



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 2

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Fourth Session

Twenty-Second Legislature

Friday, March 20, 1992

The Speaker took the Chair at 10:00 a.m.

The Speaker offered a prayer in recognition of the deaths of former Members, a former Sergeant-at-Arms, and in particular, the Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, Sheldon Chumir, who passed away on January 26, 1992.

Mr. Decore, Hon. Mr. Klein, and Mr. Pashak paid tribute to the late Mr. Chumir.

ROUTINE

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Woloshyn, Hon. Member for Stony Plain, presented a petition from 240 teachers regarding the Teacher's Retirement Fund.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

Hon. Mr. Horsman, Deputy Premier, presented the Report of the Alberta Select Special Committee on Constitutional Reform, "Alberta in a New Canada: Visions of Unity."
Sessional Paper 800/92

Mr. Bogle, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, presented the Report of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, Ethics Commissioner Competition, March 1992.

Sessional Paper 601/92

Notices of Motions

Hon. Mr. Horsman, Deputy Premier, gave oral notice of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the report of the Select Special Committee on Constitutional Reform appointed in this Assembly on March 26, 1991, the report being entitled, "Alberta in a New Canada: Visions of Unity," be now received and concurred in.

Hon. Mr. Stewart, Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the report of the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices be now received and concurred in and that the appointment of Robert Clark as the first Alberta Ethics Commissioner be confirmed by this Assembly.

Mrs. Hewes, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, gave oral notice of her intention to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, that the Assembly adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the recent appointment of the Solicitor General.

Ms M. Laing, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore, gave oral notice of her intention to move the following motion under Standing Order 40 on Orders of the Day:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly commemorate March 21 as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and that each Member of the Assembly today renew her/his commitment to work to eradicate racism and promote equality in all areas of endeavour in his/her public life.

Mr. Wickman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, gave oral notice of his intention to move the following motion under Standing Order 40 on Orders of the Day:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly re-affirm its support of multiculturalism as a positive characteristic of our society.

Be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly acknowledge that Albertans benefit because Alberta has welcomed people from all over the world and that the diversity of their backgrounds gives our Province strength; and,

Be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly re-affirm its support for the legislation, programs, services, and policies that are in place in this area.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Elzinga, Minister of Economic Development and Trade, pursuant to the Alberta Opportunity Fund Act, cA-34, s15(6), RSA 1980:

Alberta Opportunity Company, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 40/92

Hon. Mr. Brassard, Minister responsible for Seniors, pursuant to the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities Act, cP-14.5, s7(2), 1988 Statutes:

Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 93/92

Hon. Mr. Fjordbotten, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife:

Return to Order of the Assembly asked for by Mr. Taylor on June 25, 1991:
The names of all those who have peat leases in Alberta and the size and location of each lease as of June 19, 1991.
Sessional Paper 408A/92

Hon. Ms Betkowski, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Financial Administration Act, cF-9, s2(6), RSA 1980:

Alberta Hospital Edmonton, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 67/92

Alberta Hospital Edmonton, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 67A/92

Charles Camsell Provincial General Hospital, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 67B/92

Foothills Provincial General Hospital, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 67C/92

Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 67D/92

Alberta Hospital Ponoka, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 67E/92

Alberta Children's Provincial General Hospital, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 67F/92

Northern Alberta Children's Hospital, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 67G/92

Hon. Ms Betkowski, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Registered Dietitians Act, cR-10.1, s6(4), 1983 Statutes:

Alberta Registered Dietitians Association, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 76/92

Hon. Ms Betkowski, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Dental Profession Act, cD-9.5, s6(4), 1983 Statutes:

Alberta Dental Association, Annual Report, June 30, 1991
Sessional Paper 65/92

Hon. Ms Betkowski, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Nursing Profession Act, cN-14.5, s11(2), 1983 Statutes:

Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 72/92

Hon. Ms Betkowski, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Public Health Act, cP-27.1, s6(2), 1984 Statutes:

Public Health Advisory and Appeal Board, Annual Report 1989-90
Sessional Paper 75/92

Hon. Ms Betkowski, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Vital Statistics Act, cV-4, s38(2), RSA 1980:

Vital Statistics, Annual Review 1990
Sessional Paper 78/92

Hon. Ms Betkowski, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Financial Administration Act, Cancer Programs Act, cF-9, s2(6), RSA 1980:

Alberta Cancer Board, Financial Statements, March 31, 1991
Sessional Paper 66/92

Hon. Mr. Orman, Minister of Energy:

Southwest Alberta Renewable Energy Initiative, Alberta Office of Renewable Energy Technology, Annual Report 1990-91
Sessional Paper 602/92

Ms M. Laing, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore:

Letter dated March 5, 1992 from Monica Walker, Edmonton Working Women, to Hon. Mr. Getty, Premier
Sessional Paper 801/92

Ministerial Statements

Hon. Dr. West, Solicitor General, made a statement regarding issues raised surrounding his appointment.

Mr. Martin, Hon. Leader of the Opposition, commented on the statement.

Hon. Mr. Main, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, announced that March 21, 1992 is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Mr. Martin, Hon. Leader of the Opposition, commented on the statement.

Statement by the Speaker

The Chair held a meeting with the three House Leaders, and a number of issues were briefly discussed. Agreement was reached to meet in the very near future to discuss possible changes to some of our House procedures.

For purposes of this session the operation of Question Period will continue in the same format as last session. However, as always, brief questions and answers are encouraged because it will allow more Hon. Members to participate.

In the past few years an equitable system has been developed by both the Chair and the Table to allow the processing of Motions Other Than Government Motions and Private Member's Bills. This year a process was set in place to help in the preparation of Bills, which enabled Table Officers to better serve all Members and allow Members to prioritize their Bills. The request for changes in priorities in the last few days has unfortunately impacted the efficiency of this process and created needless extra work for the Table, but hopefully this will be adjusted in the next few days.

Alberta has the largest Order Paper in the country and quite possibly the Commonwealth, and that no doubt reflects the healthy interest of Members in things parliamentary. However, a more orderly submission of Written Questions and Motions for Returns will need to be developed. Some backlog will occur for the next few days since some Members have deluged the Order Paper with as many as 132 matters within a 36-hour period just prior to or immediately upon opening day, including one Member who signed two originals of one separate Motion for a Return on the same day and seemed unaware of his duplication.

A memo has gone out to all Members with regard to petitions, and I am certain Hon. Members who carry responsibility for petitions will ensure that neither Elvis Presley nor Mickey Mouse are signatories to their petitions. Petitions are a serious parliamentary matter.

The Chair is pleased that a select special committee will be established with respect to improving the functioning of this Legislature. The Table Officers and the Chair have done extensive research and analysis, especially regarding Standing Orders, and are willing to assist any committee or Member in this regard.

The Chair has urged consideration of other issues, such as length of speeches, Members' statement period, and hours of sitting, and is given to understand by House Leaders that there is every possibility of a motion coming before the House in the near future giving effect to some of these matters.

Karen South has served this Legislature and its Members with distinction for 11 years and has taken up her duties with the office of the Ethics Commissioner. We thank her for her work and wish her well.

Louise Kamuchik has ably served the Legislative Assembly for nine years, and we welcome her to her role as Clerk Assistant. I hope you will also welcome our new Parliamentary Counsel, Frank Work.

Finally, two sets of congratulations: first, to 21 Members who today celebrate their third anniversary since they were first elected to this Assembly, and slightly belated congratulations to the seven members who refer to themselves as the notorious class of '79, who celebrated on March 14 their 13th anniversary of election.

Motions Under Standing Order 40

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

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly re-affirm its support of multiculturalism as a positive characteristic of our society.

Be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly acknowledge that Albertans benefit because Alberta has welcomed people from all over the world and that the diversity of their backgrounds gives our province strength; and,

Be it further resolved that the Legislative Assembly re-affirm its support for the legislation, programs, services, and policies that are in place in this area.

Unanimous consent to proceed was not granted.

Motion for Adjournment for an Emergency Debate

Mrs. Hewes, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, requested leave to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, that the Assembly adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the recent appointment of the Solicitor General.

The Speaker ruled that the request for leave was not in order.

Motions Under Standing Order 40

Ms M. Laing, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Avonmore requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly for consideration of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly commemorate March 21 as the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and that each Member of the Assembly today renew her/his commitment to work to eradicate racism and promote equality in all areas of endeavour in his/her public life.

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to unanimously.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Moved by Mr. Lund and seconded by Mr. Tannas:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Gordon Towers, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

A debate followed.

During the debate Mr. Tannas, Hon. Member for Highwood, tabled the following brochure:

Alberta Country Vacations

Sessional Paper 802/92

Mr. Martin moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Stewart, Government House Leader, that it be called 1:00 p.m., the Assembly adjourned at 12:45 p.m. until Monday, March 23, 1992, at 2:30 p.m.