



**Legislative Assembly  
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

First Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

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Monday, April 14, 1997

This being the first Day of the First Session of the Twenty-Fourth Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, for the despatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation of His Honour the Honourable H.A. "Bud" Olson, Lieutenant Governor, dated the first day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven;

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

[GREAT SEAL]  
CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

H.A. "BUD" OLSON,  
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 deemed expedient for certain  
causes and considerations to convene the Legislative  
Assembly of Our Province of Alberta for the First  
Session of the Twenty-fourth Legislature, WE DO  
WILL that you and each of you, and all others in Neil

McCrank,  
Deputy Minister of Justice  
and Deputy Attorney General

this behalf interested, on MONDAY, the fourteenth day of April, 1997, at the hour of 1:30 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 H.A. "BUD" OLSON, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this first day of April in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-seven and in the Forty-sixth Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

JON HAVELOCK,  
Provincial Secretary.

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The Members, having previously been duly sworn in by His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and having subscribed to the Roll containing the Oath, took their seats.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly and took his seat on the Throne.

### **Statement by the Provincial Secretary**

The Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Havelock, then said:

Honourable Members, I am commanded by His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that he does not see fit to declare the causes of summoning of the present Legislature of this Province until a Speaker of the Assembly shall have been chosen according to law.

He therefore is pleased to retire from this Assembly, to return at a subsequent hour tomorrow, to declare the causes of the calling of this Legislature.

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

## **Election of Speaker**

The Clerk advised the House that nominations were open and the following Members were nominated and allowed their names to stand:

Mr. Clegg, nominated by Ms Forsyth

Mr. Tannas, nominated by Mrs. Laing

Mr. Kowalski, nominated by Ms Haley

The following Member was nominated but declined the nomination:

Mr. Zwozdesky, nominated by Mr. Mitchell

Receiving no additional nominations, the Clerk declared nominations closed.

Ballots were completed by the Members.

The Clerk, Clerk Assistant, Parliamentary Counsel and Sergeant-at-Arms retired from the Chamber to count the ballots.

The Clerk then announced the following:

The results of the first ballot for the election of the Speaker are as follows. The number of ballots cast, 83; the number of spoiled ballots, zero; the number of votes required to achieve the fifty percent plus one majority, 42. Mr. Tannas has received the least number of total votes cast. Mr. Tannas's name will therefore be excluded from subsequent ballots.

Ballots were completed by the Members.

The Clerk, Clerk Assistant, Parliamentary Counsel, and Sergeant-at-Arms retired from the Chamber to count the ballots.

The Clerk then announced the following:

The results of the second ballot for the election of the Speaker are as follows. The number of ballots cast, 83; the number of spoiled ballots, zero; the number of votes required to achieve the fifty percent plus one majority, 42. The Member having received the majority of votes cast, Mr. Kowalski. Mr. Kowalski is hereby declared the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 24th Legislature.

## **Speaker's Address to the Assembly**

The Speaker donned his robe. The Speaker thanked the Assembly for the honour conferred upon him with the following speech:

To my colleagues in the Alberta Legislative Assembly. In August of 1993 we had the privilege in this Assembly of changing the format for the election of the Speaker by providing a provision for the election of the Speaker by the Members by way of secret ballot. That was a major reform in this Assembly and is one that we were all proud of at the time. Little did I realize at that time that several years would go by and I would have my name come forward before this Assembly for the election of the Speaker. I want to let each and every one of you know that I am sincerely thankful for this expression of support.

I want to sincerely thank my two colleagues, Mr. Don Tannas and Mr. Glen Clegg, for allowing their names to stand for a democratic process. They are fine gentlemen, gentlemen of integrity. They are friends of mine and people whom I respect very, very sincerely. I want to thank them again for allowing their names to come forward.

To Mr. Zwozdesky, who was nominated and declined the nomination. I'm sure that in the last number of days he spent a great deal of time thinking about the possibility and what he would do should he be nominated. He's a class gentleman, a gentleman of respect, and I want to thank him as well for allowing his name to come forward.

This Assembly is the highest court in the land in the province of Alberta. The 83 men and women who have made their way into this Assembly did it by allowing their names to stand, one for a nomination meeting and then for the election. We're here to represent all the people of Alberta. It's the greatest honour that anyone in the province of Alberta could have. There are nearly 3 million Albertans of different backgrounds, different traditions, different aspirations, but this is our home. This is the home for 83 MLAs in the province of Alberta. This is the place that is worthy of respect for all of us. I sincerely hope that I will do you honour for the honour that you've given me today, and I sincerely hope that we will find a great deal of respect in this Assembly for one another and that integrity and honour will always be the words we will use in conducting our daily affairs in this Assembly.

So, again, thank you. Thank you very much. You are looking at perhaps the most surprised person in Alberta today.

The Speaker then took the Chair and the Sergeant-at-Arms placed the Mace on the Table. The Speaker delivered the Opening Day prayer.

Let us pray. Dear God, author of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding, we ask thy guidance in order that truth and justice may prevail in all our judgments. Amen.

## **Election of Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees**

Mr. Speaker requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to proceed with the election of the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Speaker advised the House that nominations were open and the following Members were nominated and allowed their names to stand:

Mr. Herard, nominated by Mrs. Gordon

Mr. Tannas, nominated by Mrs. Laing

The following Member was nominated but declined the nomination:

Mr. Clegg, nominated by Hon. Mr. Havelock

Receiving no additional nominations, the Speaker declared nominations closed.

Ballots were completed by the Members.

The Clerk, Clerk Assistant, Parliamentary Counsel, and Sergeant-at-Arms retired from the Chamber to count the ballots.

The Clerk then announced the following:

The results of the first ballot for the election of the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees are as follows. The number of ballots cast, 82; the number of spoiled ballots, zero; the number of votes required to achieve the fifty percent plus one majority, 42. The Member having received the majority of votes cast, Mr. Tannas. Mr. Tannas is hereby declared the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 24th Legislature.

## **Election of Deputy Chairman of Committees**

Mr. Speaker requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to proceed with the election of the Deputy Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Speaker advised the House that nominations were open and the following Member was nominated and allowed her name to stand:

Mrs. Gordon, nominated by Ms Fritz

Receiving no additional nominations, the Speaker declared Mrs. Gordon acclaimed the Deputy Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 24th Legislature.

Unanimous consent was granted to destroy all ballots and materials related to the elections.

## **Adjournment**

The Assembly adjourned at 3:05 p.m. until Tuesday, April 15, 1997 at 3:00 p.m.

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Title: Monday, April 14, 1997