



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 53

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Third Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Tuesday, November 23, 1999

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

Presenting Petitions

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, presented a petition from 173 Albertans requesting the freezing of tuition and institutional fees and an increase in post-secondary education support.

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, presented a petition from Albertans requesting increased funding for public and separate schools to levels which will cover increased costs.

Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, presented a petition from 106 Albertans requesting the introduction of legislation banning the establishment of private for-profit hospitals.

Mr. Bonner, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glengarry, presented a petition from Albertans requesting an independent public inquiry of the Workers' Compensation Act including an examination of the operations of the WCB (Workers' Compensation Board), the Appeals Commission, and the criteria for appointments to the Board.

Ms Barrett, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands, presented a petition from 115 Albertans requesting the introduction of legislation banning the establishment of private for-profit hospitals.

Reading and Receiving Petitions

On request by Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned, urge the Legislative Assembly to freeze tuition and institutional fees and increase support in the foundation of post-secondary education.

On request by Mrs. Soetaert, Hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to conduct an independent public inquiry of the Workers' Compensation Act, including an examination of the operations of the WCB, the Appeals Commission, and the criteria for appointments to the Board.

On request by Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, hereby petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to introduce a Bill banning the establishment of private, for-profit hospitals to ensure that the integrity of public, universal health care may be maintained.

On request by Mr. Bonner, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glengarry, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to conduct an independent public inquiry of the Workers' Compensation Act, including an examination of the operations of the WCB, the Appeals Commission, and the criteria for appointments to the Board.

On request by Ms Barrett, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, hereby petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to introduce a Bill banning the establishment of private, for-profit hospitals to ensure that the integrity of public, universal health care may be maintained.

On request by Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to conduct an independent public inquiry of the Workers' Compensation Act, including an examination of the operations of the WCB, the Appeals Commission, and the criteria for appointments to the Board.

On request by Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to conduct an independent public inquiry of the Workers' Compensation Act, including an examination of the operations of the WCB, the Appeals Commission, and the criteria for appointments to the Board.

Notices of Motions

Pursuant to Standing Order 34(2)(a), Mr. Zwozdesky, Deputy Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following Written Questions and Motions for Returns to be dealt with Wednesday, November 24, 1999:

Written Questions: WQ218, WQ219, WQ220, WQ226, WQ227.

Motions for Returns: MR221, MR222, MR223, MR224, MR225, MR228, MR229, MR230, MR235, MR236, MR238, MR239, MR240, MR241.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Notice having been given:

- Bill 221 Government Forecasting and Reporting Act — Mr. Sapers
- Bill 222 School (Class Size Limitation) Amendment Act, 1999 — Dr. Massey
- Bill 223 Police (Special Constable Safety) Amendment Act, 1999 — Mrs. Gordon
- Bill 224 School (Principals' Duties) Amendment Act, 1999 — Mr. Jacques
- Bill 225 Alberta Children's Day Act — Mr. Shariff
- Bill 226 Gaming and Liquor (Lottery Fund Oversight) Amendment Act, 1999 — Mr. Wickman
- Bill 227 Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing Calculation Act — Mr. Gibbons
- Bill 228 Fiscal Stabilization Fund Calculation Act — Ms Carlson
- Bill 229 Surface Rights Amendment Act, 1999 (No. 2) — Dr. Nicol

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier:

Letter dated November 23, 1999, from Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, to Mr. Wayne Gretzky offering congratulations on his induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame

Sessional Paper 1056/99

Mrs. Gordon, Hon. Member for Lacombe-Stettler:

Letter dated November 23, 1999, from Mrs. Gordon, Hon. Member for Lacombe-Stettler, to Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, offering congratulations on his 20th anniversary as a Member of the Legislative Assembly
Sessional Paper 1057/99

Hon. Mr. Dunford, Minister of Human Resources and Employment:

Response to Written Question No. WQ90 asked for by Mrs. Sloan on March 31, 1999:

What is the breakdown of the approximate \$4 million of achievement awards to departmental staff, as outlined in the 1997-98 Annual Report of the Ministry of Family and Social Services?

Sessional Paper 1058/99

Return to Order of the Assembly No. MR53 asked for by Mrs. Sloan on March 31, 1999:

Request for proposals for employment program initiatives designed for Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped and Assured Support Program recipients since September 1, 1998.

Sessional Paper 1059/99

Hon. Mr. Jonson, Minister of Health and Wellness:

Information Package on Alberta's New Health Information Act, including news release dated November 17, 1999, summary document and guide

Sessional Paper 1060/99

Hon. Ms Evans, Minister of Children's Services:

Fact sheet dated November 23, 1999, entitled "Child Welfare Statistical Information (As it Relates to Adoption)," statistics presented as of October 31, 1999

Sessional Paper 1061/99

Hon. Mr. Day, Provincial Treasurer:

Fact sheet dated September 1, 1999, entitled "IPAC (Institute of Public Administration of Canada) Award for Innovative Management 1999 Winners"
Sessional Paper 1062/99

Quote contained in the fact sheet dated September 1, 1999, entitled "IPAC (Institute of Public Administration of Canada) Award for Innovative Management 1999 Winners" highlighting Alberta Treasury as the recipient of the Silver Award
Sessional Paper 1063/99

Planning the Alberta Advantage: 1999 to 2002, Alberta Government Business Plan Highlights, produced by Alberta Treasury

Sessional Paper 1064/99

Mr. Friedel, Deputy Chairman, Select Standing Committee on Legislative Offices:

Response to Bill 40, Health Information Act, produced by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, dated November 22, 1999

Sessional Paper 1065/99

Hon. Dr. Oberg, Minister of Learning:

Newspaper articles relating to Edmonton Public Schools appearing in the Journal Star (published in Lincoln, Nebraska), September 19 to 22, 1999

Sessional Paper 1066/99

Hon. Dr. Taylor, Minister of Innovation and Science, pursuant to the Alberta Research Council Act, cA-35.1, s23(2):

Alberta Research Council, Annual Report 1999 entitled "Innovation for the New Millennium"

Sessional Paper 1067/99

Hon. Dr. Taylor, Minister of Innovation and Science:

Brochure entitled "Status Quo - Quantum Leap: The Shortest Distance" containing the pamphlet entitled "Innovation Enterprise: The Shortest Distance, Technology Commercialization Office," produced by Alberta Research Council

Sessional Paper 1068/99

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

7 letters dated April 30, 1999, from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing support for the funding of midwifery through Alberta Health Care

Sessional Paper 1069/99

4 letters dated June 30, 1999 to July 15, 1999 from Albertans to Mr. Herard, Hon. Member for Calgary-Egmont; Mrs. Laing, Hon. Member for Calgary-Bow; Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier; Mr. Dickson, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, expressing concern regarding the current level of arts funding and requesting an increase to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts

Sessional Paper 1070/99

Ms Carlson, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie:

Letter dated November 22, 1999, from Rudy and Gertie Meziro to Ms Carlson, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, expressing dissatisfaction with the attached reply issued by Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Environment, regarding a Ministerial Order for the Beaver Regional Waste Management Services Commission (BRWMS)

Sessional Paper 1071/99

Letter dated November 14, 1999, from Margaret Main to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing concern with the Genesis Land Development Corporation's development in the Spray Lakes area, and requesting a thorough and comprehensive environmental impact assessment before any work is permitted to begin

Sessional Paper 1072/99

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

Brochure entitled "Good Neighbour Fund - CFRN, CTV" providing information relating to the CFRN TV Good Neighbour Fund Society

Sessional Paper 1073/99

Ms Barrett, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands:

Memo undated from Colleen Fuller to John Kolkman, New Democratic opposition caucus research director, regarding the "carve-out" for health care in relation to HRG (Health Resource Group) and NAFTA (North America Free Trade Agreement)

Sessional Paper 1074/99

Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark:

Letter dated September 23, 1999, from Janet Schwegel, President, ASAC (Association for Safe Alternatives in Childbirth) regarding over 100 letters collected expressing support for funding of midwifery in Alberta

Sessional Paper 1075/99

5 letters dated April 30, 1999 to June 2, 1999, from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing support for funding of midwifery in Alberta

Sessional Paper 1076/99

Mr. Ducharme, Hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, on behalf of Mr. Johnson, Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose:

122 letters dated November 20, 1999, from Alberta medical students to Mr. Johnson, Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose, expressing support for Bill 208, Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act

Sessional Paper 1077/99

Mrs. Sloan, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview:

2 draft reports entitled "Profile of Poverty in Mid-sized Alberta Cities," dated August 1999, and "Summary Statistics on Poverty in Selected Alberta Communities," dated September 1999, produced by the Centre for International Statistics, Canadian Council on Social Development

Sessional Paper 1078/99

Fact sheet entitled “Comparison of Child Welfare and Supports for Independence Caseloads,” provided by Family and Social Services Annual Reports 1992 to 1999

Sessional Paper 1079/99

Internet webpage photograph depicting the “Calgary Varsity P.C. (Progressive Conservative) Executive”

Sessional Paper 1080/99

Mr. Dickson, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo:

MLA Brief on Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI), produced by PLENA (Public Legal Education Network of Alberta), with attached membership list 1998-99 as of October 20, 1998

Sessional Paper 1081/99

Letter dated November 23, 1999, from Mr. Dickson, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, to Hon. Mr. Jonson, Minister of Health and Wellness, regarding the exclusion of ambulance services as a custodian, and ambulance operators from the definition of “affiliate” in Bill 40, Health Information Act

Sessional Paper 1082/99

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

56 postcards entitled “Be Like Mike” addressed to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, produced by Equal=Alberta in support for equal treatment for all Albertans regardless of sexual orientation

Sessional Paper 1083/99

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

Canadian Learning Television brochure entitled “Reinvent Yourself: Initio est demidium facti (Once you’ve started, you’re half way there)”

Sessional Paper 1084/99

Letter dated November 18, 1999, from M. Gordon Inglis to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing opposition to the proposed Health Act amendments allowing for a movement towards the privatization of health care

Sessional Paper 1085/99

E-mail message dated November 15, 1999, from Joan Leslie to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing opposition to the \$11,000 charge for a CTV speech regarding health care

Sessional Paper 1086/99

Question of Privilege

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, gave oral notice of his intention to raise a question of privilege pursuant to Standing Order 15(1).

Members' Statements

Mrs. Tarchuk, Hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane, made a statement regarding the 4th annual Vic Lewis Band Festival at the Banff Centre, November 12, 1999, celebrating the musical and societal contributions of Mr. Vic Lewis.

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, made a statement recognizing the Famous Five Foundation of Calgary for efforts to promote women's equality with the unveiling of five statues, October 18, 1999 in Calgary, celebrating the Persons Case and other commemorative efforts.

Mrs. O'Neill, Hon. Member for St. Albert, made a statement regarding the city of St. Albert's effective municipal government and its unique identity within the capital region promoted by the collaborative efforts of the Capital Region Alliance.

Privilege

Oral notice having been given following Tabling Returns and Reports, Tuesday, November 23, 1999, and pursuant to Standing Order 15(1), Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, raised a purported question of privilege regarding remarks uttered by Mrs. Sloan, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview. He felt comments the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview had spoken following the tabling by Mr. Friedel, Hon. Member for Peace River, of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's response to Bill 40, Health Information Act, offended the House and brought into question the integrity of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, an Officer of the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker heard from Mr. Dickson, Official Opposition House Leader; Ms Barrett, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands; Hon. Mr. Havelock, Deputy Government House Leader; Mrs. Sloan, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview; and Mr. Friedel, Hon. Member for Peace River.

Mrs. Sloan, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, withdrew the offending comment.

The Speaker stated this was a serious situation and invited further comment from Mrs. Sloan, who apologized for the remarks uttered earlier.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Motions Other Than Government Motions

514. Moved by Mr. Herard:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to expedite the delivery of multi-department Children's Services programs to operate directly within our school system.

A debate followed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 8(4), the question being put, the motion was agreed to unanimously.

Government Motions

23. Moved by Hon. Mr. Havelock on behalf of Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that, when the Assembly adjourns to recess the Fall sitting of the Third Session of the 24th Legislature, it shall stand adjourned until a time and date, as determined by the Speaker after consultation with the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

A debate followed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(1), debate adjourned, Mr. MacDonald speaking.

Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned at 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1999 — 8:00 P.M.

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

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

Bill 44 Insurance Statutes Amendment Act, 1999 — Ms Graham

A debate followed.

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

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

Bill 43 Fiscal Responsibility Amendment Act, 1999 — Hon. Mr. Day

A debate followed.

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

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

Bill 40 Health Information Act — Ms Graham

A debate followed.

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

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Havelock, Deputy Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 9:55 p.m. until Wednesday, November 24, 1999, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Tuesday, November 23, 1999