



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 34

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Sixth Legislature

Thursday, May 4, 2006

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

While awaiting the arrival of Her Excellency, the Royal Canadian Artillery Band played a brief musical interlude.

Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, CC, CMM, COM, CD, Governor General of Canada, His Excellency Jean-Daniel Lafond, CC, and the Premier entered the Chamber. Her Excellency took her place upon the Throne.

The Speaker invited Mr. Paul Lorieau to lead Members and guests in the singing of the Royal Anthem, God Save the Queen.

Speaker's Statement

On behalf of all Members and all Albertans I would like to welcome Your Excellencies to this province and to this legislative Chamber. Your Excellency is the first Governor General of Canada to address this Assembly in this room. You do us a rare and signal honour in this the Assembly's centennial year.

Your Excellencies, Honourable Members, in 1964 these words were said by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada: "The ways of democracy depend upon the conscious support of all citizens. The function of constitutional monarchy is to personify the democratic state, to sanction legitimate authority, to assure the legality of means and guarantee the execution of the public will."

Your Excellency's presence here today reminds us of this and of the pre-eminent role the Crown plays in the life of this country. Her Majesty's words speak to the bedrock foundation that supports our people and the public institutions that serve our provinces, territories, and nation.

It is fitting and appropriate that Your Excellency sits on this day in this Chamber beneath the flags of the provinces and territories. They are a unique expression of the loyalty and allegiance Members of this Assembly feel to Canada, just as you represent the human dimension of all that this nation is. Welcome sincerely to both of you.

It is now my honour to invite the Premier of Alberta, Hon. Ralph Klein, to speak.

Premier's Statement

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Your Excellencies, Members of the Legislative Assembly. I do want to extend a very warm and sincere Alberta welcome to Their Excellencies on behalf of all Members of the Legislature. As the Speaker pointed out, this is the very first time that we've had the honour and the privilege of hearing from a Governor General in this Chamber, and we're looking forward with great anticipation to your remarks today. Welcome once again.

The Speaker then invited Her Excellency to address the Assembly.

Address from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada

Premier, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, distinguished guests, chers amis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel truly privileged to be here today. It is a great pleasure for my husband, Jean-Daniel Lafond, and me, and also for our daughter, Marie-Éden, to begin here in Edmonton our first official visit to Alberta. We may be a bit early for the wild roses but I would say that the warmth of your hospitality is like the embrace of your Alberta chinooks.

Last night Jean-Daniel and I enjoyed an outstanding jazz concert at Canada's oldest jazz club, the internationally renowned Yardbird Suite. This morning Jean-Daniel shared some meaningful time with Francophone community leaders and students at the Campus Saint-Jean of the University of Alberta.

Also this morning I was deeply moved and terribly pleased to have spent time with some of Canada's wounded soldiers and their families at CFB Edmonton to learn more about the Military Family Resource Centre and the challenges facing military families on a daily basis. My thoughts are with the family and friends of Corporal Randy Payne, who gathered yesterday in Wainwright, Alberta, for a memorial service, as well as the family of Bombardier Myles Mansell, whose funeral was held yesterday in Victoria. On Sunday my thoughts will be with Lieutenant Bill Turner and his family and friends as they celebrate his life at a memorial service in Edmonton.

I can say that, clearly, it is not only Alberta's breathtaking scenery and great economic prosperity that is attracting new citizens here. This province has long been seen as a mecca of opportunity. For over a century hard-working and independently-minded people have been coming here to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Je sais, par exemple, que dès les années 1700 les voyageurs canadiens-français y sont venus pour la traite des fourrures après un long et périlleux voyage. Je sais qu'en épousant des femmes crie et en établissant des communautés métisses, ils ont commencé une longue tradition de diversité linguistique et culturelle, qui persiste jusqu'à nos jours. Et puis la ruée vers l'or et la construction du chemin de fer ont donné lieu à la vague d'immigration suivante. Puis après la découverte du pétrole en 1947 votre population a doublé.

(French-Canadian voyageurs made the long and arduous trek to your lands in search of fur during the 1700s. By marrying Cree women and establishing Métis communities, they began a long tradition of linguistic and cultural diversity that persists today. The gold rush and construction of the railway represented the next wave of migration. And then, following the 1947 discovery of oil, your population doubled.)

Poursuivant leurs rêves, chaque nouvelle génération de pionniers entrepreneurs a enrichi l'Alberta. Il vous a fallu – c'est impressionnant – à peine 100 ans pour atteindre un niveau de prospérité qui fait l'envie aujourd'hui du pays.

(In pursuing their dreams, each new generation of ambitious pioneers has enriched Alberta itself, and in just 100 years you have together achieved a level of prosperity that is the envy of the country.)

Who would have predicted a century ago the thriving communities of this province? Did observers in 1905 envision a rich economy based on agriculture, energy, tourism, and, of course, world-famous Alberta beef? I had some for lunch today and it was just delicious.

They say that journalists write the first version of history, and it's interesting to review what they had to say a century ago on the occasion of you entering into Canada. I was very interested to learn that the Globe, for one, was suitably impressed by Alberta. Reporting on the events and ceremonies of September 1905, its representative observed, "An easterner cannot come west without learning that here they never do things by halves." Similarly, Montreal's French language daily, La Presse, reported, "With its immense natural resources, its intelligent and active population, one can predict that the new province is called to play a significant role in Canada's future."

The pioneer spirit of independence and resourcefulness in this province is legendary, yet your deserved reputation for fierce individualism and economic self-reliance belie another lesser known aspect of Alberta's character: your people are among the most generous of Canadians. 85 percent of you make financial contributions to charitable and nonprofit organizations. Combined with those who volunteer their time, 94 percent of your citizens believe in giving back. So Alberta's tremendous prosperity affords you the opportunity to make the most of this attitude of sharing. Surely a prime benefit to be derived from such communal wealth is the ability it gives us to ensure that no one is left behind and that each among us has a voice.

The health and prosperity of every society is compromised by the people within it who suffer from poverty, who are disadvantaged by birth, who fight against discrimination of all kinds.

Vous savez que je me suis engagée à me servir de mon poste de Gouverneur Générale pour attirer l'attention justement sur la nécessité de briser les solitudes. C'est-à-dire, il faut entendre par solitude les multiples différences qui continuent de nous séparer: celles qu'imposent la géographie et l'âge, le sexe et l'origine culturelle, la langue et la religion, la pauvreté et l'ignorance.

(I have pledged to use my office to focus attention on breaking down solitudes, the myriad differences that continue to separate us, those imposed by geography and age, by gender and ethnicity, by language and religion, by poverty and ignorance.)

Mais je crois qu'en oeuvrant ensemble, nous pourrions éliminer les barrières qui empêchent, par exemple, les autochtones d'atteindre leur potentiel et d'apporter leur contribution à la société. En reconnaissant la force qui naît de la diversité linguistique et culturelle, nous pourrions enrichir notre société tout entière. Et en collaborant, nous pourrions trouver des solutions valables à l'aliénation sociale qui conduit certains jeunes à l'isolement et au désespoir.

(I think that by working together, we can eliminate the barriers that prevent, for example, aboriginal people from reaching their potential and contributing to society. I also think that by recognizing the strength that comes from linguistic and cultural diversity, we can enrich our entire society. And by collaborating, we can find meaningful solutions to the social alienation that drives some young people to isolation and despair.)

The marginalization of any human being is a loss to us all, and nothing in our affluent society is more disgraceful than our failure to nurture and support those who are most vulnerable. I also believe that children and youth represent not only our future but they are our present, and we have a profound duty to them not only to pass on a better world but also to ensure that they have the capacity to embrace it and each other with respect and responsibility.

This, too, is part of our collective dream and an achievement that has eluded many societies. Close to realizing it in so many ways, we cannot afford to take it for granted or to assume that it is someone else's task. I think every one of us, with every action we take and every attitude we express, has really an opportunity to foster respect, to promote dialogue, to nurture cooperation to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to fully participate in building our society.

It is especially fitting to reflect on the importance of these values here in the Chamber that was home to the first female legislators in the British Empire. Between them, Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams exemplified such values. They really championed initiatives and supported legislation to help widows, to help immigrants, to help people with disabilities, to help soldiers and their families.

Here in this House, at a time of unprecedented prosperity in your province, I think you have a golden opportunity to continue this tradition. Your capacity to make a difference in the lives of others through your actions and through your decisions is limitless.

So I want to say that I look forward to hearing of your plans and to continuing the conversation we start this week. It will be but the first chapter in our ongoing dialogue. I know that you and the people of Alberta you represent have important matters to discuss. I think you have very inspiring stories to share and I must say, valuable lessons to teach me. So I am here. We are here to listen. Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup.

Speaker's Statement

Les mots de Votre Excellence ont retenu l'esprit et la promesse de la province de l'Alberta. (Your Excellency's words have captured the spirit and the promise of the province of Alberta.) Your Excellencies, this House would ask that you carry with you as the Queen's representative our good and heartfelt wishes for success in all that you endeavour to do across this nation.

The Speaker invited Mr. Paul Lorieau to lead Members and guests in the singing of our National Anthem, O Canada.

Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, CC, CMM, COM, CD, Governor General of Canada, His Excellency Jean-Daniel Lafond, CC, and the Premier left the Chamber.

The Speaker took the Chair.

Speaker's Comment

The Speaker commented that today, for the first time in its history, the Governor General of Canada attended the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Today this Assembly has made history for itself.

Members' Statements

Mr. Flaherty, Hon. Member for St. Albert, made a statement regarding the value of educational support staff and recognizing April 30 to May 6, 2006, as Education Week.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Eggen, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder, presented a petition from 6,388 Albertans urging the Government to abandon its plans to implement the "Third Way" health care reforms which will undermine public medicare, defeat legislation allowing expansion of private, for-profit hospitals in Alberta and permitting doctors to work in both the private and public systems which will drain key resources from the public system, oppose any action by the Government to contravene the Canada Health Act, and vote against plans that would force Albertans to pay for private health insurance for services that should be covered by medicare.

Notices of Motions

Pursuant to Standing Order 34(2)(a), Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Acting Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following Written Questions and Motions for Returns to be dealt with Monday, May 8, 2006:

Written Questions: WQ16, WQ17, WQ18, WQ19, WQ20, WQ21, WQ22, WQ23, WQ24.

Motions for Returns: MR27, MR28, MR29, MR30, MR31, MR32.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Ms Blakeman, Official Opposition House Leader:

Letter dated May 3, 2006, from Ms Blakeman, Official Opposition House Leader, to Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, urging that the request by Dr. Morton, Hon. Member for Foothills-Rocky View, to waive Standing Order 8(5)(c) to allow for early Committee of the Whole consideration of Bill 208, Protection of Fundamental Freedoms (Marriage) Statutes Amendment Act, 2006, be put to the Assembly for unanimous consent

Sessional Paper 476/2006

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

Program from the Edmonton Catholic Schools Celebration of the Arts held on May 3, 2006, at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

Sessional Paper 477/2006

Projected Government Business

Pursuant to Standing Order 7(5), Ms Blakeman, Official Opposition House Leader, asked a question pertaining to the order of Government Business to be brought before the Assembly for the following week.

Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Acting Government House Leader, gave notice of projected Government Business for the week of May 8 to May 11, 2006:

Monday, May 8	9:00 p.m.	- Private Bills / Government Bills and Orders Second Reading Bill Pr1, Pr2, Pr3 Committee of the Whole Bill 20, 29, 35 And as per the Order Paper
Tuesday, May 9	Aft.	- Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates (Day 21 of 24) Restructuring and Government Efficiency (Designated) And as per the Order Paper
	Eve.	- Private Bills / Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates (Day 22 of 24) Economic Development Second Reading As per the Order Paper Committee of the Whole Bill Pr1, Pr2, Pr3, 20, 36, 37, 38 And as per the Order Paper

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| Wednesday, May 10 | Aft. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates (Day 23 of 24) Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (Designated) And as per the Order Paper |
| | Eve. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government Bills and Orders Committee of Supply Main Estimates (Day 24 of 24) Finance Second Reading Bill 40 Committee of the Whole Bill 20, 29, 31 And as per the Order Paper |
| Thursday, May 11 | Aft. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private Bills / Government Bills and Orders Third Reading Bill Pr1, Pr2, Pr3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21, 24, 27, 30 And as per the Order Paper |

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Committee of Supply (Day 20 — Main Estimates)

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

(Assembly in Committee)

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

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions, reports as follows, and requests leave to sit again:

Resolved that a sum not exceeding the following be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, for the Department and purposes indicated:

Solicitor General and Public Security

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases	\$434,123,000
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The question being put, the report and the request for leave to sit again were agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Acting Government House Leader, that it be called 5:30 p.m., the Assembly adjourned at 5:16 p.m. until Monday, May 8, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, May 4, 2006