



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 16

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Fourth Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Thursday, March 16, 2000

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

Presenting Petitions

Mrs. O'Neill, Hon. Member for St. Albert, presented a petition from 111 Albertans requesting that Regional Health Authorities be allowed to contract out surgical services.

Mr. Gibbons, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, presented a petition from 220 Albertans requesting that the promotion of private health care and the undermining of public health care be stopped.

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, presented a petition from 224 Albertans requesting that the promotion of private health care and the undermining of public health care be stopped.

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, presented a petition from 209 Albertans requesting that the promotion of private health care and the undermining of public health care be stopped.

Mr. Wickman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, presented a petition from 218 Albertans requesting that the promotion of private health care and the undermining of public health care be stopped.

Mr. Sapers, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora, presented a petition from 135 Albertans requesting that the promotion of private health care and the undermining of public health care be stopped.

Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, presented a petition from 1,111 Albertans requesting the introduction of a bill banning the establishment of private for-profit hospitals in Alberta to maintain the integrity of the public, universal health care system.

Reading and Receiving Petitions

On request by Mrs. Sloan, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, the following petition was read and received:

We, the undersigned citizens of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to stop promoting private health care and undermining public health care.

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

We, the undersigned citizens of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to protect, support, and enhance public health care in Alberta and to ban for-profit, private hospitals from receiving public dollars.

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

We, the undersigned residents of the Province of Alberta, hereby petition the Legislative Assembly to pass a bill banning private for-profit hospitals in Alberta so that the integrity of the public, universal health care system may be maintained.

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

We, the undersigned citizens of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to protect, support, and enhance public health care in Alberta and to ban for-profit, private hospitals from receiving public dollars.

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

We, the undersigned citizens of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to stop promoting private health care and undermining public health care.

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

We, the undersigned citizens of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to stop promoting private health care and undermining public health care.

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

We, the undersigned citizens of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government of Alberta to stop promoting private health care and undermining public health care.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Upon recommendation of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, and notice having been given:

Bill 18 Alberta Personal Income Tax Act (\$) — Hon. Mr. Day

Notice having been given:

Bill 19 Alberta Income Tax Amendment Act, 2000 — Hon. Mr. Day

Bill 20 Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2000 — Hon. Mr. Hancock

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

14 letters, postcards and e-mail messages from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, Hon. Mr. Jonson, Minister of Health and Wellness, and Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, regarding protection of the public health care system and opposing the proposed private health care system

Sessional Paper 297/2000

Ms Carlson, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie:

2 letters dated February 15, 2000 and February 21, 2000, from Dr. M. Millard, Canmore Medical Clinic, and Shannon O'Donoghue, Banff, to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing concern about the proposed development in the Spray Valley by the Genesis Land Development Corporation

Sessional Paper 298/2000

Petition from 27 Slave Lake residents urging the Legislative Assembly to end the policy permitting hazardous wastes to be transported into Swan Hills from outside of Canada

Sessional Paper 299/2000

Mr. Wickman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford:

9 letters, e-mail messages and faxes from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, Hon. Mr. Jonson, Minister of Health and Wellness, Mr. Wickman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, and Members of the Legislative Assembly, expressing concerns and asking questions about Bill 11, Health Care Protection Act

Sessional Paper 300/2000

Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark:

Letter dated March 10, 2000, from Harold Moore, Fairview, to the Alberta Liberal Caucus, expressing opposition to the Alberta Government for proposing Bill 11, Health Care Protection Act

Sessional Paper 301/2000

Document listing approved medical services in non-hospital treatment facilities and non-hospital medical diagnostic facilities, prepared by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta

Sessional Paper 302/2000

Bylaws of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, Appendix C listing surgical and endoscopic procedures approved for performance by a physician with privileges in an accredited non-hospital surgical facility

Sessional Paper 303/2000

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

Economic Development Edmonton, Annual Report 1999

Sessional Paper 304/2000

Report, undated, entitled "Budget 2000 Analysis of Income Tax Changes Comparison of 1999 through 2004 Taxation Years, Comparison Year over Year - Flat Tax vs Tax on BFT (Basic Federal Tax)" prepared by Brad Severin, Senior Tax Manager, BDO Dunwoody, Chartered Accountants and Consultants

Sessional Paper 305/2000

Mr. Gibbons, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning:

Special Issue of Capital Health Connections Newsletter, dated March 2000, entitled "Meningococcal immunization - An enormous task...An outstanding achievement"

Sessional Paper 306/2000

Members' Statements

Mrs. Burgener, Hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, made a statement regarding the Alberta Film Commission representing a \$98 million industry and the resulting diversified business opportunities for the province.

Dr. Pannu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, made a statement regarding his concerns on the recent quick passage of Bill 202, Marriage Amendment Act, 2000, in the Legislature and the lack of opportunity on the part of many Albertans to respond to its intent.

Mr. Bonner, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glengarry, made a statement regarding an ITV News report regarding a tourism video produced by Travel Alberta featuring southern Alberta areas only.

Projected Government Business

Pursuant to Standing Order 7(5), Mrs. Soetaert, Hon. Member for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, asked a question pertaining to the order of Government Business to be brought before the Assembly for the following week.

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, gave notice of projected Government Business for the week of March 20 to March 24, 2000:

Monday, March 20	Aft.	- Government Bills and Orders
		Second Reading
		Bills 17, 10, 13, 14, 15
		Committee of the Whole
		Bill 17, 2
	Eve.	- Government Bills and Orders
		Committee of Supply
		Main Estimates Day 18 - Reporting:

			Designated Supply Subcommittees: Health and Wellness, Learning Justice and Attorney General, Municipal Affairs
			Committee of the Whole Bills 1, 2, 4, 5 And as per Order Paper
Tuesday, March 21	(4:30)	-	Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates Day 19 - Reporting: Innovation and Science Second Reading Bill 20, 14, 15 And as per Order Paper
	Eve.	-	Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates Day 19 - Reporting: Designated Supply Subcommittees: Human Resources and Employment, Children's Services, Environmental Protection Treasury, Infrastructure, Gaming, Innovation and Science Committee of the Whole as per Order Paper
Wednesday, March 22	Eve.	-	Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Lottery Fund Estimates - Day 1 of 2

Main Estimates Day 20 -
Final Estimates Day
Reporting:

International and
Intergovernmental Relations

And as per Order Paper

Thursday, March 23

Aft. - **Government Bills and Orders**

Committee of Supply

Lottery Fund Estimates -
Day 2 of 2

Introduction, Appropriation Act,
Main Estimates

And as per Order Paper

Speaker's Ruling - Allegations Against Non-Members

Yesterday, March 15, the Chair undertook to review Hansard and, if necessary, comment further on the point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Calgary-Fish Creek which focused on statements made by the Honourable Member for Edmonton-Manning in Question Period about the Chief Executive Officer of the Alberta Mental Health Board.

As the Chair indicated yesterday, at pages 440 and 441 of Hansard, that questions should be on policy matters, not on personality. All Honourable Members must be reminded that the protection that they enjoy for anything said in this Chamber also requires Members to act responsibly. To make allegations against someone who is unable to defend themselves can have serious repercussions for the individual and his or her reputation. This point has been made several times by this Chair. The same point is found in Beauchesne's 6th edition at paragraph 493(4).

The current practice in the Canadian House of Commons is reflected in a new book, the House of Commons Procedure and Practice which the Chair referred to on Tuesday. At page 524 it states:

Members are discouraged from referring by name to persons who are not Members of Parliament and who do not enjoy parliamentary immunity, except in extraordinary circumstances when the national interest calls for the naming of an individual. The Speaker has ruled that Members have a responsibility to protect the innocent, not only from outright slander but from any slur directly or indirectly implied, and has stressed that Members should avoid as much as possible mentioning by name people from outside the House who are unable to reply and defend themselves against innuendo.

The Chair encourages Members to reflect on these considerations before commenting on persons outside the House.

Mr. Gibbons, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, made a statement to the House in response to the Speaker's ruling.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Committee of Supply (Day 17 — Main Estimates)

According to Order, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(Assembly in Committee)

And after some time spent therein, the Acting Speaker assumed the Chair and Mr. Shariff reported as follows:

Madam Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Departments of Infrastructure for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2001, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 5:04 p.m. until Monday, March 20, 2000, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, March 16, 2000