

# JOURNALS

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## FOURTH AND FIFTH SESSIONS

OF THE

## TWENTY-THIRD

## LEGISLATURE

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

1996 AND 1997



PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HON. STANLEY S. SCHUMACHER, Q.C., SPEAKER

VOLUME CIV

**JOURNALS  
OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
OF THE  
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE**

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FROM FEBRUARY 10, 1997 TO FEBRUARY 11, 1997  
(BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)

IN THE FORTY-FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF OUR MOST  
SOVEREIGN LADY HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

BEING THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE  
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

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SITTING

FEBRUARY 10, 1997 TO FEBRUARY 11, 1997

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**1997**  
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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Title: 23rd Legislature, 5th Session Journals (1997)

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**SPRING SITTING**

FEBRUARY 10, 1997 TO FEBRUARY 11, 1997

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**JOURNALS**  
OF THE  
**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
OF THE  
**PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**

FIFTH SESSION

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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Monday, February 10, 1997

This being the first Day of the Fifth Session of the Twenty-Third Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, for the despatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation of His Honour the Honourable H.A. "Bud" Olson, Lieutenant Governor, dated the fifteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven;

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly read the Proclamation as follows:

[GREAT SEAL]  
CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

H.A. "BUD" OLSON,  
Lieutenant Governor.

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada, and Her Other Realms and Territories, QUEEN, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

PROCLAMATION

To OUR FAITHFUL, the MEMBERS elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta and to each and every one of you, GREETING...

WHEREAS it is Our will and pleasure by and with the advice and consent of Our Executive Council of Our Province of Alberta to prorogue the Fourth Session of the Twenty-third Legislature of Alberta:

Doug Rae,  
Acting Deputy Minister  
of Justice and Acting  
Deputy Attorney General

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective February 9, 1997, the said Legislature; and

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient for certain causes and considerations to convene the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta for the Fifth Session of the Twenty-third Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1997

MONDAY, the 10th day of February 1997, at the hour of THREE o'clock in the afternoon, at Our City of Edmonton, personally be and appear, for the despatch of business, to treat, act, do and conclude upon those things which, in the Legislature of Our Province of Alberta, by the Common Council of Our said Province, may, by the favour of God, be ordained.

HEREIN FAIL NOT

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of Alberta to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS: THE HONOURABLE H.A. "BUD" OLSON, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this Fifteenth day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-seven in the Forty-fifth Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

BRIAN EVANS,  
Provincial Secretary.

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The Speaker entered the Assembly and took the Chair.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly and took his seat on the Throne.

His Honour then read the following Speech from the Throne:

### **Speech From The Throne**

Fellow Albertans, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the fifth session of the 23rd Alberta Legislature.

In the first session of this Legislature, in 1993, my Government laid out the four cornerstones of its mandate: exercise fiscal responsibility, create a climate for jobs, streamline Government, and listen to Albertans. Today, on the eve of this fifth session, my Government thanks Albertans for moving successfully through change and, in so doing, setting the standard for the rest of our great nation. In 1997 the Government's overall goal is to continue to adapt to change and to build on those four cornerstones to achieve an even better Alberta for our children and our grandchildren.

Having laid a solid foundation with balanced budgets and diminishing debt, our Government will remain fiscally responsible. It will continue to spend no more than it earns, to pay down the provincial debt, and to apply any excess revenues to the debt as required by law. The Government is on track to eliminate its net debt excluding pension liabilities by the year 2005, some 16 years ahead of the originally legislated target.

Such progress is not a licence to return to the free-spending ways of the past, but it does allow our Government to reinvest funds which would otherwise have gone to pay interest on the debt, to reinvest them in Albertans' priority areas. Today almost 75 cents of every dollar spent by the Alberta Government is in the priority areas of health, education, and social services compared to 69 cents in 1992-93, and this time none of it is funded with borrowed money, tax increases, or debt burden. Shortly the Provincial Treasurer will present a detailed fiscal plan in the Government's new budget.

Our Government's second cornerstone is based on jobs. It will continue with policies which help create the environment for Albertans to generate wealth, investment, and good jobs.

Alberta's economic engines are firing on all cylinders. From December of 1992 to December of 1996, Albertans created 157,000 new jobs in a wide variety of areas, a significant number of them in high-technology, knowledge-based industries. Of these new jobs, 80 percent are full-time, and almost all of them are in the private sector.

Our gross domestic product grew by 16 percent in four years. Today Alberta has its lowest unemployment since 1982 as well as the lowest youth unemployment in Canada. We are expected to lead the nation in economic growth, and the announcement of the \$25 billion investments in the oil sands, among the largest investments in Canadian history, is a dramatic example of the ongoing and projected inflow of people, business, and capital to our province.

The Government's new economic development strategy, Building on the Alberta Advantage, provides a framework for further growth in key sectors of our economy, growth which is expected to result in 155,000 new jobs by the year 2000, and its new human resources strategy, People and Prosperity, will help Albertans get the skills and training they need to compete and stay ahead in the marketplace.

Our Government will ensure that Albertans continue to enjoy the lowest overall taxes in Canada. As well, it will extend its family tax credit, which began this year for low-income Albertans, to middle-income Albertans in 1998.

The Government will continue to invest in research and development in Alberta's areas of strength, such as energy, forestry, and agriculture, and apply the results

to help firms develop and acquire new technologies. It will work with business and technology developers on directories and databases in sectors like advanced materials and biotechnology.

Our Government will support our export-driven economy by reinvesting strategically in highway projects like the north/south trade corridor and our resource road programs, by playing a prominent role in Canada's year of Asia/Pacific and following up on Team Canada's recent trade mission to the Asia/Pacific, and by informing Alberta businesses about international trade and investment opportunities.

It will increase certainty for developers of the oil sands by entrenching the major features of the new generic royalty regime in legislation, and amendments to the rules governing the tenure of minerals will give industry more clarity and flexibility.

Our Government will promote value-added agricultural products through efforts like the industry-led agrifood and fibre value-added fund. This will encourage advances in areas such as food processing and agricultural products used in medicine and health science. As well, the Government will restructure its crop insurance program to increase its share of support at lower levels of coverage, broaden the base of coverage, and reduce both producers' premiums by an average of 25 percent and the demand for unbudgeted assistance in the future.

The third cornerstone of the Government's mandate is to continue to provide efficient, affordable, and deregulated programs and services focusing on its core businesses: people, prosperity, and preservation. In fact, about one-quarter of the Government's legislative agenda will focus on streamlining and removing duplication in and barriers to the delivery of public services.

Having made the necessary shift from a health system based on acute care to one based on community care, our Government will keep working to ensure high-quality, accessible, and sustainable health care with stable and predictable funding. It will address current and future pressure points and proceed with reforms aimed at preventing illness and injury. These efforts will reduce waiting times for emergencies and surgeries, allow for more nurses and other frontline staff, and improve community health and home care.

In education the Government will focus on improving the quality of education and on preparing Albertans for the growing demand for skilled jobs in our province. In primary and secondary education it will work to improve high school completion rates, students' achievement in math, and students' access to information through technology. Strategies to these ends include expanding distance learning programs; changing guidance counseling programs to raise students' awareness of career options; establishing curriculum standards in technology for students and technical standards and certification requirements for teachers; making career and technical studies a permanent part of the high school curriculum, replacing home economics

and industrial arts; and changing the curriculum in the earlier grades to emphasize problem solving, which helps students relate math to actual situations.

In adult education our Government will budget funds to reward excellence in learning and research, to encourage the use of technology in learning, to modernize equipment and upgrade facilities, and to increase financial help to students faced with rising tuition and other costs. It will contribute funds to the new Careers: the Next Generation Foundation, led by the private sector, to give high school students meaningful work experience, particularly in trades and technologies, and a new initiative will combine career information and consulting programs with job placement services for young people who have left high school without the skills and credentials they need for sustained employment.

The Government is committed to supporting people who truly need it, thereby ensuring a better quality of life for all Albertans. Reforms have allowed the Government to redirect funds to areas with the greatest need. Increased decision-making at the local level will continue with the Children's Service Initiative, a community-planned, government-supported program to serve the needs of children and families involving more than 10,000 Albertans from diverse avenues, disciplines, and government departments. The early intervention program aims to keep children from requiring crisis services later on. Other efforts include developing a co-ordinated national strategy to help needy children, introducing legislation to co-ordinate the delivery of services at the community level to persons with developmental disabilities, and implementing legislation to protect against the physical, emotional, or financial abuse of elders.

Our Government will work further to integrate services and eliminate overlap at the federal/provincial level. It will do this by clarifying and rebalancing administrative roles and responsibilities, especially in the area of social policy reform, by harmonizing systems of environmental management and the promotion of sustainable development, and by reducing trade barriers at home and abroad.

The Government will focus on further reducing serious and violent crime. It will work towards implementing enhanced consolidated legislation to help victims of crime.

The final cornerstone of our Government's agenda is to be more open, responsive, and accountable. Accordingly, it will continue to listen to Albertans and respond to their concerns.

The Government will canvass leaders of government, labour, and business in an Alberta Growth Summit on how the public service can respond to the pressures of growth and increasing demand for its services while continuing to live within its means.



It will keep providing Canada's first governmentwide business plans and performance measures as well as financial reporting that is clear, timely, and comprehensive, and public discussion will remain a vital part of the policy-making.

Our Government will consult with the energy industry on ensuring the future competitiveness of its royalty system and on maintaining Alberta's pre-eminence in energy-related research and technology.

It will seek the advice of engineers, geophysicists, geologists, and architects on reforming their regulatory environments to ensure both competitiveness and public safety.

It will work with environmental, aboriginal, scientific, and recreational groups, industry, and the public on defining a common vision and a conservation strategy for Alberta's forests.

It will consult Albertans to determine the apprenticeship and industrial training needed to meet the challenges of globalization, technological change, and the rising demand for skilled labour.

Finally, the Government will phase in the application of freedom of information and protection of privacy legislation to local public bodies like municipal governments, school boards, and regional health authorities.

Thus my Government will continue to carry through its mandate of fiscal responsibility, a climate for jobs, streamlined government, and listening to Albertans and to monitor and fine-tune its practices, programs, and services as required.

My Government is privileged to serve the people of this province. It looks forward to working further with Albertans to build Alberta together as we approach a new century and a new millennium.

Now I leave you to the business of this session confident that as elected representatives you will in every way fulfill your responsibilities to Albertans.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I pray that the blessing of God may rest on your deliberations. God bless Alberta. God bless Canada. God save The Queen.

## **Government Bills and Orders**

Ordered, That the Honourable Mr. Klein have leave to introduce a Bill entitled "School Amendment Act, 1997." Hon. Mr. Klein accordingly presented the Bill and the same was received and read a First time.

## **Tabling Documents**

The Speaker informed the Assembly he had obtained a copy of the Speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, which was laid on the Table.

Sessional Paper 600/97

## **Government Motions**

Moved by Hon. Mr. Klein:

It was resolved that the Speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration Tuesday.

Moved by Hon. Mrs. Black:

It was resolved that the Votes and Proceedings of this Assembly be printed, after first having been perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person, but such as he shall appoint, do presume to print the same.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Evans:

It was resolved that the Select Standing Committees for the present Session of the Legislative Assembly be appointed for the following purposes:

- (1) The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund,
- (2) Law and Regulations,
- (3) Legislative Offices,
- (4) Private Bills,
- (5) Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing,
- (6) Public Accounts, and
- (7) Public Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Day requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 49(1).

Hon. Mr. Day requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 38(1)(a).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1997

Hon. Mr. Day moved that the following Members be appointed to the Assembly's seven Select Standing Committees:

## ALBERTA HERITAGE SAVINGS TRUST FUND (9 Members)

Dunford (Chairman)	Forsyth	Percy
Doerksen (Deputy Chairman)	Havelock	Sekulic
Carlson	Langevin	Shariff

## LAW AND REGULATIONS (21 Members)

Havelock (Chairman)	Collingwood	Jacques
Doerksen (Deputy Chairman)	Coutts	Oberg
Amery	Decore	Renner
Balsillie	Dickson	Severtson
Brassard	Dunford	Trynchy
Burgener	Germain	White
Chadi	Hewes	Yankowsky

## LEGISLATIVE OFFICES (9 Members)

Hierath (Chairman)	Dickson	Kowalski
Brassard (Deputy Chairman)	Friedel	Massey
Bruseker	Fritz	Severtson

## PRIVATE BILLS (21 Members)

Amery (Chairman)	Hanson	Soetaert
Herard (Deputy Chairman)	Jacques	Stelmach
Balsillie	Kowalski	Tannas
Beniuk	Laing	Trynchy
Bracko	Langevin	Vasseur
Fritz	Leibovici	Yankowsky
Gordon	Nicol	Zariwny

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND PRINTING  
(21 Members)

Coutts (Chairman)	Friedel	Oberg
Pham (Deputy Chairman)	Germain	Renner
Beniuk	Gordon	Shariff
Clegg	Havelock	Stelmach
Decore	Henry	Taylor
Dickson	Hlady	Van Binsbergen
Forsyth	Nicol	Zariwny

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (17 Members)

Abdurahman (Chairman)	Haley	Percy
Coutts (Deputy Chairman)	Havelock	Pham
Amery	Kirkland	Renner
Bracko	Magnus	Taylor
Burgener	Nicol	Yankowsky
Carlson	Oberg	

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS (All Members)

Gordon (Chairman)	Forsyth (Deputy Chairman)
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The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Sessional Paper 601/97

Hon. Mr. Day requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 38(1)(a).

Hon. Mr. Day moved that the following change be made to the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services:

Mr. White to replace Mr. Henry.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

## Adjournment

On moving the motion that the Assembly adjourn until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 1997, Hon. Mr. Day, Government House Leader, also announced that the Provincial Treasurer would be delivering the Budget Address at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 1997. The Assembly adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 11, 1997

The Speaker took the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

The Speaker offered a prayer and moment of silence was observed in recognition of the deaths of former Members, Mr. J. Allen "Boomer" Adair, Hon. Member for Peace River, 1971 to 1993, who passed away on December 24, 1996; Mr. Leighton Edward Buckwell, Hon. Member for Macleod, 1967-1975, who passed away on January 2, 1997; and Mr. Bohdan J.D. Stefaniuk, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, 1976-1987, who passed away on September 17, 1996.

**Presenting Petitions**

Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, presented a petition from 107 Albertans regarding the maintenance of Kananaskis Country in a natural state.

Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, presented a petition from 755 Albertans regarding the creation of a wildland provincial park to protect the Kananaskis and Spray River valleys.

Mrs. Hewes, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, presented a petition from 255 Albertans regarding the removal of domestic abusers from the home and making the abuser financially responsible for his/her actions.

Mr. Wickman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, presented a petition from 25 Grand Centre residents regarding the elimination of all video lottery terminals in Alberta.

Mr. Bracko, Hon. Member for St. Albert, presented a petition from 399 Calgary residents regarding the Calgary General Hospital (Bow Valley site) remaining open and operational.

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, presented a petition from 99 Lethbridge residents regarding the 1996 tax assessment.

Mr. Bruseker, Hon. Member for Calgary-North West, presented a petition from 617 Calgary residents regarding the Calgary General Hospital (Bow Valley site) remaining open and operational.

Mr. Sapers, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora, presented a petition from 185 Edmonton residents regarding the eligibility requirements for financial subsidy under the Capital Region Housing Corporation.

**Notices of Motions**

Mr. Zwozdesky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore, gave oral notice of his intention to move the following motion under Standing Order 40:

Be it resolved that this Assembly recognize February 10 through 16 as Random Acts of Kindness Week, and congratulate Colleen Ring as the chair of the Random Acts of Kindness Week Committee and all the volunteers associated with it.

Pursuant to Standing Order 34(2)(a), Hon. Mrs. Black, Deputy Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following Written Questions and Motions for Returns to be dealt with Wednesday, February 12, 1997:

Written Questions: Stand and retain their places.

Motions for Returns: Stand and retain their places.

### **Introduction of Bills (First Reading)**

Notice having been given:

- Bill 201 Ombudsman Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. Yankowsky
- Bill 202 Provincial Court Amendment Act, 1997 — Mrs. Forsyth
- Bill 203 Citizen's Initiative Act — Dr. Taylor
- Bill 204 Health Care Accountability and Entitlement Act — Mr. Mitchell
- Bill 205 School Amendment Act, 1997 — Ms Haley
- Bill 206 Kananaskis Park Act — Mr. Mitchell
- Bill 207 Hospitals Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. Sapers
- Bill 208 Lotteries (Video Lottery Schemes Elimination) Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. Wickman
- Bill 209 Domestic Abuse Act — Mr. Kirkland
- Bill 210 Occupiers' Liability Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. Renner
- Bill 211 Off-highway Vehicle Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. Herard
- Bill 212 Lobbyists Registration Act — Ms Burgener
- Bill 213 Non-Smokers' Health Act — Dr. Oberg
- Bill 214 Amusements Amendment Act, 1997 — Mrs. Fritz
- Bill 215 Conflicts of Interest Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. Bruseker
- Bill 216 Parental Responsibility Act — Mr. Hlady
- Bill 217 Disaster Services Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. McFarland
- Bill 218 Members of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan Amendment Act, 1997 — Ms Abdurahman
- Bill 219 Crown Contracts Dispute Resolution Act — Mr. Jacques
- Bill 220 Emblems of Alberta Amendment Act, 1997 — Mr. Coutts

**Tabling Returns and Reports**

Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, pursuant to the Public Service Act, cP-31, s5(2):

Public Service Commissioner, Annual Report 1995-96  
Sessional Paper 60/97

Hon. Mr. Ady, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, pursuant to the Advanced Education Foundations Act, cA-2.5, s15(2):

Athabasca University Foundation, Financial Statements, March 31, 1996  
Sessional Paper 8A/97

University of Alberta 1991 Foundation, Financial Statements, March 31, 1996  
Sessional Paper 8B/97

University of Calgary Foundation, Financial Statements, March 31, 1996  
Sessional Paper 8C/97

University of Lethbridge Foundation, Financial Statements, March 31, 1996  
Sessional Paper 8D/97

Public Colleges Foundation of Alberta, Financial Statements, March 31, 1996  
Sessional Paper 8E/97

Non-Profit Private Colleges Foundation, Financial Statements, March 31, 1996  
Sessional Paper 8F/97

Hon. Mr. Ady, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, pursuant to the Legislative Assembly Act, cL-10.1, s52

Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development, Annual Report 1995-96  
Sessional Paper 12/97

Hon. Mr. Ady, Minister of Advanced Education and Career Development, pursuant to the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act, cA-42.3, s6(2)

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board, Annual Report 1995-96  
Sessional Paper 10/97

Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Community Development:

4 letters, dated February 11, 1997 from Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Community Development, to Sarah Schmidek, Susan Humphreys, Leah Hepner, and Chad Kilburn congratulating each of them on their performance at the Canadian figure skating championship

Sessional Paper 602/97

Letter, dated February 11, 1997 from Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Community Development to Colleen Ring, Chair, Random Acts of Kindness Committee

Sessional Paper 622/97

Mr. Zwozdesky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore:

Survey results, "Are You Better Off?"

Sessional Paper 603/97

Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition:

Speech to the Throne, dated February 10, 1997

Sessional Paper 604/97

Alberta Environmental Protection map depicting the consequences of Bill 206, Kananaskis Park Act, 1997, proposed by Mr. Mitchell

Sessional Paper 605/97

Mr. Germain, Hon. Member for Fort McMurray:

Information pamphlet, "What have Alberta Liberal MLAs done for me lately?"

Sessional Paper 606/97

Mr. Sapers, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora:

Letter, dated February 3, 1997, from Margaret Louise Morgan, to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, regarding her unemployment due to health care cutbacks

Sessional Paper 607/97

Letter, dated February 6, 1997, from a constituent to Mr. Sapers, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora, regarding a Guardian Ambulance Ltd. bill

Sessional Paper 608/97

Quarterly Update on Physician Resources in Alberta: For the Three Months Ending December 31, 1996, prepared by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta

Sessional Paper 609/97

Mr. Wickman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford:

Summary of Calls to Alberta Liberal Caucus VLT Hotline, as of February 4, 1997

Sessional Paper 610/97

Ms Abdurahman, Hon. Member for Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan:

101 letters, dated November 26 and 27, 1996, to Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Education, regarding technology integration funding in Alberta schools

Sessional Paper 611/97



582 letters, dated February 6 and 7, 1997, to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, regarding funding of public education in Alberta schools and the stress level in the classroom due to the teacher/student ratio

Sessional Paper 612/97

Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark:

Results of Edmonton-Meadowlark Constituency survey, conducted in the fall of 1996 on a variety of issues and the effects of cutbacks

Sessional Paper 613/97

Brochure, "Know your Rights! A Guide to Our Health Care"

Sessional Paper 614/97

Hon. Mr. Schumacher, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosures Act, cE-3, s3(2):

Chief Electoral Officer, 19th Annual Report 1995-96

Sessional Paper 4/97

Hon. Mr. Schumacher, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Act, cC-22.1, s23(10), 26(1):

Investigation into allegations involving the Hon. Member for Pincher Creek-Macleod, Report of the Ethics Commissioner, November 21, 1996

Sessional Paper 2A/97

Hon. Mr. Schumacher, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Act, cC-22.1, s23(10), 26(1):

Investigation into allegations involving Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, Report of the Ethics Commissioner, December 19, 1996

Sessional Paper 2/97

Hon. Mr. Schumacher, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Legislative Assembly Act, cL-10.1, s19(5):

Members' Services Order 1/96, Records Management Order (No. 1)

Sessional Paper 142/97

### **Oral Question Period**

During Oral Question Period, Hon. Mr. Jonson, Minister of Health, tabled the following:

Understanding Alberta's Restructured Health System: Questions and Answers  
Sessional Paper 615/97

Your Future Health System: A Progress Report

Sessional Paper 616/97

Action on Health: Access, Quality, Stability

Sessional Paper 620/97

A Renewed Vision for Canada's Health System: Conference of Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Health

Sessional Paper 621/97

During Oral Question Period, Hon. Mr. Jonson, Minister of Health, tabled the following pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-5.5, s3, s13:

Alberta Health, "Healthy Albertans living in a healthy Alberta", a Three-Year Business Plan, dated February 24, 1994

Sessional Paper 69A/97

Alberta Health, a Three-Year Business Plan 1995-96 to 1997-98, Healthy Albertans living in a healthy Alberta, dated February 1995

Sessional Paper 69B/97

Alberta Health, a Three-Year Business Plan and Supplement 1996-97 to 1998-99, Healthy Albertans living in a healthy Alberta, dated February 1996

Sessional Paper 69C/97

## **Members' Statements**

Ms Carlson, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, made a statement regarding experimental medical treatment, and paid tribute to Lance Relland and his supporters.

Ms Burgener, Hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, made a statement regarding education policy and the need for improved communication within the educational community.

Mr. Van Binsbergen, Hon. Member for West Yellowhead, made a statement regarding the loss of physicians in rural Alberta.

## **Speaker's Ruling — Private Members' Bills**

The Chair would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few points concerning the order and timing of consideration of Private Members' Bills.

By way of background, when the Standing Orders were amended in 1993 to allow for the timely consideration of Private Members' Bills, provision was not made for every eventuality. To refresh Member's memories, Standing Order 8(5)(c) provides that a Private Member's Bill must be called in Committee of the Whole within 8 sitting days of the day it receives second reading. Standing Order 8(5)(d) provides

that a Private Member's Bill must be moved for third reading within 4 sitting days of the day on which it is reported by Committee of the Whole.

Last August, the issue arose as to the process and procedure for determining the order in which these Bills were to be considered by the House and Committee of the Whole. The Chair takes seriously the role of defending the interests of Private Members whatever side of the House they may sit and wants to reinforce the points made in the August 20, 1996 ruling by the Deputy Speaker on this matter. First, it must be stressed that the order of Private Members' business is governed by Standing Order 9(1) which states that such business is to be taken up according to the order of precedence. This is not Government Business so the order is not determined by the Government; it is the Chair that determines the precedence of Private Members' Business. Of course, that determination must be based on some understood rules which is what the Deputy Speaker established in his August 20, 1996 ruling and which the Chair would now like to expand upon. Usually Bills will be considered in numerical order but a problem arises when different Bills are at various stages. Given the gap in our Standing Orders on the process, the Chair would like to reiterate, for the guidance of Members, the rules for early consideration of Private Members' Bills

1. When debate is continuing on a stage of a Bill or a Bill is before Committee of the Whole, then debate at that stage will continue until the relevant vote is taken;
2. The exception is that when the deadline for considering a Bill under Standing Orders 8(5)(c) or (d) comes up then that Bill will be the first order of business;
3. If a Member wants his or her Bill to be considered before the due date, then that Member must make a written request to the Speaker prior to the opening of the House the day before the Member wants the Bill to be considered. For example, if a Member wants a Bill to be considered on a Wednesday, the letter must be received by the Speaker before the opening of the House on Tuesday on which day the Chair will table the letter;
4. When a Member requests that his or her Bill be considered before its due date, the Bill will be called after debate has concluded on the Private Members' Public Bill that is then before the House or Committee of the Whole assuming that no other Bills have reached their due dates.

The other side of the coin is when a Member wants to delay consideration of his or her Private Member's Bill. In the Chair's experience, this desire becomes apparent when a Bill is in Committee of the Whole. In the Chair's October 30, 1995 memo to all Members, it was pointed out that a Member who wishes to postpone consideration of his or her Bill to a date certain should make that motion (which is

different than the hoist) during second reading as provided for in Standing Order 41(c). Members may recall that on March 13, 1996, the Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Belmont moved in Committee of the Whole that consideration of his Bill be deferred until April 17, 1996 or the first day for consideration of Private Member's Business after that date. The motion was agreed to and the Bill was taken up by Committee of the Whole on April 17.

In determining a process, the Chair has been concerned about preserving the traditional role of Committee of the Whole to consider the business referred to it and the spirit of the 1993 amendments to the Standing Orders and the September 9, 1993 Memorandum of Agreement concerning Private Member's Business. In keeping with these principles and precedents from other jurisdictions, the Chair recommends that if a Member wishes to delay consideration of a Bill when it is before Committee of the Whole, the Member should move that the Committee report progress and request that it not be considered by the Committee until a date certain. Only the Member sponsoring the Bill can move that consideration be deferred in Committee of the Whole. If the motion is agreed to, the Chairman would report progress on the Bill and recommend that it not be considered by the Committee until the date specified by the Member. If the House concurs in the report, then the Bill would come before the Committee on the date specified or the first following day for consideration of Private Members' Bills, assuming no other Bills have reached their due dates.

The Chair appreciates the opportunity to clarify these matters and hopes that it assists Members in making the 1993 changes concerning Private Member's Bills work to everyone's benefit.

### **Motions Under Standing Order 40**

Mr. Zwozdesky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore, requested unanimous consent of the Assembly for the consideration of the following motion:

Be it resolved that this Assembly recognize February 10 through 16, as Random Acts of Kindness Week and congratulate Colleen Ring as the chair of the Random Acts of Kindness Week Committee and all the volunteers associated with it.

Unanimous consent to proceed was not granted.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1997

**ORDERS OF THE DAY****Motions Other Than Government Motions****501.** Moved by Mr. Mitchell:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to ban all video lottery terminals from operating in Alberta.

A debate followed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 8(3), debate adjourned with Mr. Coutts speaking.

**Budget Address**

Hon. Mr. Dinning, Provincial Treasurer, delivered certain Messages from His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker read the Messages to the Assembly (the Members standing).

The Provincial Treasurer then tabled a copy of Budget '97, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-5.5, s4:

Government and Lottery Fund Estimates, 1997-98	Sessional Paper 113A/97
Legislative Assembly Estimates, 1997-98	Sessional Paper 113B/97
Budget '97, Building Alberta Together	Sessional Paper 617/97
It's More Than Just Money...	Sessional Paper 618/97
Budget '97 Speech	Sessional Paper 619/97

**Government Motions****12.** Moved by Hon. Mr. Dinning:

Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in general the business plans and fiscal policies of the Government.

A debate followed.

Hon. Mr. Dinning, Provincial Treasurer, moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

### **Dissolution**

Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, advised the Assembly that he had called upon His Honour, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor earlier in the day, and informed the Members that as he was speaking, the Provincial Secretary was having the necessary documentation signed by His Honour, now effectively dissolving the 23rd Legislature.

The Speaker left the Chair at 5:00 p.m.

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# **DISSOLUTION**

FEBRUARY 11, 1997

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**Dissolution**

[GREAT SEAL]  
CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

H.A. Olson,  
Lieutenant Governor.

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada, and Her Other Realms and Territories, QUEEN, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

PROCLAMATION

TO OUR FAITHFUL, the MEMBERS elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta and to all to Whom it may concern

GREETING

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient for certain causes and considerations to dissolve the Twenty-third Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

NOW KNOW YE THAT by and with the advice and consent of Our Executive Council of Our Province of Alberta, We have ordered and declared and do hereby proclaim that the Twenty-third Legislative Assembly of Alberta is hereby dissolved and the Members thereof are discharged from further meetings and attendance.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of Alberta to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS: THE HONOURABLE H.A. "BUD" OLSON, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this 11th day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-seven.

BY COMMAND:

Neil McCrank,  
Deputy Minister of Justice and  
Deputy Attorney General

Brian Evans  
Provincial Secretary