as the bulk of royalty surpluses enjoyed in times of high oil and gas prices to grow the fund dramatically. This effort has already begun to pay off with the heritage fund having grown from \$16.3 billion to nearly \$30 billion in just the last few years, with the goal of reaching \$35 billion by 2027.

Second, the government has committed to holding spending increases to below inflation plus population growth. To accomplish this and ensure Albertans' tax dollars are targeted to priorities, your government has launched a cabinet and MLA review of all programs and grants across all government departments to reduce or eliminate spending that has become unnecessary or redundant.

And, third, the government will further diversify Alberta's economy with a special focus on sectors where this province already enjoys a strategic advantage.

The most exciting example of this is Alberta's drive to become a world-leading jurisdiction in artificial intelligence by using our almost inexhaustible supplies of natural gas to fuel the massive amounts of power required for AI data centres. This, combined with Alberta's highly educated population and exceptional postsecondary institutions, will be integral to developing and scaling AI data-driven applications in medicine, technology, and every other sector. Alberta is already an energy superpower. Alberta will now also become an AI superpower, making our province a world leader in arguably the world's two most important commodities, energy and computing power.

And Alberta will not stop there. Your government will continue to advance our province's emerging industries in aerospace, defence, technology, value-added agriculture and forestry products, critical minerals, alternative energy, and environmental technology while investing in infrastructure for tourism, arts, culture, and sport. The days of hearing that Alberta needs to start diversifying its economy are over. Alberta's economy is already diversified and will continue to strengthen and grow by turning our province's historic strengths and advantages into future prosperity and opportunity, resulting in an economy and balance sheet that is the envy of the world. Alberta is well on its way.

### **Immigration and Infrastructure**

Alberta's success comes with a challenge. When people across the country and around the world see the prosperity of those living here, they want to share in that opportunity. The Alberta advantage has acted as a magnet for population growth for decades. And let there be no doubt about how important immigration and interprovincial

migration have been to our success. New Albertans from other provinces and countries have been essential to our economic prosperity and rich culture.

Alberta's history of healthy levels of primarily economic immigrants able to almost seamlessly integrate into Alberta's economy and culture has been entirely upended by the last 10 years of federal immigration policies, which have resulted in an unsustainable level of newcomers entering our province. This has led to Albertans of all ages, backgrounds, and immigration history becoming concerned with high unemployment, inflation, and substantial growth pressures on our province's social infrastructure. That is why the government of Alberta will seek to take more active control over provincial immigration in the coming months and years. Using Alberta's constitutionally protected provincial rights, the government of Alberta will return to a more stable number of primarily economic migrants so that newcomers come here to work and contribute as they have historically done while Canadian citizens living in Alberta are given first priority to the social programs, jobs, and opportunities our economy creates.

### **Investment in Infrastructure**

And although rightsizing Alberta's growth rate is critical, our province cannot afford waiting to make the investments in infrastructure that are needed to catch up with the growth that has already occurred. This is why your government will invest \$8.6 billion to open up 200,000 new school spaces across the province over the coming years. That's also why your government will hire thousands of new teachers and educational assistants over the next three years.

It's why Alberta will spend billions more in expanding road networks across the province, including completion of the Deerfoot Trail expansion in Calgary, the Yellowhead in Edmonton, and twinning highway 3 in southern Alberta, highway 11 in central Alberta, and highway 63 in northern Alberta along with the continued improvements to highways 88 and 686 in northern Alberta.

It's why your government will invest in the expansion of Edmonton's and Calgary's light-rail transit systems and roll out a provincial passenger-rail strategy that will see commuter rail built out over the coming decades to ease the growing burden on the QE II and Trans-Canada highways. We can't, after all, keep adding lanes on these congested roadways forever. As Alberta continues to grow, public transit must be part of the solution.

This government will also continue to invest hundreds of millions in municipal infrastructure for our growing communities and open thousands of new spaces at our postsecondary institutions, targeting most new investment for those programs in the trades, AI, health, and other sectors where Albertans and our economy have the most need.

Your government will also hire hundreds of new police officers, modernize and expand court services, reduce red tape, and work to decrease and slow the rise of electricity and insurance costs through the implementation of the province's reformed electricity market and care-first auto insurance system.

This government will continue to make the investments in infrastructure and social services that Albertans need. And it will continue to reform and modernize our province's social services to ensure that Albertans are enjoying the most choice and highest quality of any services in Canada. And there is no more important social service than health care.

### **Health Care**

Hon. members, for far too long in this province and country the growing crisis in our provincial public health care systems has been neglected. This government believes that Canada's health care

systems are broken. They are typically administered by large, unaccountable bureaucracies that have centralized power and control at the expense of front-line staff and healing patients.

Our country has among the poorest health system outcomes in the industrialized world, often resulting in tragic and life-shortening consequences. We have well-trained and compassionate doctors, nurses, and other front-line staff but have difficulty keeping them in Canada due to subpar working conditions, rationed operating-room time, and better opportunities in other nations. And no matter how much money this country and its provinces spend, the results have not materially improved. In fact, they are deteriorating in every single province, whether governed by Liberals, New Democrats, or Conservatives.

Hon. members, this government decided two and a half years ago that it would take action rather than continue to throw billions of tax dollars into an underperforming and unambitious AHS bureaucracy. Instead, your government acted decisively to reform our provincial health system, and although it has not been without its challenges, we are seeing improvements each and every day. Wait times for surgical services are coming down. The number of doctors and nurses is increasing. Less is being spent on bureaucracy and more on the front lines. And with the transfer of authority over the administration of the Alberta health care system from AHS to four targeted health agencies overseen directly by a dedicated and accountable government ministry, Alberta is now well positioned to further accelerate desperately needed health care reforms.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction is well down the path of implementing the world-renowned Alberta recovery model for addiction with the construction of 11 recovery communities and is poised to commence operations of the compassionate intervention program that will mandate treatment in secure facilities for addicts who are a danger to themselves and others. The Alberta model has already saved thousands, and compassionate intervention will save thousands more.

The Ministry of Assisted Living and Social Services is doing essential work across our provincial health system, ensuring our seniors find community care with the level of support they require for their medical needs. They are leading a new effort to transfer nonacute patients, primarily seniors who have spent hundreds of days living in a hospital bed, into accommodations far better suited for their care and quality of life. This will not only result in better care for those individuals but will also free up hundreds of acute hospital beds for Albertans with more urgent needs.

This government's third area of focus in health is primary and preventative care because every dollar invested wisely in prevention means less premature death, higher quality of life, and significantly fewer tax dollars spent on expensive surgeries and hospital care. With the new doctors' contract focused on quality of patient care rather than quantity of visits and this government's empowerment of nurse practitioners to open their own practices, Albertans are more able to secure the primary care they and their families need.

This government will go a step further on health prevention and introduce new legislation that empowers Albertans with more choices by leveraging access to private diagnostic tests and screening using the latest AI and other emerging technologies. This means that individuals and their employers will be able to invest directly in the preventative health care needs of themselves, their families, and their employees.

And although stronger preventative care will decrease the need for more serious medical interventions, there inevitably will always be a need for hospital and surgical services. However, the outdated model of building massive new multibillion-dollar hospitals that take half a decade or more to build and then are almost always underused when opened must end.

That is why this government is pursuing a different path and will focus precious tax dollars and efforts on increasing specialized chartered surgical centres that will compete along with AHS, Covenant Health, and other providers to deliver more surgeries and treatments faster. This government will do so by moving away from a wasteful and inefficient block-funding model for our public hospitals towards a more competitive and responsive activity-based funding model. This new model will increase transparency by paying public hospitals and surgical centres for the amount and complexity of the services they actually provide patients, ensuring that no longer will bureaucrats try to guess which facilities should receive more tax dollars with no accountability for the services provided.

The days of an antiquated, bureaucratic, and unaccountable health system are over, hon. members. Albertans want more surgeries and better results from their health care system, and it's time to bring that system out of the 1960s and into 2025, where the rest of the world's developed nations already reside.

### Justice and Public Safety

Just as access to world-class health care when and where Albertans need it is critically important, so too is the need for safe communities and the protection of personal rights and freedoms. Policies such as safe supply, criminal-first bail and sentencing rules, social engineering of children, and institutionalized censorship are just a few examples of policies that have needlessly destroyed and even ended the lives of thousands in our country.

This government has taken a stand against these dangerous and destructive policies when few other governments in the western world would. Alberta will continue to march forward with the freedom and justice policies and initiatives that save lives and make communities safe. This government will fund, not defund, the police. It will seek justice for victims, not excuses for the guilty. It will replace the enabling of continued drug use for the addicted with providing treatment and a means to recovery. It will protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners by refusing to enforce any federal seizure program and focus instead on fighting real criminals and securing our borders against them. It will lift up and support those who struggle with mental health rather than give them the means to end their lives because of it.

And while Ottawa and other governments around the world seek to institutionalize the censorship of free speech, your government will forge an accelerated path in the opposite direction with legislation that contains comprehensive free-speech protections for regulated professionals. This new legislation, when combined with the Alberta Bill of Rights amendments passed last year, will solidify Alberta's status as the freest jurisdiction in Canada.

And, hon. members, Alberta will unapologetically protect our province's children by removing graphic pornographic images from schools, ensuring children reach adulthood before choosing to change their gender, and protecting the critical role and status of parents as the primary caregiver and decision-maker for their children. This government will never back down in its protection of children or strengthening the rights and freedoms that have made our province the shining city on a hill that it is today.

### Sovereignty and Independence

In closing, hon. members, this government has been clear and will continue to be so. Your government believes in a strong, free, and sovereign Alberta within a united Canada. Sovereignty does not mean separation. Strength and self-determination do not have to mean national independence. And one can love this province with all their heart and love our nation just as much. In fact, it is your

government's view that both Canada and Alberta can only succeed when a proper constitutional balance has been restored and Alberta is empowered to freely pursue its full potential while Ottawa focuses its efforts on key areas of federal jurisdiction.

The vast majority of Albertans understand this need for change in our federal-provincial relationship, and that is why your government has spent the last several months meeting with thousands of Albertans in Alberta Next town halls that have been viewed by over three-quarters of a million people in every corner of this province. That panel is now deliberating on what was heard and learned during these meetings, and it will soon make recommendations as to what initiatives are worth pursuing immediately to strengthen Alberta's sovereignty within Canada and which initiatives should be put to a referendum of Albertans. And your government does not fear that will or judgment of Albertans. In fact, it is the will and judgment of Albertans that this government shall uphold and serve, whatever the people ultimately decide.

Your government is also actively negotiating with the federal government to gain additional pipeline access to Asian, European, and U.S. markets and to remove or overhaul several federal laws and policies that have profoundly damaged Alberta's economy for the last decade. Reaching a grand bargain between Alberta and Canada to restore these provincial rights and economic freedoms is critical.

Because at the end of it all, Albertans will be the ones to decide the future of our province. And they will choose what they see as the best path forward to prosperity for their children, grandchildren, and fellow Albertans, and in doing so our magnificent province and its people shall remain forever strong and free.

Thank you, hon. members. May God bless Alberta, and may God save the King.

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

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

### Hon. Members and Guests:

God save our gracious King,  
Long live our noble King,  
God save the King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King!

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

[The Mace was uncovered]

**The Speaker:** Please be seated.

Hon. members, I would like to draw your attention to the portraits of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla that were recently installed in our legislative Chamber and provide you with some additional information about them. The photographs for the official Canadian portraits of Their Majesties were taken in June of 2024 in the White Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace by photographer Millie Pilkington, one of the most accomplished portrait photographers in the United Kingdom.

Both portraits have elements in them that are uniquely Canadian. King Charles is wearing the insignia of the Order of Canada on a ribbon around His Majesty's neck. The King is also wearing a bar of medals from Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom on

the left breast of his jacket. Queen Camilla is wearing the maple leaf brooch, which is made of platinum and studded with diamonds. The brooch was first presented by King George VI to his wife, Queen Elizabeth, on the occasion of their first royal tour of Canada in 1939, a tour which took them to Alberta.

Another interesting fact is that Alberta is one of the first Legislatures in Canada to display the portraits of Their Majesties in its legislative Chamber.

[The Premier returned to the Chamber]

### **Tablings**

**The Speaker:** I have the honour to table a copy of the speech graciously given by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

### **Introduction of Bills**

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

#### **Bill 1 International Agreements Act**

**Ms Smith:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to introduce Bill 1, the International Agreements Act.

This bill sends a clear message. Alberta's jurisdiction is protected, and decisions that shape our future will be made right here at home. The bill is being introduced to address gaps in current legislation beyond the limit of trade and investment to cover all agreements. If passed, international agreements impacting provincial jurisdiction will only become enforceable in Alberta if implemented under provincial legislation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I hereby move first reading of Bill 1, the International Agreements Act.

[Motion carried; Bill 1 read a first time]

### **Motions**

**Ms Smith:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the speech of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration the week of October 27, 2025.

[Motion carried]

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

**Mr. Schow:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is wonderful to be back, but with that, I move that the Assembly be adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2025.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 2:45 p.m.]

## **Bill Status Report for the 31th Legislature - 2nd Session (2025)**

**Activity to Thursday, October 23, 2025**

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 200 are Government Bills. Bills numbered 201 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 number until the conclusion of the Fall Sitzings.

### **Bill 1 — International Agreements Act (Smith)**

First Reading — 6 (*Oct. 23, 2025 aft., passed*)







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