



**Legislative Assembly  
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Third Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

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Tuesday, February 16, 1999

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

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 Second Session of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of Alberta:

Paul Bourque,  
Deputy Minister of Justice  
and Deputy Attorney General

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective  
February 15, 1999, 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-fourth Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on TUESDAY, the 16th day of February, 1999, 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 Twenty-seventh day of January in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-nine in the Forty-seventh Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

HON. JON HAVELOCK,  
Provincial Secretary.

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The Speaker entered the Assembly and took the Chair. After delivering the opening day prayer and in recognition of the International Year of Older Persons, 1999, he invited the Central Lions Seniors Choir to lead the Members of the Assembly and guests in singing Canada's National Anthem.

While awaiting the arrival of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker spoke about the various model parliaments conducted by a number of organizations in the Chamber outside of Session.

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 my pleasure to welcome you to the Third Session of the Twenty-fourth Alberta Legislature.

On the eve of the year 2000, Alberta is strong. In responding to the challenges of further economic growth, and to the needs of the people it serves, my Government strives to strike the right balance. It will remain fiscally responsible. And it will keep working with Albertans on steady, targeted action on their priorities, especially health, education, the economy and the environment.

Our Government must make careful choices within the constraints of its budget, declining revenues and the uncertain global economy. It will continue to invest carefully in health, education, advanced education, social services and infrastructure. While protecting these areas, the Government will continue its leadership role in taxation. It will chart an innovative, new course, ensuring that Albertans' taxes remain the lowest in Canada. Our Government will maintain a balanced budget. And having worked towards paying off the net provincial debt during the next year, it will introduce a new debt repayment plan to see us into the new century.

In the first and foremost priority area of health, there will be a predictable funding base for the Province's 17 Regional Health Authorities, to help meet the needs of a growing and aging population. There will be more emphasis on preventing illness and injury, and on promoting healthy lifestyles, through efforts like a metabolic screening program for newborns. The Government will review mental health services for children, and improve the delivery of mental health services in our communities. Service will improve further in important areas like surgeries and diagnostics.

The Government will complete its review of long-term care. This review will feed into a broad initiative to assess the impact of an aging population on all Government programs for our seniors, and will help Alberta prepare to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by an aging population over the next 15 to 20 years. These efforts will culminate in a forum on seniors in late 1999, and are most appropriate in this, the International Year of Older Persons.

To improve patient care, our Government will continue to develop a province-wide system of health-related information. It will introduce new legislation to protect information related to Albertans' personal health. As well, there will be legislation to give Government further authority to protect our publicly funded health system. This will ensure the province's ability to comply with the Canada Health Act.

A provincial health summit, to be held later this month, will give recommendations on how to ensure that Albertans continue to have access to a high-quality, affordable and publicly sustainable health care system.

Children are our future, and a key priority for our Government. It will complete a new system of delivering more integrated and preventive services for children and families through 18 regional authorities, as part of the Children's Initiative. Several Government departments will coordinate their efforts through the Children's Secretariat. The Government will place more emphasis on early intervention, to prevent problems from occurring. It will promote the healthy development of young Albertans by monitoring key indicators of their health, such as the rate of babies with low birth weights, and by enabling students with special needs, like occupational therapy, to get the health care that they need, in their own school.

Our Government will provide further support for children in low-income families through the National Child Benefit program. It will boost efforts to find adoptive families for children in its permanent care. And it will host a forum on children's issues this fall to explore further ways to improve the well-being of our children.

The Government will reshape programs to help persons with disabilities participate more fully in society. It will act on the recommendations from the Summit on Lotteries and Gaming, including increasing problem gambling treatment and prevention, and establishing a gaming research institute, to examine issues related to gaming, which will provide the basis for future policies. And in a national context, it will continue to improve and clarify the relationship between governments on social policy; and to reform the Canada Pension Plan; and to work to improve the federal system as a whole.

Ensuring that our young people receive a quality education is another priority for Albertans. Our students are doing well, but the Government will focus further on literacy and computer literacy. Math teachers in junior and senior high schools will receive training to help students with the new math curriculum. Aboriginal children will get more access to curriculum and resources to meet their learning needs. Students who are in short-term institutional placements like custody for young offenders, and who have complex special needs, will have better access to these services. And an audit of the province's school buildings will lead to safer and healthier learning environments.

In Advanced Education, our Government aims to double the number of post-secondary students in the fields of computing, communications technology, physics and computer-related engineering over the next two years. To that end, there will be 23,000 more spaces for post-secondary students through the Access Fund. There will be a new, province-wide network of adult learning called Campus Alberta, to make programs more accessible, and to create seamless pathways from diplomas through degrees, and between formal and informal continuing education.

Alberta's next priority is the economy. We can expect continued growth, but not at the robust levels of the last two years. In 1998, employment in our province grew by 57,000 jobs or nearly four per cent, the highest rate in Canada; our average unemployment rate was tied at a national low of 5.7 per cent; and there were 600 major capital projects valued at \$46 billion under construction.

Our Government will build on these successes by continuing to diversify our economy, especially in the development of new technologies. It will strive to increase the number of Albertans working in the information and communications technology sector from 40,000 today, to 75,000 by the year 2005. And it will promote the Alberta Advantage through efforts like the recently completed trade mission to the American Pacific Northwest and Mexico, and expanded training at the CNPC-Alberta Petroleum Centre in Beijing, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.

Our Government will work towards ensuring that all Alberta schools, businesses and homes have high-speed access to information, government services, lifelong learning and electronic commerce through the Internet by early in the next century. It will link municipalities, interested groups and government electronically, and upgrade aging computer systems.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining Alberta's infrastructure, our Government will begin to review the management of transportation facilities in this Province with a view to using funds most efficiently. It will continue work on the North-South Trade Corridor, including harmonized regulations for the movement of trucks from Canada to Mexico. It will encourage action on the recommendations in the Estey Report to improve the transportation of grain, and to save money for producers. It will reintroduce revised legislation consolidating all of its traffic safety laws, following further consultation with Albertans.

In the area of energy, customers will be able to choose their retailer of electricity, starting with major commercial enterprises on April 1, 1999. The Government will streamline the administration of oil sands tenure and mining approvals. It will improve geological information on minerals to attract increased investment. It will work with the federal and other provincial governments to settle the issue of jurisdiction over pipelines. In consultation with the industry, it will implement recommendations from its joint review of business rules for natural gas royalties, and it will create a policy on developing non-energy minerals.

The "agri" industry remains a significant contributor to Alberta's economy. Our Government continues to encourage the growth of agricultural value-added production. In agriculture, we will see a long-term strategy to monitor water quality, developed by Government, industry and other interested parties. There will be new provincial standards for the construction and operation of livestock feeding operations to complement municipal decisions on land use. After two and a half years of public consultation, the Government will introduce a new framework for the governance of irrigation districts. It will continue to support farmers with effective risk management tools such as the Farm Income Disaster Program, which is being emulated in other provinces. And our Government will bring together producers from Alberta and Montana to alleviate concerns over the movement of commodities across the international border.

There will be a new, more accountable framework for Alberta's tourism industry, overseen by a new Strategic Tourism Marketing Council. Reflecting the shared responsibility for marketing tourism, the Government will contract out marketing programs, while focusing on areas such as research and image control, and leading a joint effort with the private sector to raise Alberta's profile internationally. Our Government will take part in the 1999 International Travel Exposition in Kangwon, Korea, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Kangwon's twinning with our province.

In advanced technology, the Government will work with its partners in the post-secondary and industrial sectors to increase the research and development of new technologies in Alberta. There will be further partnerships to foster investment in key areas like biotechnology and information and communications technology, through the Science and Research Fund.

Further reforms to the governance, registration, continuing competence and conduct of professionals in the fields of health, accounting and forestry will make these procedures more transparent, while continuing to protect the public. Our Government will help to safeguard entitlements earned by members of employee pensions, and to ensure that employers and plan members are treated equitably. And it will modernize its insurance laws to benefit consumers through measures such as safeguarding the solvency of insurance companies, and removing barriers to competition in marketing.

Another priority for our Government is caring for Alberta's precious natural environment. To that end, it is reviewing the Province's environmental regulations to ensure that it maintains the most stringent standards in North America. The Government will strengthen further the protection of our natural heritage by consolidating legislation, and by revising its system of classes of protected areas and recreation areas, to clarify the purpose of, and the management of, sites within each class. It will convene a roundtable on climate change with interested Albertans to develop a plan to cut the emission of greenhouse gases, and to recommend a strategy for climate research and technology, emphasizing Alberta's environmental and energy advantage.

The Government will ensure that the high quality of water in Alberta is protected through the new Water Act, which took effect last month. It will investigate the feasibility of a program to help flood-prone communities to protect themselves. And it will complete four new sub-agreements harmonizing environmental legislation on a national basis.

In other important initiatives, our Government will present a new housing policy to address short-term pressures on, and the longer-term requirements of, Albertans with needs.

In this centennial year of the signing of Treaty 8, the Government will work with Ottawa to resolve outstanding claims under that treaty. Recognizing that aboriginal Albertans should have access to the same opportunities and quality of life as others, it will prepare a framework for aboriginal policy, clarifying Albertans' relationship with aboriginal people in the province, and encouraging capacity-building and self-reliance. The Government will act on recommendations from the Justice Summit held last month. It will make it easier and more effective for separated and divorced parents to enforce court-ordered maintenance of, and access to, their children. It will target organized crime together with police chiefs and the R.C.M.P., through a provincial strategy starting this April 1.

Our Government will continue to support Alberta's thriving arts, libraries and cultural sectors, which contribute up to \$2 billion in economic activity each year, and are essential to its commitment to lifelong learning and a high quality of life for Albertans. Beginning this April 1, the new Film Development Grant Program will provide \$5 million in grants to support Alberta-based film-makers.

Having worked to combat the so-called Millennium Bug on a Government-wide basis since 1996, the Government will ensure that its computer systems are Year 2000-ready on schedule, by next month.

And our Government will continue to listen to Albertans and give them further links to Government, such as a permanent toll-free telephone number, secondly, a new site on the Internet, and thirdly, quarterly reporting incorporating information in addition to its finances.

Fellow Albertans, we are blessed to live in a province which is the pride of a country repeatedly declared by the United Nations to have the highest quality of life in the world. Our Government thanks our municipalities, our teachers and school boards, our health care professionals, our police services, our volunteers, and our community organizations, and everyone else who has worked so hard to serve the people of this magnificent Province.

My Government will keep working with Albertans to strike the right balance; to provide quality programs and services at a sustainable cost; and to build an even better Alberta as we approach a new century, and a new millennium.

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 "Fiscal Responsibility 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 1/99

## **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. Mr. Havelock:

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



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

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

ALBERTA HERITAGE SAVINGS TRUST FUND (9 Members)

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

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	Olsen
Barrett	Hierath	O'Neill

PRIVATE BILLS (21 Members)

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

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

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

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (17 Members)

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS (All Members)

Strang (Chairman)	Cardinal (Deputy Chairman)
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The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Sessional Paper 2/99

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

Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that the following change to the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services be approved by the Assembly:

that Dr. Pannu replace Ms Barrett,  
that Ms Haley replace Ms Forsyth.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

## **Adjournment**

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:49 p.m. until Wednesday, February 17, 1999, at 1:30 p.m.

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Hon. Ken Kowalski,  
Speaker

Title: Tuesday, February 16, 1999