



**Legislative Assembly  
Province of Alberta**

No. 48

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Fourth Session

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

---

---

Tuesday, November 14, 2000

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

The Speaker offered a prayer and a moment of silence was observed in recognition of three former Members: Hon. Dr. John Walter Grant MacEwan, Leader of the Liberal Party from 1958 to 1960, Member of the Legislative Assembly representing Calgary from 1955 to 1959, and Lieutenant Governor of Alberta from 1966 to 1974, who passed away on June 15, 2000; Mr. Eric W. Musgreave, Hon. Member for Calgary McKnight from 1975 to 1989, who passed away on June 16, 2000; and Mr. Bryce Stringam, Hon. Member for Bow Valley Empress from 1955 to 1959, who passed away on June 2, 2000.

**Introduction of New Members**

The Speaker announced that he had received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta the report of the Returning Officer for the constituency of Edmonton-Highlands containing the results of the by-election conducted on June 12, 2000, in the constituency and the said report further showed that Brian Mason was duly elected as the Member for Edmonton-Highlands.

Mr. Mason joined Dr. Pannu, Leader of the New Democrats, at the Bar and was then escorted to the Mace. Dr. Pannu presented Mr. Mason to the Speaker and the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands took his seat in the Assembly.

The Speaker also announced that he had received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta the report of the Returning Officer for the constituency of Red Deer-North containing the results of the by-election conducted on September 25, 2000, in the constituency and the said report further showed that Mary Anne Jablonski was duly elected as the Member for Red Deer-North.

Mrs. Jablonski joined Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, at the Bar and was then escorted to the Mace. Hon. Mr. Klein presented Mrs. Jablonski to the Speaker and the Hon. Member for Red Deer-North took her seat in the Assembly.

## **Presenting Petitions**

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, presented a petition from 31 Edmonton and area residents requesting the addition of newer and more effective medications and therapies to the Alberta drug list.

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, presented a petition from 1,060 Calgary and Lethbridge residents requesting the introduction of a Bill requiring a minimum of two people on shifts from dark to daylight.

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, presented a petition from 9,390 Albertans requesting the introduction of a Bill requiring a minimum of two people on shifts from dark to daylight.

## **Notices of Motions**

Pursuant to Standing Order 34(2)(a), Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Deputy Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following Written Questions and Motions for Returns to be dealt with Wednesday, November 15, 2000:

Written Question: WQ22.

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 Government's mismanagement of the deregulation of electricity markets in Alberta, resulting in inadequate supply to meet rising demand and skyrocketing prices for consumers.

Mr. Mason, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands, gave oral notice of his intention to move the following motion under Standing Order 40:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly, in light of sky-rocketing electricity costs which are punishing consumers and disrupting the Alberta economy, urges the Government to call an independent public inquiry into why the deregulation process has failed so badly, and put all electricity deregulation on hold until the inquiry reports.

## Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Report dated September 2000, entitled “Working Alone Safely: A Guide for Employers and Employees” prepared by the Minister’s Committee to Promote Health and Safety - Working Alone Best Practices

Sessional Paper 1051/2000

Hon. Mr. Cardinal, Minister of Resource Development:

“Market Surveillance Administrator Report on Power Pool of Alberta Prices - Summer 2000” dated October 13, 2000

Sessional Paper 1052/2000

Alberta Connects advertisement appearing in Alberta newspapers during the week of November 12, 2000, regarding the energy tax refund and electricity auction rebate

Sessional Paper 1053/2000

News release dated November 3, 2000, setting out a 10-point action plan focussing on provincial efforts to enhance the electricity supply, prepared by the Department of Resource Development

Sessional Paper 1054/2000

Report dated November 1, 2000, entitled “Market Order Proposing Remedies for California Wholesale Electrics” prepared by the United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Sessional Paper 1055/2000

10 electricity documents and brochures entitled “Helping You Plug into Alberta’s New Electric Industry: An overview of changes for home and farm consumers,” “How to Shop for Electricity,” “Alberta’s New Electric Industry: Opportunities for Small Industrial and Commercial Consumers,” “Alberta’s New Electric Industry: Opportunities for Rural Electrification Associations,” “New Power Generation in Alberta: A Guide to Bringing New Electric Generation on Stream,” “Power of Competition: A Guide to Alberta’s New Competitive Electric Industry Structure,” “Power of Choice: A Guide to Help Consumers Better Understand Customer Choice in Alberta’s new restructured and competitive electric industry,” “A Vision for Alberta’s Electric Industry: Looking Ahead to 2005,” “Generation of Electric Power from Solution Gas Otherwise Flared” and “Electricity Supply,” all regarding Alberta’s electricity marketplace, prepared by the Department of Resource Development

Sessional Paper 1056/2000

2 letters dated October 15, 2000 and November 9, 2000, from John R. Davies, Vice-President, Engineering and Operations, Lethbridge Iron Works Company Limited, to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, the first regarding the state of electricity deregulation in Alberta, and the second expressing disappointment regarding the Premier’s response to Mr. Davies’ letter of October 15, 2000

Sessional Paper 1057/2000

Letter dated November 4, 2000, from Chris Spearman, Chairman, Industrial Association of Alberta, to Hon. Mr. Cardinal, Minister of Resource Development, commending the Government for taking positive steps toward resolving the problem of high electrical prices in Alberta and offering suggestions to further resolve this problem

Sessional Paper 1058/2000

Hon. Dr. West, Provincial Treasurer, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-5.5, s8(1):

Second Quarter Fiscal Update: 2000-2001 Quarterly Budget Report, release date November 14, 2000

Sessional Paper 1059/2000

Hon. Dr. West, Provincial Treasurer:

Second Quarter Activity Report: 2000-2001, release date November 14, 2000

Sessional Paper 1060/2000

Hon. Dr. West, Provincial Treasurer, pursuant to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act, cA-27.01, s15(2) and 16(2):

Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Second Quarter Update: 2000-2001, Quarterly Report, release date November 14, 2000

Sessional Paper 1061/2000

Mrs. MacBeth, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition:

Document entitled "Proposed First Bill of an Alberta Liberal Government: Private Hospitals (Bill 11) Repeal Act," prepared by Mrs. MacBeth, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition

Sessional Paper 1062/2000

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

News release dated November 10, 2000, entitled "Flat and Dual Tax Plans Not Likely to Have the Desired Effect on the Tax System or the Economy" prepared by the Institute for Research on Public Policy

Sessional Paper 1063/2000

Web page containing a constituency opinion poll summary regarding a question asked by Mr. Dickson, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, relating to the deregulation of the electrical utility system in Alberta

Sessional Paper 1064/2000

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

Letter dated November 6, 2000, from Ruth E. Westenberger of Calgary to Mrs. Sloan, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, expressing concerns regarding the high cost of rent and utilities and her inability to cover necessary costs with her current AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) allowance

Sessional Paper 1065/2000

Brochure entitled "Painting Peace" providing information regarding a project to create a culture of peace and non-violence involving the Change for Children Association in Canada and the Talleres de Muralismo in Nicaragua, in association with UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Sessional Paper 1066/2000

Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark:

Letter dated September 27, 2000, from Hon. Mr. Rock, Federal Minister of Health, to Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Health and Wellness, regarding a report received by the Federal Minister on July 25, 2000, from the Friends of Medicare organization containing information concerning the purchase of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography services from private clinics by Alberta residents

Sessional Paper 1067/2000

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

Letter dated October 1, 2000, from Dr. Joseph P. Leong-Sit, MD, FRCSC Ophthalmology, Edmonton, to Hon. Mr. Mar, Minister of Health and Wellness, expressing concern regarding the renewal of private contracts for cataract surgery in Capital Health Region 10

Sessional Paper 1068/2000

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

Document entitled "Sharing knowledge, Shaping the future," expressing concerns regarding post-secondary education tuition increases in Alberta, prepared by the Alberta Graduate Council, University of Alberta

Sessional Paper 1069/2000

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

Letter dated October 25, 2000, from Bruce Smashnuk, General Manager, Alberta, VersaCold Group, to Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, expressing concerns regarding the rising costs of electricity in Alberta and requesting the Government's assistance in helping to regain control over the cost of electricity

Sessional Paper 1070/2000

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act, s35(1.1):

List of registered candidates for the Edmonton-Highlands by-election, June 12, 2000, together with their Chief Financial Officers who failed to file a financial statement with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer on or before October 12, 2000

Sessional Paper 1071/2000

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Act, cC-22.1, s44(1):

Office of the Ethics Commissioner, Annual Report 1999-2000

Sessional Paper 1072/2000

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

Office of the Ethics Commissioner, Financial Statements as at March 31, 1999

Sessional Paper 1073/2000

## **Oral Question Period**

During Oral Question Period, Mrs. MacBeth, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, tabled the following:

Written Question WQ149 dated March 2, 1995 and the response to Written Question WQ149 regarding the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in private clinics

Sessional Paper 1074/2000

## **Members' Statements**

Mr. Stevens, Hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, made a statement regarding the Alberta Dress Tartan officially introduced to Albertans at the ScotDance Canada Championship Series in Edmonton in July 2000, worn this past summer during competition at the Braemar Highland Games in Scotland in the presence of the Royal family, and registered in the registry of all publicly known tartans.

Ms Leibovici, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark, made a statement regarding private MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) clinics, the Federal Health Minister's view that medically-necessary MRI scans are insured health services, and the practice of insured persons purchasing medically-necessary MRI services is a Canada Health Act concern.

Mr. Johnson, Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose, made a statement regarding the Camrose continuing care project announced November 3, 2000, by the Ministers of Health and Wellness, and Infrastructure, in which five new care centre facilities will be constructed.

## **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 Government's mismanagement of the deregulation of electricity markets in Alberta, resulting in inadequate supply to meet rising demand and skyrocketing prices for consumers.

A debate followed on urgency.

The Speaker heard from Hon. Mr. Cardinal, Minister of Resource Development, Mr. White, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder, Mr. Mason, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands, Hon. Mr. Hancock, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and Dr. Nicol, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

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

## **Motion Under Standing Order 40**

Mr. Mason, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands, requested the unanimous consent of the Assembly for consideration of the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly, in light of sky-rocketing electricity costs which are punishing consumers and disrupting the Alberta economy, urges the Government to call an independent public inquiry into why the deregulation process has failed so badly, and put all electricity deregulation on hold until the inquiry reports.

Unanimous consent to proceed was not granted.

## **Speaker's Statement - Order Paper Modifications**

The Speaker noted modifications to the early Order Paper circulated on November 9, 2000.

Motion Other Than Government Motion 548 was withdrawn due to the resignation of the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Norwood.

Bill 14, Alberta Treasury Branches Amendment Act, 2000, and Bill 22, Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2000, both introduced under the sponsorship of the Provincial Treasurer, have been regularized to show the name of the current Provincial Treasurer.

The Speaker also noted that Government Motion 15 would remain as shown on the Order Paper which reflected the actual mover of the Motion on February 24, 2000.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **Motions Other Than Government Motions**

**513.** Moved by Mr. Fischer:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to re-examine Alberta's existing Labour Relations Code and Public Service Employee Relations Act and propose recommendations for their improvement, particularly with respect to collective bargaining agreements.

A debate followed.

Pursuant to Standing Order 8(2)(c), debate adjourned, Mr. Severtson speaking.

### **Message From Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor**

The Provincial Treasurer tabled a copy of the Supplementary Supply Estimates, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-5.5, s8(1):

2000-01 Supplementary Supply Estimates: General Revenue Fund  
Sessional Paper 1075/2000

Hon. Dr. West, Provincial Treasurer, delivered a Message from Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker read the Message to the Assembly (the Members standing).

### **Government Motions**

**23.** Moved by Hon. Dr. West:

Be it resolved that the Message of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 2000-01 Supplementary Supply Estimates for the General Revenue Fund, and all matters connected therewith, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

A debate followed.

Debate adjourned, Ms Blakeman speaking.

### **Adjournment**

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(1), the Speaker adjourned the Assembly at 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.



## Government Motions

**23.** Moved by Hon. Dr. West:

Be it resolved that the Message of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 2000-01 Supplementary Supply Estimates for the General Revenue Fund, and all matters connected therewith, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

**24.** Moved by Hon Mr. Hancock on behalf of Hon. Dr. West:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 58(6), the number of days that Committee of Supply will be called to consider the 2000-01 Supplementary Supply Estimates for the General Revenue Fund shall be two days.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

**25.** Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that, when the Assembly adjourns to recess the current sitting of the Fourth 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.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Hancock requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 38(1)(a) in order to move Government Motion 26.

**26.** Moved by the Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that the following changes to the following Committees be approved by the Assembly:

on the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts, that Mr. Mason replace Dr. Pannu and that Dr. Massey be appointed;

and

on the Select Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, that Mr. Sapers be appointed;

and

on the Select Standing Committee on Law and Regulations, that Mrs. Soetaert be appointed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

## **Adjournment**

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 10:00 p.m. until Wednesday, November 15, 2000, at 1:30 p.m.

---

---

Hon. Ken Kowalski,  
Speaker

Title: Tuesday, November 14, 2000