



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 2

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Fifth Session

Twenty-Third Legislature

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, filed 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, filed 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.

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.

Title: Tuesday, February 11, 1997