



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Third Legislature

Thursday, February 10, 1994

This being the first Day of the Second 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 Gordon Towers, Lieutenant Governor, dated the nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four;

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

[GREAT SEAL]
CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

GORDON TOWERS,
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 first session of the twenty-third Legislature of Alberta:

Neil McCrank,
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective
February 9, 1994, 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 second session of the twenty-third Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on THURSDAY, the tenth day of February, A.D. 1994, 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 GORDON TOWERS, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this 19th day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-four and in the Forty-second Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

KEN ROSTAD,
Provincial Secretary.

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

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly

Fellow Albertans, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to the Second Session of the 23rd Alberta Legislature. In the last Speech from the Throne my Government laid out its mandate for change and called on Albertans to build on our Alberta advantage and join in the journey to a secure and debt free future. Since then, we have seen a lot of healthy discussion and debate about where we are heading as a province.

As we begin a new session, the Government knows that every step it takes is for one reason, and that reason is to build a brighter future. This Government understands that redefining and recreating Government is an enormous task and a difficult one, that all of us must make some sacrifices, and that we are not changing just for the sake of change. We are changing so all Albertans can benefit in the long term.

The Government will continue with its plan to balance the provincial budget in four years, to create the climate for jobs in the private sector, and to provide better and more efficient government, and throughout, this Government will continue to listen to Albertans, to put people first, and to stay true to their traditional values.

Over the next year we will work together through the most critical and challenging part of our journey. As we approach our destination, we can be confident that we are preserving the quality of life that we cherish and building the kind of future that we want for our province and our children.

Today I will describe what the Government aims to achieve in the next year. The first step in this Government's four-year plan is to stop spending money that we do not have. Under the Deficit Elimination Act the Government will balance its budget by 1996-97. With interest payments on the provincial debt accounting for more than 10 percent of our spending and the cost of servicing the debt more than quadrupling from 1988 to 1993, we have to change, because we no longer have any choice. The Government cannot ignore the problem, nor can the Government solve it simply by raising taxes, which would thwart the very economic growth that we seek. Reducing government spending offers the challenge to find new and better ways to provide government services and get the maximum value for our tax dollars.

As we enter the second year of the plan, we will have a clear and specific map for our journey. Last month the Premier announced the four-year targets for the Government's four largest spending areas: health, education, advanced education, and social services. Shortly, the Provincial Treasurer will present Albertans with a budget containing the spending targets for the remaining areas of government as well as the three-year business plans for every government department. Those plans are a first for any government in Canada. They will lay out more details on the route to balancing the provincial budget.

Although balancing the budget is important to Albertans, so is creating new jobs. This Government knows that employment is the greatest concern for Albertans today. This Government shares that concern and will pursue its strategy of encouraging job creation in the private sector.

Eliminating the deficit and holding the line on taxes are two of the most effective actions government can take to foster economic growth and sustain the Alberta advantage. However, government also has a role to play in helping private industry identify and pursue new opportunities, especially in the international market. This Government's strategy for job creation is based on the understanding that Alberta is a trading province. The only way we will create the long-term jobs of tomorrow is by improving our performance in the global market.

This Government will work closely with industry to encourage more international trade and investment. The Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, and the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, have created many opportunities. To seize these opportunities, we need to change our domestic policies. In particular, the Government will work with the province's agriculture and food industry and with the federal government to adjust domestic laws and policies like the Western Grain Transportation Act and Canada's agricultural safety net programs to take full advantage of the improved market access under GATT and NAFTA.

So many of the emerging needs in newly developing countries like Mexico, China, and Korea, coincide with Alberta's strengths in agriculture, processed foods, oil and gas, petrochemicals, waste management, construction, building products, and computer software, among other sectors. This Government will work hard to inform Albertans of the new opportunities and to strengthen the pro-business climate needed to pursue them.

Within the next year the Government will announce

- a global business plan that will set new trade and investment targets and identify new opportunities in 19 sectors of the Alberta economy,
- an Asia-Pacific business strategy to help Alberta businesses follow up on opportunities identified by the Premier on his recent mission to Asia,
- a Mexico trade and tourism strategy which will help our exporters enter that market, and
- a hot-lead investor program to promote the Alberta advantage to prospective investors around the world.

Here at home the Government will continue negotiating with Ottawa and the other provinces to eliminate interprovincial trade barriers by 1995. This Government will participate in the national infrastructure program, which will create jobs throughout Alberta. This Government will continue to withdraw from direct investment in business. It will redouble efforts to make Alberta more attractive to investment, it will carefully consider the recommendations of the Tax Reform Commission report, and it will ask Albertans to review its draft plans for regulatory reform.

In the energy sector the Government will implement phase 3 of its royalty simplification program. It will improve the climate for business through a major restructuring in the Energy ministry, including

- amalgamating the Energy Resources Conservation Board and the Public Utilities Board into a new Alberta Energy and Utilities Board,
- consolidating the Alberta Oil Sands Technology Research Authority, Alberta Oil Sands Equity, and the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission into the Department of Energy, and
- authorizing the private sector to market the Crown's royalty share for oil as it does now for natural gas.

As well, this Government will vigorously uphold Alberta's right to own and manage its natural resources.

This Government's approach to the economy is working. Alberta's economy is getting stronger. Our gross domestic product is expected to show a 3 percent increase for 1993. Exports in the first half of last year grew by 10 percent over the same period in 1992. Manufacturing shipments, retail sales, and tourism receipts also posted major gains. Most importantly the Alberta economy generated 35,400 new jobs in 1993. Alberta's economic prosperity depends on having an open, accountable government that provides quality, affordable services.

This Government is committed to excellence and renewal. It understands the need to adjust to new economic realities, as the private sector has experienced. The Government will continue to seek the most value for every tax dollar, it will continue to eliminate waste and duplication, and it will continue to find new ways of providing essential services at a cost that Albertans can afford.

The Government has made progress in reducing the number of government departments, in reducing staff positions through attrition, consolidation, and a severance program, and in seeking to reduce overall employee compensation by 5 percent. Over the next few months the Government will take steps to reduce the size and cost of administration in our health and education sectors. It will consolidate both health boards and education boards, change the way education is funded, and create an access fund for advanced education.

This Government knows we cannot continue to do things in the same old ways. It is time for everyone involved in the public sector to come together in a new spirit of co-operation and put the customer first. With this in mind, the Government will establish the Premier's forum, which will include representatives from Alberta's public service, municipalities, postsecondary institutions, and health and other sectors. They will meet twice a year to discuss how to work together to do things better.

As well, the Government will renew its commitment to its employees, understanding that government restructuring has meant significant adjustments not only for departments but for individuals and their families. The Government will endeavour to continue to provide a fair severance program, counseling, and training for employees, people who lose their jobs during this four-year transition period.

As for the many employees who remain in public service, this Government will make new efforts to recognize and reward their valuable contributions. This Government knows that it needs to work in partnership with its employees. It will introduce productivity incentives and programs to recognize excellence and innovation. It will continue to keep employees informed and to seek their ideas.

The Government will work closely with its federal counterpart to improve the quality and affordability of programs and services. This Government is participating in the Canada/Alberta overlap and duplication initiative to find new ways of co-operating and eliminating duplication. Already the Alberta and federal governments have agreed to simplify the environmental assessment process and are looking at opening joint offices to provide one-window service to individuals and businesses.

The Alberta Government will work with the rest of Canada to restructure federalism. This will involve redesigning the transfer payment system and national social programs such as unemployment insurance.

A tremendous amount of change lies ahead of us, and this Government will continue to work with Albertans every step of the way. To date, the Government has consulted with Albertans through roundtables and commissions. Thousands of Albertans have called the Government's phone-in lines. This Government will hold public discussions on deregulation, a new Water Resources Act, and a new forest conservation strategy. The Government will complete its public review of the Human Rights Commission, and it will seek Albertans' views on the future of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. This Government is deeply committed to consultation, believing that open, honest discussion is how we restore credibility and trust between Albertans and their Government and appreciating that Government cannot face today's challenges alone. It needs the understanding, support, involvement, and commitment of Albertans.

The business of this session will continue to reflect the views and values of Albertans. In keeping with this Government's mandate for change, the Order Paper will focus on deregulating and streamlining government operations to encourage efficiency and innovation in the public service and on removing barriers to freedom in the private sector. All legislative activity will reflect the view of government as a service, with the focus on Albertans as customers.

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act has been redrafted to reflect the Government's consultations with Albertans. The new Act will ensure a free flow of government information while protecting individual privacy.

In education, which Albertans have identified as our greatest priority, the Government will amend the School Act as follows:

- to establish full provincial funding to ensure students throughout Alberta have equal access to a quality basic education,
- to reduce the number of school boards and shift decision-making to schools, communities, and parents,
- to streamline administration to allow for a more direct flow of resources to the classroom,
- to provide for and evaluate a pilot program for chartered schools, and
- to provide education to students in accordance with Canadian constitutional guarantees.

As well, there will be more assessments of students and better reporting to students, parents, and the public. School boards will be asked to prepare three-year business plans and will report publicly on salaries and administrative costs.

In advanced education, this Government will introduce a new system of grants to Alberta's universities, colleges, and technical schools to increase access for students and reward performance by the institutions.

In health, the Government will introduce legislation reducing the number of health boards and authorizing the development of community-based management for a full range of health services. All Albertans will continue to have access to the services they need in accordance with the Canada Health Act.

In municipal affairs, the Government will consolidate 21 statutes and their regulations into a new Municipal Government Act. As well, the Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act and the Senior Citizens Housing Act will be consolidated into a single statute, which will reflect Albertans' belief that our social housing policy should allow for self-reliance and self-determination.

In this Assembly, Members will be called on to continue to streamline its operations and make its procedures more effective and efficient.

In the first year of my Government's four-year plan, my Government listened to Albertans and took action, laying the groundwork for the journey to a secure and debt free Alberta. In the second year, in this session, Albertans will turn an important corner as we work towards our new spending targets and find new and better ways to conduct the business of government together. By the end of year four, Albertans will have a province where government lives within its means, where people are unencumbered by red tape and excessive taxes, where our education, health, and social services programs are efficient, cost-effective, and responsive and accountable to the needs of our communities, where business creates good jobs and attracts investment and tourism from all over the world, and where all citizens can build on the Alberta advantage to provide a great future for our province and our children.

Let all Albertans join together to share ideas for adjustment and renewal and work together to break new ground, to change the way we define government in today's economic realities. Let all of us accept this mighty challenge and deal with its struggles in the selfless, pioneering spirit of those that came before us, the spirit that has made Alberta the volunteer capital of Canada, and let all the people of this province remain united in the urgent need to build a better future for those that come after us. No responsibility can be more formidable, more exciting, or more worth while. As this Government indicated recently, this journey will not be an easy one. But this isn't about 1994 or 1995. This is about our tomorrows. This is about leaving to the next generation the kind of Alberta that was left to us.

At this time my Government would like to express its congratulations and best wishes to the Albertans who have been chosen to compete for our country at the 1994 Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, starting in two days. As well, my Government extends best wishes to the 2,000 young Albertans who will compete at the 10th Alberta Winter Games next month.

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.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor then retired from the Assembly.

Government Bills and Orders

Upon recommendation of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Mr. Klein introduced a Bill entitled "Labour Boards Amalgamation Act" (Bill No. 1).

Tabling Documents

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

Sessional Paper 600/94

Government Motions

Moved by Hon. Mr. Klein:

It was resolved that the Speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to the Assembly be taken into consideration Monday, February 14, 1994.

Moved by Hon. Mrs. Black:

It was resolved that the Votes and Proceedings of the 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.

Mrs. Fritz, Hon. Member for Calgary-Cross, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 38(1)(a) for consideration of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the interim report of the Select Special Committee on Parliamentary Reform filed with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on December 1, 1993 and distributed to all Members of the Assembly, be now received and concurred in.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Evans:

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

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

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

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

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

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

Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act (15 Members)

Dunford (Chairman)	Forsyth	Mitchell
Herard (D. Chairman)	Haley	Percy
Chadi	Havelock	Sohal
Dalla-Longa	Laing	Stelmach
Doerksen	Massey	White

Law and Regulations (21 Members)

Havelock (Chairman)	Dickson	Oberg
Doerksen (D. Chairman)	Dunford	Renner
Amery	Fischer	Sapers
Brassard	Germain	Severtson
Burgener	Jacques	Smith
Collingwood	Langevin	Zariwny
Coutts	Leibovici	Zwozdesky

Legislative Offices (9 Members)

Hierath (Chairman)	Bruseker	Friedel
Sohal (D. Chairman)	Dickson	Fritz
Brassard	Doerksen	Massey

Private Bills (21 Members)

Renner (Chairman)	Hlady	Sekulic
Amery (Deputy Chairman)	Jacques	Smith
Beniuk	Kirkland	Soetaert
Fischer	Laing	Taylor (Cypress-Medicine Hat)
Fritz	Leibovici	Van Binsbergen
Gordon	Oberg	Wickman
Herard	Pham	Yankowsky

Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing (21 Members)

Coutts (Chairman)	Forsyth	Langevin
Pham (Deputy Chairman)	Friedel	Mitchell
Bracko	Germain	Nicol
Carlson	Gordon	Oberg
Clegg	Havelock	Renner
Collingwood	Hlady	Smith
Dickson	Jacques	Taylor (Cypress-Medicine Hat)

Public Accounts (17 Members)

Abdurahman (Chairman)	Chadi	McFarland
Friedel (Deputy Chairman)	Coutts	Percy
Amery	Fritz	Sohal
Burgener	Hanson	Taylor (Cypress-Medicine Hat)
Calahasen	Lund	Vasseur
Carlson	Magnus	

Public Affairs (All Members)

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

Membership list, seven Select Standing Committees

Sessional Paper 800/94

Hon. Mr. Dinning gave oral notice of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Assembly do resolve into Committee of Supply, when called, to consider Supplementary Supply Estimates to be granted to her Majesty.

Hon. Mr. Dinning gave oral notice of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Messages of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 1993-94 Supplementary Supply Estimates, and all matters connected therewith, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. Dinning gave oral notice of the following motion:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 58(6), the number of days that the Committee of Supply will be called to consider the 1993-94 Supplementary Supply Estimates shall be (2) two days.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Day, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:46 p.m. until Monday, February 14, 1994 at 1:30 p.m.

Title: Thursday, February 10, 1994