



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 2

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Third Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Wednesday, February 17, 1999

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

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Johnson, Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose, presented a petition from 2,341 Camrose and area residents expressing support for the widening of Highway 13 east of Camrose.

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, presented a petition from 400 Northern Alberta residents regarding the difficult financial position of Alberta's Pork Producers and expressing concern regarding the current level of pork prices.

Mrs. Soetaert, Hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, presented a petition from 543 Albertans regarding the difficult financial position of Alberta's Pork Producers and expressing concern regarding the current level of pork prices.

Notices of Motions

Mrs. MacBeth, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, gave oral notice of her intention to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, that the Assembly adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent importance, namely the crisis created by the shortage of acute care hospital beds in Calgary and Edmonton.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 38(1)(b) in order to allow for the introduction of the following Bills:

Bill 201 Tenancies Statutes Amendment Act, 1999 — Mr. Strang

Bill 202 Farming Practices Protection Statutes Amendment Act, 1999 —
Mr. Thurber

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, pursuant to the Auditor General Act, cA-49, s20(2):

Report of the Auditor General on the 1994 Refinancing of West Edmonton Mall,
dated February 1999

Sessional Paper 3/99

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer, pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Act, cC-22.1,
s16:

Report of Selected Payments to Members and Former Members of the Legislative
Assembly and Persons Directly Associated with Members of the Legislative
Assembly, for the Year Ended March 31, 1998

Sessional Paper 4/99

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer:

General Revenue Fund: Details of Expenditure by Payee, Year Ended March 31,
1998 including Grants, Supplies and Services, Capital Assets and Other

Sessional Paper 5/99

Mr. Renner, Hon. Member for Medicine Hat:

Allowance and Travel Expense Report for each Government Member's
constituency for the twelve months ending March 31, 1998

Sessional Paper 6/99

Hon. Dr. Oberg, Minister of Family and Social Services:

Creating Excellence Together: Accreditation Standards Draft, updated
November 16, 1998, produced by the Alberta Association of Rehabilitation
Centres, dated November 1998

Sessional Paper 7/99

Hon. Ms Evans, Minister of Municipal Affairs:

Memorandum dated June 12, 1991, from the City of Calgary, City Clerk's Department, to Mayor Duerr regarding Report of the Assessment, Tax and License Department on the Discussion Draft Legislation Papers on: the Alberta Municipal Assessment Corporation Act, Property Assessment Act, and the Proposed Municipal Government Act (Part 8), with attached Commissioners' Report dated May 28, 1991

Sessional Paper 8/99

Letter dated December 22, 1992, from Jan Reimer, Mayor, City of Edmonton, to Hon. Dr. West, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding Bill 51, Municipal Government Act, and the White Paper for the Property Assessment Act, with attached submission by the City of Edmonton to the Minister of Municipal Affairs

Sessional Paper 9/99

Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark:

Submission to the Bill 37, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 1998 (24th Legislature, 2nd Session) Review Panel, with attached news release dated December 4, 1998, entitled "Blue Ribbon Panel on Bill 37 Named," and Ontario Chapter I.3 entitled "Independent Health Facilities Act"

Sessional Paper 10/99

Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona:

Submission to the Bill 37, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 1998 (24th Legislature, 2nd Session) Review Panel, dated January 1999, produced by the New Democrat Opposition

Sessional Paper 11/99

Submission to the Friends of Medicare Public Review Panel on the State of Health Care, dated February 10, 1999, produced by the New Democrat Opposition

Sessional Paper 12/99

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Legislative Assembly Act, cL-10.1, s19(5):

Members' Services Order 1/99, Constituency Services Amendment Order (No. 4), dated January 26, 1999, Special Select Standing Committee on Members' Services

Sessional Paper 13/99

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:

Letter dated February 12, 1999, from Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, to Members of the Legislative Assembly regarding House Procedures for the Third Session, Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Sessional Paper 14/99

Allowance and Travel Expense Report for the Barrhead-Westlock constituency for the twelve months ending March 31, 1997

Sessional Paper 15/99

Allowance and Travel Expense Report for the Barrhead-Westlock constituency for the twelve months ending March 31, 1998

Sessional Paper 16/99

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

APSHA (Alberta Pine Shake Homeowners Association) Registration and Information Sheet

Sessional Paper 17/99

Ministerial Statements

Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Education, on behalf of Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Community Development, made a statement recognizing Freedom to Read Week, February 14 to 21, 1999, and the vital role of libraries in providing electronic access to information for life-long learning.

Mr. Dickson, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, commented on the statement.

Oral Question Period

During Oral Question Period, Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, tabled the following:

Letter dated February 17, 1999, from David J. Manning, President, CAPP (Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers), to Hon. Mr. Lund, Minister of Environmental Protection, regarding CAPP's support for the Special Places 2000 initiative

Sessional Paper 18/99

Recognitions

Mr. Cao, Hon. Member for Calgary-Fort: Quang Dang, member of the Canadian National Indoor Field Hockey Team.

Ms Olsen, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Norwood: three Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA) contest winners, Freidrich Fischer, Willo Ruschfeldt and Anna Dolega, recognized for logo design to mark the 100th anniversary of CCJA.

Mr. Zwozdesky, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek: Black History Month, February 1999.

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre: Chinese Lunar New Year and Vietnamese Tet.

Mrs. O'Neill, Hon. Member for St. Albert: four Alberta students, Michael Klassen, Brad Krawchuck, Trevor Segstro and Kevin Seidel, recipients of the Charles S. Noble Junior A Hockey Scholarships.

Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona: AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) recipients.

Mr. Coutts, Hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod: Southern Alberta grass fire occurring February 6, 1999, south of Fort Macleod.

Motion for Adjournment for an Emergency Debate

Mrs. MacBeth, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, requested leave to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, that the Assembly adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the crisis created by the shortage of acute care hospital beds in Calgary and Edmonton.

A debate followed on urgency. The Speaker heard from: Mrs. MacBeth, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition; Hon. Mr. Jonson, Minister of Health; Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark; and Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader.

The Speaker ruled that the request for leave was not in order.

Speaker's Statement — Deputy Government House Leader

Honourable Members, the Chair would like to make a brief statement related to the appointment of the Honourable Member from Medicine Hat as Deputy Government House Leader. Although this position has typically been held by a member of Executive Council, there is nothing in our rules that prevents a Private Member from occupying the post. In fact, the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are silent on the position of Deputy Government House Leader. The Chair's research indicates that designating a Private Member to the position is not unique in Canada. There are certain functions, however, that under our Standing Orders and by convention may only be performed by members of Executive Council or, in other words, by a Minister. In an effort to be fair to the Honourable Member and to ensure that the time of the House is not taken up by questions later on, the Chair would like to review the scope of the Member's activities as Deputy Government House Leader.

In general, it is the Chair's view that any activity that may be performed by the Government House Leader under our Standing Orders may be performed by the Deputy Government House Leader. Where the Standing Orders are silent as to who may do something, it is assumed that a Private Member can perform the function unless there is a convention or longstanding practice to the contrary. Accordingly, a Private Member may, as Deputy Government House Leader:

- move adjournment motions including those indicated in Standing Orders 4(1) and 4(3);
- provide information on Thursdays concerning projected Government Business pursuant to Standing Order 7(5);
- on Tuesdays, give notice of which Written Questions or Motions for Returns will be dealt with the following day as referred to in Standing Order 34(2)(a);
- on Wednesdays, when the item is called by the Clerk under Orders of the Day, move the motion regarding which Written Questions or Motions for Returns will be taken up that day and which ones will stand and retain their places;
- move Second or Third readings of Government Bills except Bills requiring the Royal Recommendation as being money Bills under Standing Order 79, or those Bills which are tax Bills and must be moved by a Minister;
- if required, move the motion that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply or Committee of the Whole.

Given the requirements in our Standing Orders and practices of this Assembly there are certain things that may not be done by a Private Member such as:

- move motions appearing on the Order Paper under Government Motions as these may only be placed on the Order Paper by a Minister;
- move any closure motions pursuant to Standing Order 21;
- accept, reject or amend Written Questions or Motions for Returns as under Standing Order 34 this may only be done by a member of the Executive Council;
- move a supply resolution relating to a portion of the estimates under Standing Order 57(7);

- move motions under Standing Order 58(6) to determine:
 - (a) the number of days that the Committee of Supply and its subcommittees may be called, or
 - (b) the dates and the number of departments' estimates that may be designated by the Leader of the Official Opposition for consideration by the Committee of Supply;
- move that a Bill introduced by a Private Member be placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders as under Standing Order 71 that must be done by a member of the Executive Council;
- as previously indicated, move a money Bill or a tax Bill.

It is the Chair's hope that this list is comprehensive enough to address the matters that will concern the House during this Session. The Chair would also like to offer congratulations to the new Government House Leader, the Honourable Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs, and to the Honourable Member for Calgary Buffalo who is the new Opposition House Leader. The Chair, the Chairman of Committees and the Deputy Chairman of Committees look forward to working with these individuals who, together with the Honourable Member for Edmonton Strathcona, have the primary responsibility on behalf of their respective caucuses for the conduct of the business in this Assembly.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Written Questions and Motions for Returns

The Speaker advised the Assembly that, pursuant to Standing Order 8(3), Written Questions and Motions for Returns would normally be addressed at this time, however, as there were none appearing on the Order Paper, the Assembly would move on to the next order of business.

Public Bills and Orders Other Than Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

Mr. Renner, Deputy Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 73(1) allowing for the Second reading consideration of the following Bill:

Bill 201 Tenancies Statutes Amendment Act, 1999 — Mr. Strang

A debate followed.

Mr. Gibbons, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, moved the motion be amended to read:

That Bill 201, Tenancies Statutes Amendment Act, 1999, be not now read a Second time because the Legislative Assembly believes that a comprehensive review of landlord and tenant legislation is required, involving extensive consultation with concerned stakeholders, before proceeding with this Bill.

Debate continued on the amendment.

Mrs. O'Neill, Hon. Member for St. Albert, moved adjournment of the debate on the amendment, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 5:17 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1999 — 8:00 P.M.

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Mrs. Fritz moved the following motion, seconded by Mr. Strang:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour Mr. H. A. "Bud" Olson, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

A debate followed.

During debate, Mrs. MacBeth, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, tabled the following:

Article undated entitled "Re-investment Fables: Educational Finances in Alberta," written by Dean Neu

Sessional Paper 19/99

Debate continued.

Dr. Pannu moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 10:02 p.m. until Thursday, February 18, 1999, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Wednesday, February 17, 1999