



**Legislative Assembly  
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Third Session

Twenty-Third Legislature

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Monday, February 13, 1995

This being the first Day of the Third 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 eighteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-five;

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 second session of the twenty-third Legislature of Alberta:

Neil McCrank,  
Deputy Minister of Justice  
and Deputy Attorney General

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective  
February 12, 1995, 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 third session of the twenty-third Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on MONDAY, the thirteenth day of February, A.D. 1995, 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 eighteenth day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-five and in the Forty-third 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 Third Session of the 23rd Alberta Legislature. It is an exciting and challenging time to be living in Alberta and in Canada. Albertans have embarked on a brave and ambitious path to change and further progress for our province. Our mandate is clear. Our agenda is ambitious. There is still a lot of hard work to be done.

In its first Speech from the Throne in August of 1993, my Government set out its mandate for change, a mandate from the people of Alberta, to balance the provincial budget, to create the climate for wealth and jobs, to improve and streamline government, and to continue to listen to Albertans. In the second Throne speech in February of 1994 the Government called on Albertans to build on our Alberta advantage and join in the journey to a secure and debt-free future.

Today we are entering the next phase of that journey. Albertans are close to balancing the provincial budget and looking ahead to paying down the provincial debt and reinvesting the benefits that they will have earned for putting their financial house in order. The Government's four-year spending plan remains on track. A strong year for Alberta's energy industry contributed unanticipated revenues. This is welcome, but Albertans know that it is no reason to release the reins of restraint on government overspending.

But there is more to government than streamlining and cutting costs. Albertans are striving to provide better public services by shifting the focus from the institutions that deliver programs to the people who use them. The goal remains to give Albertans the best services possible and the most value for their tax dollars.

My Government would like to thank the people of Alberta for their hard work and sacrifice in taking the difficult but necessary road to fundamental change. Albertans know that the difficulties we experience today are minimal compared to what could happen to our children and our grandchildren if we do not accept the challenge of change. We still have the opportunity to chart our own course rather than have external forces do it for us.

Already Albertans have reached a number of important milestones that have set the pace for their fellow Canadians to follow, not only in working towards restoring fiscal balance, but in changing government to reflect what people need, what they expect, and what they can afford. In furthering those efforts, my Government has defined three fundamental areas of concern and has dedicated itself to focusing exclusively on these areas: people, prosperity, and preservation.

Reflecting these core concerns, the agenda for this session will be highly concentrated. There is much work to be done. The Order Paper will be based on three clear goals:

- to implement the Government's business plans,
- to streamline and deregulate Government, and
- to develop the climate for businesses to create wealth and jobs for Albertans.

My Government's greatest concern is people. Good health is a gift we must treasure, and education is our hope for the future. Albertans want high-quality health care and education. Accordingly, efforts will key on new ways to provide those programs and services more effectively and efficiently.

In the area of health the Government will emphasize regional decision-making, enhanced community services, the more effective use of health facilities, and measurable standards. It will establish an independent council to review its efforts to restructure our health system, and it will continue to uphold the principles of the Canada Health Act by ensuring that all Albertans have access to comprehensive services. This includes expanding the mandate of the Health Facilities Review Committee to monitor and investigate Albertans' concerns about the quality of health services and authorizing community nurse practitioners to provide primary health services.

The Government will continue to restructure our system of education to maximize resources in the classroom, to allow for more involvement by parents and the community, to provide more choice in learning opportunities, and to provide more accountability. This will include implementing recommendations resulting from the public discussions on roles and responsibilities in education. Adult education and training will focus more on accessibility, affordability, and responsiveness. This includes authorizing colleges and technical institutions to offer applied degree programs, combining formal instruction and work experience, and giving financial help to postsecondary students regardless of where they choose to study within the province.

The Government will continue to move from a passive system of social services to an active one by emphasizing employment and training. It will restructure children's services to allow aboriginal and nonaboriginal communities to become more involved in the care of their own children. It will focus on early intervention and the consolidation of services at the local level.

My Government's second core concern is prosperity. Our economy must continue to grow if we are to compete in the emerging global marketplace. Our private sector has responded with strong economic growth. Alberta businesses are capitalizing on opportunities here and abroad, having created 44,000 new jobs for Albertans last year and 80,000 new jobs since December of 1992.

The Government will strive to create an environment to attract and maximize trade, tourism, and investment in our province. It will focus on creating the climate for jobs by working in partnership with the private sector and the Alberta Economic Development Authority, working to promote our Alberta advantage aggressively around the globe. The Government will release an Americas strategy and a Mexico trade and tourism strategy to help local firms capitalize on opportunities under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The Government will complete its ongoing review of every provincial regulation to revise or remove the ones that impede business unduly. It will work with the Federal Government in areas such as the promotion of international trade and commerce and the elimination of the overlap in federal and provincial regulations and services. It will strive to minimize tax impediments to business at all levels of Government.

In agriculture, the Government will encourage further value-added processing and investment. It will work with industry and other governments to provide a whole farm safety net program for Alberta's producers and to enable Alberta's farmers to be more self-reliant and competitive with emphasis on the handling, transportation, and marketing of grain. The Government will disburse the assets of the irrigation district rehabilitation endowment fund to Alberta's irrigation districts.

In energy, the Government will tie part of its funding to the levels of activity in the industry and reassess its royalty regimes and land use policies. It will introduce legislation to restructure Alberta's electricity industry, to help keep rates from rising, and to encourage greater competitiveness in the evolving North American market.

A growing area of public interest and revenue is lotteries, the proceeds of which fund numerous community events and facilities all over the province. After consulting with Albertans, the Government will ensure that the administration of lottery funds is more accountable to the public.

Another important subject of public discussion is the future of our largest provincial asset, the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. Every Albertan will have the chance to learn more about the fund and to tell Government what should be done with it. Based on that advice, there will be a special debate in this Legislature, and a decision on the future of the fund will follow.

The Government recognizes that Albertans are entitled to the free flow of information, which is essential in today's business world. It will complete the administrative work required to proclaim its freedom of information and protection of privacy legislation in force this fall.

My Government's third core concern is preservation. Albertans place great value on keeping our neighbourhoods safe, our air and water clean, and our people involved in the life of their community. The Government will continue to shift from delivering local services directly to helping to deliver them. This includes enacting a more streamlined and responsive system of land use planning, adopting a new framework to approve charitable fund-raising efforts, and establishing a self-regulating body for the real estate industry, to operate under government supervision.

After consulting Albertans on the management of our precious water resources, the Government will introduce new legislation on that subject this fall.

The Government will continue to provide a vigorous voice for Albertans on the evolving federal scene. It will work with its federal and provincial counterparts towards a stronger and better nation for all Canadians, and it will work closely with Albertans in responding to developments in Quebec.

Fellow Albertans, our province is well on the way to putting its financial house in order. The Provincial Treasurer will provide a detailed report on Alberta's finances in his Budget Address on February 21. The time has come to plan for the orderly repayment of past accumulated deficits and other liabilities that make up the provincial debt. The plan to pay down the provincial debt has two components.

The first part of the plan will be to enact legislation requiring the Government to pay down the debt over a specified period. Unlike the four-year time frame under the Deficit Elimination Act, this period will be over the long term. The pay-down of our provincial debt will be planned and orderly like a mortgage, and it will be spelled out in legislation.

The second part of the plan will involve recognizing Albertans for their hard work and sacrifice in restoring fiscal balance to our province. This will not be a program to simply spend public funds as they were spent in the past, but a program to reinvest in the new Alberta. As with other important initiatives, the Government is consulting with Albertans on how to proceed with this reinvestment in our communities.

My Government understands the principle that the customers, the people of Alberta, are always right. In pursuing its mandate for change, the Government will continue to assess, reassess, and adjust the route it is taking to reach its destination, mindful of the effects of change on the people it serves, such as Alberta's seniors.

As Albertans go about the business of restoring fiscal balance and changing Government in Alberta, let us all keep working together to stand up for all of our people, the individual responsibility, self-reliance, and caring that continue to build this great province; to create prosperity for Albertans, encouraging free enterprise and improving our outstanding quality of life; to preserve our strong communities, our clean environment, and our tremendous pride in our province and leave an even better Alberta to our children and grandchildren.

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 "Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act". Upon recommendation of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, 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 600/95

## 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) 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

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

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 Members be appointed to the Assembly's seven Select Standing Committees:

### **Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act (15 Members)**

Dunford (Chairman)	Dalla-Longa	Percy
Doerksen (Deputy Chairman)	Forsyth	Sapers
Amery	Fritz	Sekulic
Carlson	Havelock	Stelmach
Chadi	Hlady	Woloshyn

**Law and Regulations (21 Members)**

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

**Legislative Offices (9 Members)**

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

**Private Bills (21 Members)**

Renner (Chairman)	Hanson	Pham
Amery (Deputy Chairman)	Herard	Soetaert
Abdurahman	Jacques	Trynchy
Bracko	Kowalski	Vasseur
Fritz	Laing	Wickman
Gordon	Leibovici	Yankowsky
Haley	Oberg	Zwozdesky

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

Coutts (Chairman)	Friedel	Nicol
Pham (Deputy Chairman)	Germain	Oberg
Clegg	Gordon	Renner
Collingwood	Havelock	Taylor (Cypress-Medicine Hat)
Decore	Henry	Van Binsbergen
Dickson	Hlady	Woloshyn
Forsyth	Mirosh	Zariwny

**Public Accounts (17 Members)**

Abdurahman (Chairman)	Coutts	Pham
Friedel (Deputy Chairman)	Haley	Sekulic
Amery	Kirkland	Taylor (Cypress-Medicine Hat)
Burgener	Magnus	Taylor (Redwater)
Calahasen	McFarland	Yankowsky
Chadi	Percy	



**Public Affairs (All Members)**

Gordon (Chairman)

Forsyth (Deputy Chairman)

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Sessional Paper 601/95

Hon. Mr. Day requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Orders 49(1) and (3) and 38(1)(a).

Hon. Mr. Day moved that the following Members be appointed to the Assembly's Special Standing Committee on Members' Services:

**Members' Services (11 Members)**

Schumacher (Chairman)

Coutts

Stelmach

Woloshyn (Deputy Chairman)

Haley

Van Binsbergen

Brassard

Henry

Wickman

Bruseker

Jacques

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Sessional Paper 602/95

**Adjournment**

On motion by Hon. Mr. Day, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:41 p.m. until Tuesday, February 14, 1995, at 1:30 p.m.

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Title: Monday, February 13, 1995