



**Legislative Assembly  
Province of Alberta**

No. 2

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Second Session

Twenty-Fifth Legislature

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Wednesday, February 27, 2002

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 the death of former Member Mr. John Dubetz, Member for Redwater, 1959 to 1963, who passed away on February 12, 2002.

**Speaker's Statement**

Honourable Members, before we progress too far in the proceedings, the Chair wants to remind everyone that today the Assembly will be operating under the amendments to the Standing Orders passed last November.

By looking at the front page of the Order Paper on desks today, Members will note that the Daily Routine has changed. Many of the items of business that took place before Oral Question Period will now occur after Question Period. I refer specifically to Presenting Reports by Committees of the Assembly, Presenting Petitions, Notices of Motions, Introduction of Bills, and Tabling Returns and Reports. Immediately after Question Period on Mondays and Wednesdays we will have Recognitions. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Members' Statements will follow Question Period. Consideration of points of order and privilege will be considered after the business in the Daily Routine but before the calling of Orders of the Day. With respect to petitions, Members will note that there is no longer an item of business for reading and receiving petitions. Under the amendments to Standing Order 83(3), petitions must now be approved by Parliamentary Counsel at least one sitting day prior to being presented. Only those petitions that are in order can be presented.

The fact that Tablings now follow Question Period in the Daily Routine may require some adjustments in how Members conduct themselves. The Chair does not want to see Question Period become the time for Tablings. If Members have items that they want to table, it should be done under Tablings, not during Question Period. If there are documents referred to during Question Period then they should be tabled but at the appropriate time in the Routine. The Chair realizes that it may work an unfairness for Members not to have the ability to review a document referred to by another Member in a question or answer. It should be pointed out that the Chair did not set these rules but must try to enforce them as passed by the Assembly. As with all new procedures, Members and the Chair will have to see how they work.

The Chair would also remind Members that the amendments to the Standing Orders make it clear that items tabled must be in printed form. Under the new Standing Order 37.1, any Member, not simply Cabinet Ministers, may table a document by providing it to the Clerk's Office before 11:00 a.m. on any day the Assembly sits. However, the document will not be considered tabled until the Clerk reads the title of the document at the appropriate time in the Daily Routine.

The Chair will have some additional comments concerning the operation of business when we proceed to Orders of the Day.

### **Ministerial Statements**

Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, made a statement regarding the athletes who participated in the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 8 to 24, 2002, and Trent Evans, ice maker at the Games, who is the son of Hon. Iris Evans, Minister of Children's Services.

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, commented on the statement.

### **Recognitions**

Mrs. Gordon, Hon. Member for Lacombe-Stettler: the Town of Lacombe on being named one of the ten prettiest towns in Canada by Harrowsmith Country Life magazine

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre: Peter Mercer of Edmonton on his retirement from the Downtown Business Association on March 1, 2002

Mrs. Jablonski, Hon. Member for Red Deer-North: Olympic athletes from Red Deer on their accomplishments at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City

Mr. Bonner, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glengarry: Canadian Forces Battle Group, consisting of the 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, 1 Reconnaissance Squadron from the Lord Strathcona's Horse and the logistics group from the No. 1 Service Battalion, all from Edmonton, on their deployment to Afghanistan as part of Operation Appollo

Ms DeLong, Hon. Member for Calgary-Bow: Walt Healy who passed away on January 12, 2002

Mr. Lukaszuk, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs: 750 men and women stationed at the Canadian Forces Base Namao on joining other members from Canada's armed forces on a mission to Kandahar, Afghanistan

Mr. Snelgrove, Hon. Member for Vermilion-Lloydminster: The Scott family of Vermilion and especially Beckie Scott who won Canada's first ever cross-country skiing Olympic medal at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City

## **Notices of Motions**

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, gave oral notice of his intention to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, that the Assembly adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent importance, namely the actions needed to resolve the problems currently faced by Alberta's schools.

## **Introduction of Bills (First Reading)**

Notice having been given:

- Bill 2 Child and Family Services Authorities Amendment Act, 2002 — Hon. Ms Evans
- Bill 3 Irrigation Districts Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. McFarland
- Bill 4 Public Health Amendment Act, 2002 — Hon. Mr. Mar
- Bill 5 Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act — Mr. Rathgeber
- Bill 7 Agriculture Financial Services Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. Klapstein
- Bill 9 Child Welfare Amendment Act, 2002 — Hon. Ms Evans
- Bill 10 Public Works Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. Snelgrove
- Bill 11 Energy Information Statutes Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. Strang

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the following Bills were placed on the Order Paper under Government Bills and Orders:

- Bill 3 Irrigation Districts Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. McFarland
- Bill 5 Interjurisdictional Support Orders Act — Mr. Rathgeber
- Bill 7 Agriculture Financial Services Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. Klapstein
- Bill 10 Public Works Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. Snelgrove
- Bill 11 Energy Information Statutes Amendment Act, 2002 — Mr. Strang

## **Tabling Returns and Reports**

Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Deputy Premier:

21 letters dated February 25, 2002, from Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, to Alberta athletes who won medals at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City and to Kevin Lowe, Assistant Executive Director, Men's Canadian Olympic Hockey Team, congratulating them on their accomplishments

Sessional Paper 3/2002

Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development:

Alberta Universities Animal Welfare Inspection Visit 2001 Report, prepared by John Church, Animal Welfare Specialist

Sessional Paper 4/2002

Hon. Mrs. Nelson, Minister of Finance, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-7, s8(1):

Budget 2001, Third Quarter Fiscal Update, 2001-02 Quarterly Budget Report

Sessional Paper 5/2002

Hon. Mrs. Nelson, Minister of Finance, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-7, s8(1):

Budget 2001, Third Quarter Activity Report, 2001-02 Quarterly Budget Report

Sessional Paper 6/2002

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

Report dated February 27, 2002, entitled "Premier's Advisory Council on Health Expenses" prepared by Alberta Health and Wellness

Sessional Paper 7/2002

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

Appeals Commission for Alberta Workers' Compensation, Annual Report 2000

Sessional Paper 8/2002

Hon. Mr. Dunford, Minister of Human Resources and Employment, pursuant to the Regulated Accounting Profession Act, cR-12, s25(2):

Certified General Accountants Association of Alberta, 2001 Annual Report

Sessional Paper 9/2002

Mrs. O'Neill, Hon. Member for St. Albert:

Letter dated February 15, 2002, from Barrie Schulha of St. Albert to Mrs. O'Neill, Hon. Member for St. Albert, expressing concern regarding the recent teachers' labour dispute in Alberta and requesting the Alberta Government meet the Alberta Teachers' Association's demands in this dispute

Sessional Paper 10/2002

Dr. Nicol, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition:

Letter dated February 27, 2002, from Dr. Nicol, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, to Michael A. Chambers, President, Canadian Olympic Association, congratulating Canadian Olympic athletes on their success at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City

Sessional Paper 11/2002

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

Revised Members' Services Committee Orders No. 7/01 Constituency Services Amendment Order (No. 9), and No. 8/01 Constituency Services Amendment Order (No. 10)

Sessional Paper 12/2002

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Conflicts of Interest Act, cC-23, s25(7), 28(1):

Report to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Investigation by the Ethics Commissioner into allegations involving Robert Fischer, Member for Wainwright, dated January 9, 2002, prepared by the Office of the Ethics Commissioner

Sessional Paper 13/2002

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosures Act, cE-2, s4(2):

The Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for the Calendar Year 2000 and the 2001 General Election

Sessional Paper 14/2002

### **Motion for Adjournment for an Emergency Debate**

Dr. Nicol, 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 actions needed to resolve the problems currently faced by Alberta's schools.

A debate followed on urgency.

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

## **Speaker's Statement**

Before we proceed to the business under the Orders of the Day, the Chair wants to remind Members of some of the changes to the Standing Orders adopted last November that will affect the operation of the Assembly. As a result of those amendments, this will be the first time since September 1993 that a Wednesday afternoon is not devoted to Private Members' Business. Monday afternoons will now be spent addressing Written Questions, Motions for Returns, and Private Members' Public Bills. Commencing Monday evening at 8:00 p.m., one hour will be devoted to Motions Other Than Government Motions.

In terms of planning speeches, Members should refer to Standing Order 29 concerning speaking times in the Assembly. The mover of a Government Bill or Motion will still have 20 minutes speaking time but will be limited to 15 minutes in closing debate. The Member who speaks immediately following the mover will also have 20 minutes. All other participants will be limited to 15 minutes speaking time. The Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition and the mover on the occasion of the Budget Address will still have 90 minutes.

The five minute reduction in Members' speaking time is replaced by a Question and Comment period which is a new feature of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. This period will be available at second and third reading following every Member's speech except for those of the mover in opening and closing debate and the Member who speaks immediately following the mover. This Question and Comment period will be an opportunity to ask questions of the Member who has just spoken, or make a statement about that speech. Participation in the Question and Comment session must be relevant to the preceding Member's speech and will be governed by the normal rules of the Assembly concerning the content of speeches as, for example, found in Standing Order 23. The Canadian House of Commons has a 10 minute question and comment period where this rule of relevance applies. Members may wish to review Chapter 13 of House of Commons: Practice and Procedure edited by Marleau and Montpetit, particularly pages 530-31.

The difficulty with the Question and Comment session comes in determining how the five minute period will be apportioned. Of course for every person who wishes to ask questions to, or comment on, a Member's speech, there must be an opportunity for the Member to respond. What if three Members want to participate? When combined with the three responses allowed the Member, that would be five minutes divided by six. The Chair is always a time keeper of sorts but unless the Assembly decides to get a time clock in the Chamber like the one found at sporting events, it will be difficult for the Chair to calculate the apportionment of time for Members. Furthermore, the Chair would be so intent on making sure he or she had caught all Members who wish to participate and had calculated the time correctly that the Chair would not be able to focus on the Member's speech.

Therefore, the Chair will allot 30 seconds to each Member who wishes to participate in the Question and Comment session. The Member whose speech has generated the questions or comments will have 30 seconds to respond. As many Members as possible can participate for up to 30 seconds in the five minute period. Unless participating Members use considerably less than 30 seconds, it will mean that five Members may participate in addition to the original speaker. If there are not enough Members who wish to participate, then a Member can be recognized more than once.

The new rules concerning speaking times and the Question and Comment session will apply to the debate on the Address in Reply. They will go into effect this afternoon.

This Question and Comment period is not available for Private Members' Business. The time limit on speaking for Members on Private Members' matters is now 10 minutes, except for the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition who have 20 minutes each. The Chair will review these matters on Monday, the first day of Private Members' Business under the amended Standing Orders.

The Chair wants to take this opportunity to note a few other matters not related to the Standing Order amendments. The first is that the new Committee rooms are now operational. They are located on the 4th floor of the Legislature Annex. Of course, they form part of the precincts of the Assembly. For those Members that have not had a meeting there yet, I would encourage you to go and look at these exceptional facilities.

On another matter, Members are aware that the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 are now in effect. I want to let Members know that when the Legislative Assembly Office received notice of the cost of purchasing the Revised Statutes, the Chair wrote the Honourable Minister of Justice and Attorney General to say, basically, as the Assembly is the body that makes the laws for the Province of Alberta, shouldn't Members be able to find out what the law is without having to pay for it? The Minister of Justice wholeheartedly agreed and, on behalf of the Government of the Province of Alberta, donated three sets of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 for use by Members and Table Officers in the Chamber. On behalf of the Assembly, the Chair wants to take this opportunity to thank the Minister and also remind him that in previous days and on previous occasions all Members of the Legislative Assembly, the lawmakers of the Province of Alberta, were provided with the complete revised Statutes of the Province of Alberta from the Minister of Justice in a gratuitous fashion. Thank you very much.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **Consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech**

Moved by Mr. Horner and seconded by Mr. Cenaiko:

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

To Her Honour Mrs. Lois E. Hole, C.M., 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.

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(3), debate adjourned.

### **Adjournment**

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2002 — 8:00 P.M.

### **Consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech**

Moved by Mr. Horner and seconded by Mr. Cenaiko:

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

To Her Honour Mrs. Lois E. Hole, C.M., 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.

Ms DeLong moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.



## **Adjournment**

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 9:36 p.m. until Thursday, February 28, 2002, at 1:30 p.m.

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Hon. Ken Kowalski,  
Speaker

Title: Wednesday, February 27, 2002