



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

This being the first Day of the Second 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 third day of December 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 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-fourth Legislature of Alberta:

Neil McCrank,
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective
January 26, 1998, 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-fourth Legislature, WE DO
WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this
behalf interested, on TUESDAY, the 27th day of
January, 1998, 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 H.A. "BUD" OLSON, Lieutenant Governor of Our
Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this Third
day of December in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-
seven in the Forty-sixth Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

JON HAVELOCK,
Provincial Secretary.

The Speaker entered the Assembly and took the Chair. After delivering the opening day
prayer, he invited Mr. Paul Lorieau to lead the Members of the Assembly and those
present in the galleries in singing Canada's national anthem.

In recognition of the historic event which occurred earlier in the Legislative Assembly
Building rotunda, the Speaker described the history and purpose of the Black Rod.
Special thanks were given to the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command Royal
Canadian Legion and all those who assisted in the creation of Alberta's newly installed
Black Rod.

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, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and fellow Albertans:

Fellow Albertans, it is my privilege and my pleasure to welcome you to the Second Session of the Twenty-fourth Alberta Legislature.

Preparing for the future is very important to Albertans. Our greatest obligation is to leave our children and our grandchildren a province that is even better than the one which was left to us. This is the mission to which my Government rededicates itself as we approach a new millennium. Our young people must be our top priority.

Over the past five years, Albertans have built a solid foundation for the next generation. Thanks to their hard work, there is renewed and more balanced prosperity throughout our house. Alberta enjoys the highest employment rate in Canada, and the highest forecasted economic growth in the country. This year's budget surplus is projected at \$2 billion. The net provincial debt should be gone by the year 2000 or 2001 if oil and gas prices remain stable.

But there is more work to do. After eliminating the net debt, Albertans will still face their first mortgage - a total of accumulated debt of \$14 billion. Although this debt is offset by assets like the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, it still costs the province more than \$1 billion in interest payments each year. At the same time, Alberta's strong economic growth is generating more activity and attracting more people, boosting demand for government services such as schools, hospitals and roads.

At the Alberta Growth Summit, Albertans told their Government to respond to the pressures of growth, and to develop the heart of our Alberta Advantage - our people - while remaining fiscally responsible. Our Government must strike a balance between paying down the mortgage, and expanding the house to meet the needs of a growing household.

Accordingly, for the next three years, the Government will direct the first \$1 billion of any annual surplus to pay down the provincial debt; the next \$250 million to one-time initiatives in Albertans' priority areas; and any remaining surplus to further payments on the mortgage.

Reinvesting in Albertans is a pillar of our Government's "Agenda for Opportunity." But it will never return to simply throwing money at problems. It will keep searching for new and better ways to deliver responsive and responsible programs and services. At the Alberta Growth Summit, the private sector committed to being an energetic and responsible partner with Government, in efforts like work experience, apprenticeship and mentor programs.

Albertans' priority on developing people reflects an understanding that they are the driving force in our society and our economy, and that all Albertans must have the opportunities they need to develop their full potential, and to contribute actively to their families, their workplaces and their communities.

The primary foundation for this is education. Our goal is to have the best educated young people in Canada, with our students posting the highest achievement results in the country by 2001. Albertans want an education system that instills in our children the values that made our province strong: the values of self-reliance, self-discipline, respect for others, honesty and industriousness.

Our Government will increase funding for kindergarten to grade 12 by 13 percent, or \$380 million, over the next three years. The grant for basic instruction will increase, to give school boards more flexibility to meet their students' needs. The Government will ensure that this flexibility remains by planning for, and funding, annual increases in enrollment. It will continue both to ensure public quality education through public, separate and charter schools, and to support parents who choose private or home schooling.

The Government will continue its commitment to help students learn through the use of technology. For the first time, it will outline a standard of knowledge and technical skills which students are expected to acquire. It will make funding for technology more flexible by eliminating the requirement for school boards to match Government funding for that purpose. And it will provide further funding to address the costs of transporting students, and also revise its formula for funding transportation to and from rural schools, to encourage greater safety and efficiency.

Our Government will launch a program to catch and correct reading problems as soon as they appear - as early as kindergarten. It will enable school boards to hire intern teachers to help teachers assess, and further support, students who show early signs of falling behind. It will extend funding for English as a Second Language programs, to give Canadian-born children from families in which English is the second language the same chance and support to learn English as immigrant students. It will increase funding for students with special physical and mental difficulties. It will keep working with local service providers to find ways to better coordinate services for children, to help them overcome social, economic and family-related barriers to learning.

Albertans stressed the importance of ensuring that our young people have every opportunity to learn a marketable skill, and to improve their skills as they progress through life. The Government's reinvestment program for Advanced Education and Career Development calls for an increase of about 7.5 percent, or \$95 million, between now and 2001.

The Government will create more places for the rising number of high school graduates entering our post-secondary institutions. It will expand its apprenticeship programs, particularly in areas required by Alberta's thriving economy. It will work with institutions and the private sector to create a \$30-million tuition bursary for students with the greatest financial need, and to identify requirements for knowledge and skills.

Our Government will communicate these requirements through efforts like the Alberta Learning Information System, which gives young people details on opportunities for learning and careers. It will modernize research infrastructure, and help to attract quality researchers. And it will consider, with students and others, the merits of legislating a freeze on the tuition cap at 30 percent of expenditures related to credit programs.

The Government maintains its commitment to help all Albertans maintain or regain their independence, and to support the truly needy. Over the next three years, it will increase funding for Family and Social Services by more than five percent, or about \$70 million, to handle growing caseloads in child welfare and handicapped children's services; and to fund women's shelters and Family and Community Support Services.

Our Government will aim to keep children physically, mentally and emotionally safe through a "Forever Homes" initiative that serves them until their original home is healed, or an adoptive home is found to nurture them for the long term. The move towards more community-based services will continue with the transfer of responsibilities to the Child and Family Services Regional Authorities, and the Persons with Developmental Disabilities Boards. This will ensure the delivery of comprehensive, integrated programs to meet the developmental needs of children and families.

The Government will take new steps to combat teenaged prostitution, and to address the needs of children affected by fetal alcohol syndrome, and find ways to prevent it. Children in low-income families will receive further support under the National Child Benefit, for which our Government will complement increases in federal Child Tax Benefits. And reflecting the Government's commitment to easing Albertans' tax burden, low- and middle-income working families will receive two payments for 1998 totalling up to \$1000 under the Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit.

High-quality, accessible and sustainable health care remains an important part of our Government's Agenda for Opportunity. It will increase funding for health, to meet the changing needs of a growing and aging population. Reflecting the broad view of health taken at the Alberta Growth Summit and elsewhere, there will be more emphasis on monitoring the state of Albertans' health and on protecting and promoting good health, and continued emphasis on treating illness, especially in the area of mental health.

The Government will frame standards and measures for our health system. It will continue to develop a modern system to use and share information on health. After consulting extensively with Albertans, it will develop new legislation to protect the privacy of information on their personal health.

Our Government will address the needs of Alberta's seniors through a review of long-term care services in the province. It will assess the effectiveness of its new legislation to protect persons in care. And it will review the impact of an aging population on public programs such as social housing, to respond to the changing needs of our seniors.

Our Government will provide more protection within the legal system to victims of family violence. It will act on the pending report of the MLA committee set up to recommend improvements to the province's Maintenance Enforcement Program, and access to children. It will act on the report of the task force on the appointment of Provincial Court judges. It will better protect vulnerable consumers under new, consolidated legislation governing fair trading. It will explore issues relating to Aboriginal justice. And it will keep pressing to make our roads safer, and to reduce the incidence of traffic collisions.

Our Government will join with Albertans to strengthen our communities even further. It will complete regional library systems, and it will provide a province-wide electronic library network. It will help problem gamblers through non-residential treatment, a site on the Internet for young people, and training programs. And in keeping with the Government's commitment to return more lottery revenues directly to the communities, volunteer local boards will allocate some \$50 million to worthy community projects.

The Government will encourage local governments to plan for their future by finding new ways to manage resources, and to structure collaborative systems of delivering services. It will provide targeted financial support to communities which need help to establish and sustain essential services.

Another priority identified by Albertans is managing the increasing demands and wear on the roads, buildings and technology required to meet the challenges of economic growth in our province. The Government will reinvest in Alberta's infrastructure, starting with accelerating the development of the North-South Trade Corridor, extending from Alberta's border west of Grande Prairie down to the American border at Coutts. When this is substantially finished by the year 2007, it will allow for escalating traffic by industry and tourists.

Although financial indicators suggest that our province's economy will continue to thrive, Albertans recognize the danger of complacency. Our Government's goal is to have this province acknowledged as the centre of economic growth and prosperity in Canada by the turn of the century. It will continue to create the climate for prosperity for all Albertans, and to build on the Alberta Advantage that attracts business, investment and jobs to our province.

Through its unique partnership with the Alberta Economic Development Authority, our Government will improve the climate for expanded manufacturing and processing, and advanced and emerging technologies. It will pursue international trade through efforts like Team Canada's recent visit to Latin America, and Team Alberta's mission to Asia last fall. It will continue to improve the province's tax climate by phasing out provincial taxes on machinery and equipment. And it will look at reforming Alberta's personal income tax system.

In energy, our Government will produce legislation to complete the deregulation of the electricity industry, to provide consumers with more choice in a competitive market. It will act on industry-led consultations on royalty and related information systems. It will work with industry to resolve outstanding issues around pipeline tolls, and to encourage more construction of pipelines. Our Government will contract out its rural electrification loan portfolio, to give farmers more flexibility and to reduce administration. And responding to requests from rural gas co-operatives, it will allow customers to control gas brokerage services through an elected board of directors.

In agriculture, the Government will design plans to allow the cattle industry to inspect brands on its own. And it will discuss with interested parties, and develop a new approach to locating intensive livestock operations.

Environmental issues are a pressing concern for all Albertans. The Government will streamline and clarify decision-making structures and processes regarding natural resources. It will include a strategy to protect Alberta's water in its new framework to manage the province's water resources when the Water Act comes into force. And it will improve its program to build a network of protected areas of wilderness, and to manage a growing system of parks for people to enjoy long into the future.

In science and research, our Government will introduce legislation to bring a cohesive and efficient approach to encouraging innovation. It will foster investment by the private sector and other partners.

As proud Canadians, Albertans will continue to play a leading part in renewing a strong and effective federation, including Quebec. Following the Alberta Legislature's unanimous approval of the Calgary Declaration, Albertans will continue to take the lead in negotiating inter-governmental issues like roles and responsibilities in various sectors of social policy, and federal spending powers.

Our Government will help to complete a Canada-wide agreement to harmonize environmental management. It will work to meet the reductions for emissions of greenhouse gases agreed to by the provinces and the Federal Government, while ensuring the continued development and growth of Alberta's energy industry. It will seek to include the nation's municipalities, academic institutions, schools and hospitals in the Canadian Agreement on Internal Trade.

Our Government will work with the Federal Government to address outstanding land claims by Alberta's Aboriginal peoples. It will clarify its approach to land claims obligations, intergovernmental relations and Aboriginal self-reliance. And it will improve the governance of Alberta's Metis Settlements.

Our Government will continue to listen to Albertans, and to respond to their concerns. This year, an all-party committee of this Legislature will seek people's views on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. And after more than three years of discussions with the public and with health professionals, the Government will table legislation relating to the governance, registration and continuing competence and conduct of professionals in the field of health care.

The Government will continue to provide responsive and responsible programs, through a public service recognized as among the most focussed, creative and productive in Canada. It will strive to retain, attract and develop the talented, skilled and versatile employees required to serve Albertans' developing needs into the next century.

Shortly, our Government will provide a detailed response to each of the recommendations made at the Alberta Growth Summit. In mid-February, the Provincial Treasurer will present a budget outlining the fiscal blueprints for the Government's Agenda for Opportunity.

Fellow Albertans, our Government's mission, and its commitment, are clear. Responding to your wishes, it will stay its course of financial responsibility, with balanced budgets and diminishing debt. It will reinvest wisely in Albertans' priorities. And as the Premier has declared, children will come first in the house we call Alberta.

Now I leave you to the business of this session, confident that as elected representatives, you will in every way fulfil 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

Ordered, That the Honourable Mr. Klein have leave to introduce a Bill entitled "Protection of Children Involved in Prostitution Act." 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 1/98

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 Wednesday.

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. Hancock:

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

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

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

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

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

ALBERTA HERITAGE SAVINGS TRUST FUND (9 Members)

Pham (Chairman)	Clegg	Shariff
Doerksen (Deputy Chairman)	Hierath	Stevens
Carlson	Lougheed	Zwozdesky

LAW AND REGULATIONS (21 Members)

Tarchuk (Chairman)	Dickson	Olsen
Doerksen (Deputy Chairman)	Fritz	Renner
Amery	Johnson	Severtson
Broda	Laing	Sloan
Boutilier	Leibovici	Thurber
Burgener	MacDonald	Trynchy
Coutts	Melchin	Yankowsky

LEGISLATIVE OFFICES (9 Members)

Langevin (Chairman)	Dickson	Jacques
Friedel (Deputy Chairman)	Fritz	O'Neill
Barrett	Hierath	Sapers

PRIVATE BILLS (21 Members)

Graham (Chairman)	Kryczka	Pham
Burgener (Deputy Chairman)	Langevin	Sloan
Bonner	MacDonald	Soetaert
Cao	Magnus	Strang
Cardinal	Marz	Tannas
Coutts	McFarland	Tarchuk
Herard	Paul	Thurber

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND PRINTING (21 Members)

Stevens (Chairman)	Gibbons	Pannu
Boutilier (Deputy Chairman)	Gordon	Renner
Cao	Hlady	Sapers
Clegg	Klapstein	Severtson
Dickson	Kryczka	Strang
Fischer	Leibovici	Tannas
Forsyth	Massey	Tarchuk

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (17 Members)

White (Chairman)	Hierath	O'Neill
Shariff (Deputy Chairman)	Hlady	Pannu
Amery	Johnson	Stevens
Blakeman	Lougheed	Yankowsky
Ducharme	Melchin	Zwozdesky
Friedel	Olsen	

PUBLIC AFFAIRS (All Members)

Strang (Chairman)

Cardinal (Deputy Chairman)

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Sessional Paper 2/98

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

Hon. Mr. Havelock requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to allow the Deputy Speaker to move the motion pertaining to the acceptance of the Black Rod by the Assembly.

Moved by Mr. Tannas:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly of Alberta accepts with sincere gratitude the Black Rod presented by the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command Royal Canadian Legion, recognizing the gift as an expression of their loyalty, service and sacrifice to sovereign, country and province. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command Royal Canadian Legion and that an engrossed scroll of presentation, including a list of current officers of the Legion's executive, be entered upon the Journals of the Legislative Assembly.

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

"On behalf of all members of the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command Royal Canadian Legion, we desire that the Legislative Assembly of Alberta will accept this new Black Rod. We desire that it always be seen as a symbol of our fealty to Our Queen, to our legislative and parliamentary institutions and that which was given by past and serving Legionnaires in peace and in war.

It is our fervent hope that the Black Rod, which we now ask the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to accept, will play its part in the parliamentary procedure of Alberta through many centuries of peace, progress and prosperity."

(Signed) Tom Barton, President, Alberta-Northwest Territories Command
Royal Canadian Legion

Current Officers of the Alberta-Northwest Territories Command Royal Canadian Legion:

President	Tom Barton	Lougheed, Alberta
First Vice President	Bob Gray	Calgary, Alberta
Vice President	Gerry Stoneman	Strathmore, Alberta
Vice President	John Poynter	Athabasca, Alberta
Vice President	Alastair Mitchell	St. Albert, Alberta
Treasurer	Stewart Black	Innisfail, Alberta
Hon. Solicitor	Vince O'Connor	Calgary, Alberta
Immediate Past President	Peter Teichrob	Calgary, Alberta
Chairman	Bob Hannah	Drumheller, Alberta
Vice Chairman	Kerry Wittkopf	Wainwright, Alberta
Command Secretary	Ron Rivard	Calgary, Alberta

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Havelock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:55 p.m. until Wednesday, January 28, 1998 at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Tuesday, January 27, 1998