



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 21

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

The Speaker took the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. McFarland, Hon. Member for Little Bow, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, presented a petition from approximately 2,500 Rocky Mountain House and area residents in support for additional extended care facilities in Rocky Mountain House.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mrs. Black, Minister of Economic Development, pursuant to the Gaming and Liquor Act, cG-0.5, s30(2):

Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1997

Sessional Paper 265/98

Mr. McFarland, Hon. Member for Little Bow, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection:

167 letters from Rocky Mountain House and area residents in support for additional extended care facilities in Rocky Mountain House

Sessional Paper 266/98

Mr. Sapers, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora:

University of Calgary Students' Union poster, entitled "Is the cost of education holding your future hostage?"

Sessional Paper 267/98

7 letters dated October 29, 1997 to Mr. Sapers, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora, in opposition to increased funding for private schools

Sessional Paper 268/98

Mr. Langevin, Chairman, Select Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, pursuant to the Auditor General Act, cA-49, s19(4):

Auditor General of Alberta, Annual Report 1996-97

Sessional Paper 269/98

Mr. Zwozdesky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek:

Statement of Loss to the Province from its Involvement with Gainers Inc., dated March 14, 1994, by the Office of the Auditor General

Sessional Paper 270/98

Auditor General of Alberta 1994-95 Report, section 2, excerpt pages 9 to 47, entitled "Swan Hills Special Waste Treatment Facility: Audit Coverage, Observations and Recommendations"

Sessional Paper 271/98

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

58 postcards from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, in support for protection of the Kananaskis and Spray River Valleys as a Wildland Provincial Park

Sessional Paper 272/98

57 postcards from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, in support for protection of the Castle Wilderness area as a Wildland Provincial Park

Sessional Paper 273/98

Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Community Development:

Communiqué press release dated March 3, 1998, entitled "Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for seniors plan for challenges of an aging society"

Sessional Paper 274/98

Mrs. Soetaert, Hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert:

Letter dated November 19, 1997, from Charmaine Blazy to Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, in opposition to increased funding for private schools

Sessional Paper 275/98

Letter dated November 19, 1997, from Lucille Dubé to Mr. Broda, Hon. Member for Redwater, in opposition to increased funding for private schools and expressing support for publicly funded education

Sessional Paper 276/98

Letter dated May 16, 1997, from Robert Keith, B.Ed. and M.A., to Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Education, in opposition to the Minister of Education's assessment of education funding as "appropriate"

Sessional Paper 277/98

Letter dated September 26, 1997, from 12 staff members of Saint Vincent School in opposition to increased funding for private schools and expressing support for public Catholic education

Sessional Paper 278/98

Ms Paul, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs:

27 postcards issued by Wei Wong, Chairman, Londonderry School Council, signed by 19 Edmonton residents indicating opposition to increased funding for private school funding, and 9 Edmonton residents indicating support for the elimination of private school funding

Sessional Paper 279/98

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar:

Letter undated, from Karen Craik, Chairperson, Labour Coalition on Workers' Compensation, to Hon. Mr. Smith, Minister of Labour, expressing concerns regarding Bill 204, Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1998, and requesting a postponement until the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) and their stakeholders have completed their benefits policy consultation process

Sessional Paper 280/98

Mr. Bonner, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glengarry:

Letter dated June 15, 1997, from Jim Sylvester to Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Education, expressing support and requesting increased funding for public education

Sessional Paper 281/98

Letter dated June 19, 1997, from Wanda L. Soder-Munholland, to Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Education, expressing support for the combining of school divisions, and expressing concern regarding the Equalization Program with funding for private schools

Sessional Paper 282/98

Dr. Massey, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods:

Letter dated October 29, 1997, from Lowell Leffler to Mr. Stevens, Hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, in opposition to public funding for private schools

Sessional Paper 283/98

Letter dated October 31, 1997, from Berna I. Stewart, Private Schools Funding Task Force, in opposition to public funding for private schools and requesting enhanced educational services for learning disabled children

Sessional Paper 284/98

E-mail message dated October 12, 1997, from John and Joyce Schofield to the Alberta Liberal Office in opposition to public funding for private schools

Sessional Paper 285/98

E-mail message dated October 12, 1997, from Beth Candlish to the Alberta Liberal Office in opposition to public funding for private schools

Sessional Paper 286/98

6 postcards issued by Dr. Massey, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, signed by Albertans in opposition to public funding for private schools

Sessional Paper 287/98

Mr. White, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder:

Letter dated October 31, 1997, from Berna I. Stewart, Private Schools Funding Task Force, in opposition to public funding for private schools and requesting enhanced educational services for learning disabled children, with attached letters from Connie Barnaby, Alberta Federation of Union Retirees

Sessional Paper 288/98

Recognitions

Mr. Broda, Hon. Member for Redwater: 111th birthday of Smoky Lake resident Barbara Smerek.

Ms O'Neill, Hon. Member for St. Albert: Alberta Ladies Curling Club, skipped by Cathy Borst.

Mr. Shariff, Hon. Member for Calgary-McCall: Northeast Calgary event celebrating Family and Community Pride, and in particular the Unsung Hero Award recipient Kelly Howe.

Mr. Yankowsky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clairview: Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir.

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre: Stewart Lemoine playwright.

Mr. Zwozdesky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek: International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination.

Ms Barrett, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands: Mennonite Centre for Newcomers.

Oral Question Period

During Oral Question Period, Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, tabled the following:

Letter dated October 31, 1990, from Hon. Mr. Klein, former Minister of Environment and Hon. Mr. Fjordbotten, former Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, to Mr. Stuart Lang, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc., regarding confirmation of criteria for the pulp and paper mill project to proceed
Sessional Paper 289/98

Speaker's Statement —Designated Departments under Standing Order 58(7)

The Chair has received some communications outside the House concerning the designation of departments' estimates under Standing Order 58(7) and would like to share with all Members the Chair's interpretation of this provision. For the benefit of Members, Standing Order 58(7) states that:

A department's estimates may not be designated under this Standing Order if consideration of those estimates has been concluded or the department's estimates have been previously designated under suborder (4).

Oddly enough, this provision is relatively clear and less unambiguous. If one were to take the example of the Treasury estimates, they were designated by the Leader of the Official Opposition for consideration by the Committee of Supply on Thursday, February 26, 1998. Of course, the estimates were not considered that afternoon as the ordinary business of the House was adjourned due to the successful Standing Order 30 application. The provisions of Standing Order 58(7) do not, however, stipulate that the estimates be "considered" only that they be "designated". Accordingly, Treasury, or the estimates of any other department that has been previously designated, such as Executive Council, cannot be designated again for consideration on a Thursday.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Written Questions

The following Written Questions were accepted:

WQ19. Moved by Dr. Massey:

What are the names of the non-government selection panel members who recommended the former Deputy Minister of Education, Leroy Sloan, for that position, and the amounts of remuneration and expenses paid to each panel member for his or her services in the screening and selection process?

WQ25. Moved by Mrs. Soetaert:

What is the breakdown of the \$4,421,666 in unlisted preferred shares, by individual entity, held by the Agriculture Financial Services Corporation as of March 31, 1996, as contained in the Public Accounts 1996/97, Vol. 3, note 10, page 12?

Hon. Mr. Stelmach, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, tabled Response to Written Question 25

Sessional Paper 290/98

The following Written Questions were accepted as amended:

WQ17. Moved by Mr. White on behalf of Ms Carlson:

How many facility operating agreements for provincial parks and recreation areas were offered for tender between September 1, 1996 and February 3, 1998, where the operator takes over full responsibility for the operation; how many tenders have been accepted; what is the name of each location for which no suitable tenders were received (if any) and what are the future management plans for each site for which no suitable tenders were received?

Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, moved the motion be amended to read:

How many *Recreation Facility Sites* were offered for tender between *September 1, 1997* and February 3, 1998, where the operator takes over full responsibility for the operation; *on how many Recreation Facility Sites were tenders received*; what is the name of each location for which no suitable tenders were received (if any) and what *action is proposed or has been initiated for each Recreation Facility Site* for which no suitable tenders were received?

WQ18. Moved by Mr. White on behalf of Ms Carlson:

How many provincial recreation areas and provincial forest recreation areas were there as of January 1, 1994, and between January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1997, how many closed, how many were transferred to municipalities, how many were transferred to other bodies that keep them open to the public, how many were transferred to other bodies for private use, how many were still managed by the Government on December 31, 1997, and how many may be closed during 1998 if no operators are found?

Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, moved the motion be amended to read:

How many provincial recreation areas and provincial forest recreation areas were there as of January 1, 1994, and between January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1997, how many closed, how many were *divested to municipalities*, how many were *contracted or leased to private sector contractors, municipalities, community or other non-profit groups that kept them open to the public*, how many were *leased to community or other non-profit groups for exclusive use*, how many were still *operated directly* by the Government on December 31, 1997, and how many may be closed during 1998 if no operators are found?

The following Written Questions were ordered to stand:

WQ24, WQ26, WQ27, WQ28, WQ29, WQ30, WQ31, WQ32, WQ33, WQ34, WQ35, WQ36, WQ37, WQ40, WQ41, WQ42, WQ45, WQ46, WQ47, WQ48, WQ49, WQ50, WQ51, WQ54.

Motions for Returns

The following Motion for Returns was accepted:

MR16. Moved by Ms Barrett:

Copies of all studies or analyses done by the Government showing the effect the regionalization of Children's Services will have on children living in poverty in Alberta.

Hon. Mrs. Black, Deputy Government House Leader, on behalf of Hon. Dr. Oberg, Minister of Family and Social Services, tabled Response to Motion for Return 16

Sessional Paper 291/98

The following Motions for Returns were accepted as amended:

MR15. Moved by Ms Barrett:

Copies of all studies done by the Government on the direct and indirect effects on Alberta's workers and the provincial economy as a result of having the lowest minimum wage in Canada.

Hon. Mr. Smith, Minister of Labour, moved the motion be amended to read:

Copies of all studies done by the Government on the direct and indirect effects on Alberta's workers and the provincial economy as a result of having the lowest *dollar* minimum wage in Canada.

MR21. Moved by Mr. White on behalf of Ms Carlson:

A copy of all documents that record inspections by Alberta Environmental Protection of the construction of cell #2 at the Laidlaw Environmental Services (Ryley) Ltd. hazardous waste landfill from the start of construction until its completion in June 1997, including quality control/quality assessment of material used in the clay liner and compaction of the clay, and all departmental evaluation of inspections, assessments and records.

Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, moved the motion be amended to read:

A copy of all documents that record inspections by Alberta Environmental Protection of *the construction and operation of* cell #2 at the Laidlaw Environmental Services (Ryley) Ltd. hazardous waste landfill from the start of construction until *February 1998*.

MR22. Moved by Mrs. Soetaert:

A copy of the agreement between Alberta Environmental Protection and Information Systems Management Corporation (ISM) for ISM to manage the sale of Alberta recreational fishing and hunting licences, as announced in a Government news release on September 4, 1997.

Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, moved the motion be amended to read:

A copy of *those portions of* the agreement between Alberta Environmental Protection and Information Systems Management Corporation (ISM) for ISM to manage the sale of Alberta recreational fishing and hunting licences *that are not protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as announced in a Government news release on September 4, 1997.

MR23. Moved by Mrs. Soetaert:

Copies of all proposals received by Alberta Environmental Protection for the privatization of the sale of Alberta recreational fishing and hunting licences, including the proposal from Information Systems Management Corporation, with whom the Department has entered into an agreement.

Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, moved the motion be amended to read:

A copy of those portions of the proposal received by Alberta Environmental Protection for the privatization of the sale of Alberta recreational fishing and hunting licences, from Information Systems Management Corporation, with whom the Department has entered into an agreement, *that are not protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The following Motions for Returns were ordered to stand:

MR38, MR39, MR43, MR44, MR52, MR53, MR55, MR56.

Public Bills and Orders Other Than Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

On the motion that the following Bill be now read a Second time:

Bill 207 Whistleblower Protection Act — Mr. MacDonald

A debate followed.

Mr. Johnson moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Havelock, Government House Leader, it was agreed at 5:21 p.m. that when the Assembly reconvened at 8:00 p.m. it would be in Committee of Supply, and the Speaker left the Chair.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1998 — 8:00 P.M.

Committee of Supply (Days 12 and 13 — Main Estimates)

(Assembly in Subcommittees)

And after some time spent therein, the Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair and Mrs. Gordon reported as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Transportation and Utilities (Subcommittee B), reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

The Committee of Supply has also had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Advanced Education and Career Development (Subcommittee A), reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table copies of a document tabled by Mr. Sapers, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora, during Committee of Supply (Subcommittee A) consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Advanced Education and Career Development:

University of Calgary Students' Union poster, entitled "Is the cost of education holding your future hostage?"

Sessional Paper 292/98

The question being put, the report and the request for leave to sit again were agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Havelock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 10:06 p.m. until Thursday, March 5, 1998, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Wednesday, March 4, 1998