



Province of Alberta

The 31st Legislature
First Session

Alberta Hansard

Tuesday morning, May 13, 2025

Day 111

The Honourable Ric McIver, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 31st Legislature
First 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)	Kayande, Samir, Calgary-Elbow (NDP)
Amery, Hon. Mickey K., ECA, KC, Calgary-Cross (UC), Deputy Government House Leader	LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, ECA, Red Deer-North (UC)
Arcand-Paul, Brooks, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)	Loewen, Hon. Todd, ECA, Central Peace-Notley (UC)
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Hon. Jackie, ECA, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UC)	Long, Hon. Martin M., ECA, West Yellowhead (UC)
Batten, Diana M.B., Calgary-Acadia (NDP)	Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UC)
Boitchenko, Andrew, Drayton Valley-Devon (UC)	Lunty, Brandon G., Leduc-Beaumont (UC)
Boparai, Parmeet Singh, Calgary-Falconridge (NDP)	McDougall, Myles, Calgary-Fish Creek (UC)
Bouchard, Eric, Calgary-Lougheed (UC)	Metz, Luanne, Calgary-Varsity (NDP)
Brar, Gurinder, Calgary-North East (NDP)	Miyashiro, Rob, Lethbridge-West (NDP)
Calahoo Stonehouse, Jodi, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)	Nally, Hon. Dale, ECA, Morinville-St. Albert (UC)
Ceci, Hon. Joe, ECA, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)	Neudorf, Hon. Nathan T., ECA, Lethbridge-East (UC)
Chapman, Amanda, Calgary-Beddington (NDP), Official Opposition Deputy Assistant Whip	Nicolaides, Hon. Demetrios, ECA, Calgary-Bow (UC)
Cooper, Nathan M., Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UC)	Nixon, Hon. Jason, ECA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (UC)
Cyr, Scott J., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UC)	Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)	Petrovic, Chelsae, Livingstone-Macleod (UC)
de Jonge, Chantelle, Chestermere-Strathmore (UC)	Renaud, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)	Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UC)
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, ECA, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UC)	Sabir, Hon. Irfan, ECA, Calgary-Bhullar-McCall (NDP), Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Dyck, Nolan B., Grande Prairie (UC)	Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, ECA, Calgary-North West (UC)
Eggen, Hon. David, ECA, Edmonton-North West (NDP)	Schmidt, Hon. Marlin, ECA, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)
Ellingson, Court, Calgary-Foothills (NDP)	Schow, Hon. Joseph R., ECA, Cardston-Siksika (UC), Government House Leader
Ellis, Hon. Mike, ECA, Calgary-West (UC), Deputy Premier	Schulz, Hon. Rebecca, ECA, Calgary-Shaw (UC)
Elmeligi, Sarah, Banff-Kananaskis (NDP)	Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP), Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Eremenko, Janet, Calgary-Currie (NDP)	Sigurdson, Hon. Lori, ECA, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)
Fir, Hon. Tanya, ECA, Calgary-Peigan (UC)	Sigurdson, Hon. R.J., ECA, Highwood (UC)
Ganley, Hon. Kathleen T., ECA, Calgary-Mountain View (NDP), Official Opposition Whip	Sinclair, Scott, Lesser Slave Lake (Ind)
Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UC), Government Whip	Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UC)
Glubish, Hon. Nate, ECA, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UC)	Smith, Hon. Danielle, ECA, Brooks-Medicine Hat (UC), Premier
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)	Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UC)
Gray, Hon. Christina, ECA, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP), Leader of the Official Opposition, Official Opposition House Leader	Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP)
Guthrie, Hon. Peter F., ECA, Airdrie-Cochrane (Ind)	Tejada, Lizette, Calgary-Klein (NDP)
Haji, Sharif, Edmonton-Decore (NDP)	Turton, Hon. Searle, ECA, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UC)
Hayter, Julia K.U., Calgary-Edgemont (NDP)	Wiebe, Ron, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UC)
Hoffman, Hon. Sarah, ECA, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)	Williams, Hon. Dan D.A., ECA, Peace River (UC), Deputy Government House Leader
Horner, Hon. Nate S., ECA, Drumheller-Stettler (UC)	Wilson, Hon. Rick D., ECA, Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UC)
Hoyle, Rhiannon, Edmonton-South (NDP)	Wright, Justin, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UC)
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., ECA, Taber-Warner (UC)	Wright, Peggy K., Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP)
Ip, Nathan, Edmonton-South West (NDP)	Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (UC), Deputy Government Whip
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP), Official Opposition Assistant Whip	Yaseen, Hon. Muhammad, ECA, Calgary-North (UC)
Jean, Hon. Brian Michael, ECA, KC, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche (UC)	Vacant, Edmonton-Ellerslie
Johnson, Jennifer, Lacombe-Ponoka (UC)	Vacant, Edmonton-Strathcona
Jones, Hon. Matt, ECA, Calgary-South East (UC)	
Kasawski, Kyle, Sherwood Park (NDP)	

Party standings:

United Conservative: 47

New Democrat: 36

Independent: 2

Vacant: 2

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Shannon Dean, KC, Clerk

Trafton Koenig, Law Clerk

Philip Massolin, Clerk Assistant and
Executive Director of Parliamentary
Services

Nancy Robert, Clerk of *Journals* and
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Amanda LeBlanc, Managing Editor of
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Terry Langley, Sergeant-at-Arms

Paul Link, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

Gareth Scott, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

Lang Bawn, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms

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Mike Ellis	Deputy Premier, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services
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Tanya Fir	Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women
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Martin Long	Minister of Infrastructure
Dale Nally	Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction
Nathan Neudorf	Minister of Affordability and Utilities
Demetrios Nicolaides	Minister of Education
Jason Nixon	Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services
Rajan Sawhney	Minister of Advanced Education
Joseph Schow	Minister of Tourism and Sport
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Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk	Parliamentary Secretary for Settlement Services and Ukrainian Evacuees
Andrew Boitchenko	Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Relations
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Justin Wright	Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health (South)
Tany Yao	Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business and Northern Development

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Rowswell

Boitchenko
Brar
Kasawski
Kayande
Stephan
Wiebe
Wright, J.

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future

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Boparai
Cyr
de Jonge
Elmeligi
Hoyle
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van Dijken
Wright, J.

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Arcand-Paul
Ellingson
Hunter
Ip
Lovely
Rowswell
Sabir
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

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Deputy Chair: Mr. van Dijken

Chapman
Cyr
Dyck
Eremenko
Lovely
Miyashiro
Petrovic
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Special Standing Committee on Members' Services

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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

10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

[The Deputy Speaker in the chair]

The Deputy Speaker: You might note that my name is on the Order Paper today.

Prayers

The Deputy Speaker: Good morning, hon. members.

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and 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 ideas but, laying aside all private interests and prejudices, keep in mind the responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all. Amen.

You may be seated.

Election of a Speaker

The Deputy Speaker: Pursuant to section 16(2) of the Legislative Assembly Act nominations are invited for the office of Speaker of this Assembly for the remainder of the 31st Legislature. Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1) the Speaker shall be elected according to the procedure set out in the schedule of the standing orders. I therefore now call for nominations.

The hon. Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Hon. members, at this time of transition I would like to first thank and recognize the contribution of our former Speaker, the MLA for the outstanding constituency of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. Times change and life moves on, and while it is with mixed feelings that we say goodbye, it is with great admiration that we say thank you for a job well done. May you find great satisfaction and enjoyment in your new position, Nathan, as you serve Albertans in a new capacity as Alberta's senior representative to the United States of America.

Now for the business at hand. It is with great respect for the traditions of this Chamber that I rise today to nominate a colleague whose character, experience, and commitment to democratic principles make him exceptionally well suited to serve as the next Speaker of the Alberta Legislative Assembly. I am pleased to nominate the Member for Calgary-Hays, the hon. Ric McIver.

Throughout his many years of elected service, first for more than a decade as a Calgary city councillor starting in 2001 and then as a member of this Legislature since 2012, Mr. McIver has brought to this House a principled voice, an unwavering work ethic, and a deep respect for the democratic process. He has held multiple ministerial portfolios, served in both government and opposition, stood in as an interim leader, and through it all remained a steady, pragmatic, and respectful presence.

What distinguishes Mr. McIver is not only his experience, which is unmatched in this Assembly, but his fairness, his sense of humour, and his deep institutional knowledge. He understands the weight of this institution because he has lived it through good times and challenging ones, always with dignity and grace. That experience has the respect of members across party lines, a respect grounded not in partisanship but in his integrity, professionalism, and a deep appreciation for the role of this institution. These are all qualities this Chamber depends on.

Beyond his knowledge and experience with our parliamentary procedure, he has shown a remarkable ability to listen, genuinely listen not only to fellow members but to the concerns of citizens from all walks of life. That ability to listen, to find common ground, and to lead without seeking the spotlight is exactly what we need in our Speaker.

Colleagues, in nominating Mr. McIver, we are not only putting forward the most experienced member among us, the member who has endured in this place the longest; we would be putting our trust in someone who has consistently chosen responsibility over rhetoric and principle over partisanship. It is with full confidence that I place the name for the Member for Calgary-Hays, the hon. Ric McIver, before this Assembly for consideration as Speaker. I urge all members regardless of party to support this nomination and entrust this important role to a colleague who I believe will carry it out with integrity and impartiality.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. member, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. McIver: Yes, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other nominations? The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Member Eremenko: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The learning curve for a new MLA is a steep one. Despite all the presentations nothing really prepares a new MLA for the experience of stepping onto these Chamber floors for the very first time. Last week several members celebrated 10 years of being an MLA. Others, including myself, are about to observe our two-year anniversary. As I learn the job, I often look to the Speaker as the example of how we should carry ourselves in this unique place, filling a very special job. That's why I'm delighted to stand and nominate my colleague and fellow member of the Official Opposition caucus the Member for Edmonton-Manning for the role of Speaker.

It's become a bit of a tradition for this member to run for Speaker and maybe, just maybe this will be the time the government members opposite recognize just how much we would all benefit from her being successful this time around. She's no stranger to the seat. While New Democrats were in government from 2015 to 2019, the Member for Edmonton-Manning was the Deputy Chair of Committees and was entrusted with many opportunities to preside over question period and to oversee the business of the House. It's worth noting that there'd be some savings to the budget of the office of the Speaker because the member still has her robes from 2015 to 2019. Think of the savings.

The member assures me that the role of Speaker is not for the faint of heart. Their authority is one that must be respected. When the Speaker acts in true nonpartisanship, she is bound to disappoint some members of her own caucus as much as the other. I understand the Member for Edmonton-Manning has first-hand experience in this particular regard, and it is the rare person who can stand firm in her decisions despite challenge and protest.

Here's why I think the Member for Edmonton-Manning should be our next Speaker. She's not partisan one day and nonpartisan the next. She is truly one of a kind in her ability and willingness to work with both sides on any given issue. Her decade of experience building real, trusting relationships with members on both sides of this aisle has earned a level of respect we should all aspire to. Importantly, it's a respect that goes beyond these four walls. Though she represents a largely urban riding, the Member for Edmonton-Manning has fostered an equally strong rapport and

reputation with Albertans in every corner of this province. Her advocacy for Alberta's agricultural system, for farmers and rural communities, and for agrifood producers is a testament to her commitment and passion for this province and the people in it.

The second reason we should all consider the Member for Edmonton-Manning is because she believes in the Speaker's role as a democratic institution unto itself. I think she shares this with the now former Speaker, the good Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. Thank you so much for your years of service. She'll honour the office with a kind of joy and passion that will be contagious for every student who attends School at the Legislature and with an enthusiasm that will inspire every honoured guest and delegate who joins us in these galleries.

It can be a thankless job, Madam Speaker, but as the Member for Edmonton-Manning said to me in preparation for this morning: it's conflict at its best, conflict, which, if managed with integrity, confidence, grace, and knowledge, can actually be positive, even productive. That's ultimately what Albertans deserve: 86, soon to be 88, members shepherded by a Speaker whose sole focus is to be effective at her job so we can excel at ours.

Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Do you wish to accept the nomination?

Ms Sweet: One more time.

The Deputy Speaker: Hear, hear.

Are there any other nominations?

Seeing none, I declare the nominations closed. The nominees for the position of the Speaker are Ric McIver and Heather Sweet.

Voting will now commence after the list of nominees is posted in each voting booth.

[The lists of candidates were posted]

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, the voting will now begin. Members will vote by printing the first and last name of their preferred candidate on the ballot paper and then placing their completed ballot in the box on the Sergeant-at-Arms' desk.

[Members voted from 10:11 a.m. to 10:18 a.m.]

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, have all members that wish to vote done so? Perfect.

[Ballots were counted from 10:18 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.]

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. members, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora has a request to make.

Ms Hoffman: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to request unanimous consent to revert to introductions, please.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday.

Member Arcand-Paul: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is an honour to rise and introduce the wonderful students of LaPerle school in the wonderful riding of Edmonton-West Henday. Welcome to the Chamber. Please give them a very warm welcome from this Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: Welcome. Normally we're more interesting than this right now. We're highly entertaining. My mom says so.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

Mr. McIver: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My former staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs are all here. Please stand and accept the greetings of the House.

Election of a Speaker

(continued)

The Clerk: The number of ballots cast for the election of the Speaker, 84; the number of spoiled ballots, zero; the number of votes required to achieve the 50 per cent plus one majority, 43. The member having received the majority of the votes cast, hon. Mr. McIver. [applause] Hon. Mr. McIver is hereby the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the remainder of the 31st Legislature.

[The Speaker, with apparent reluctance, was escorted to the chair by Ms Smith and Ms Gray]

The Speaker: Now you've done it.

An Hon. Member: Not from a sedentary position.

The Speaker: Now you've done it. See, I'm already getting advice. This is good.

Thank you. I'm grateful for this honour. I'm grateful for everybody here, for the previous Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and all the rest. I also want to thank Heather Sweet for . . . [interjections]. Oh, see, I'm already breaking the rules. I also want to thank the Member for Edmonton-Manning for putting her name forward.

Folks, despite the fact that I've watched this show for this important place for about 13 years, that doesn't mean I won't mess it up, but with your help I'll flail along till we get better at it. I'm committed to everybody on both sides, to honour the traditions of this place, to be nonpartisan, and to help us get through the business of the day every day. You know what? If we have a little fun, great. Not too much fun. Better fun than nastiness. When that happens, we'll deal with that, too. It's all part of what we do here. I'm just so grateful.

The Government House Leader.

Mr. Schow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to be the first to publicly congratulate you on your election to the Speaker's chair. I have all the confidence in the world that you'll do a wonderful job and serve this Chamber well in that chair, as you have in many others in this Assembly.

With that, I do move to adjourn the Assembly until 1:30 this afternoon.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 10:30 a.m.]

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