



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 42

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Sixth Legislature

Thursday, May 18, 2006

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

Tribute to Premier Klein

Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Deputy Premier, made a statement recognizing the long and distinguished career of Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, and his many accomplishments while in office.

Dr. Taft, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Mason, Hon. Leader of the New Democrat Opposition, commented on the statement.

The Speaker presented Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, with the first issue of a centennial edition of the Alberta Legislative Assembly Mace pin.

Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, responded to the statements and gave thanks to the many colleagues he has been associated with during his time as Premier of Alberta.

Members' Statements

Mr. Danyluk, Hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul, made a statement recognizing the contributions Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, and Dr. Colleen Klein have made to Alberta's youth.

Mr. Bonko, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, made a statement regarding Larry Fleming who was recently inducted into the Canadian Amateur Boxing Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Tarchuk, Hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane, made a statement regarding the many legacies of the 1988 Winter Olympics that were envisioned by Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, who at the time was Mayor of Calgary.

Mr. Miller, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, made a statement regarding the Alberta Society for Pension Reform.

Mrs. Jablonski, Hon. Member for Red Deer-North, made a statement recognizing the contributions Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, and Dr. Colleen Klein have made to Alberta's youth.

Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, made a statement regarding democratic reform.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

Dr. Brown, Chair, Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee, presented the following report:

Select Special Conflicts of Interest Act Review Committee, Final Report, May 2006

Sessional Paper 634/2006

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Backs, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, presented a petition from 33 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.

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, presented a petition from 68 Albertans urging the Government to require school boards to eliminate all fees for instructional supplies and general school services and to ensure that the necessary resources for these supplies and services are provided.

Mr. Bonko, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, presented a petition from 57 Edmonton and area residents 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.

Mr. Bonko, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, presented a petition from 189 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.

Mr. Tougas, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark, presented a petition from 44 Edmonton residents requesting the Government amend the Gaming and Liquor Act to provide for harsher penalties where liquor licensees allow activities that may be injurious to the health or safety of people in the premises; urging the Government to implement policies that will enhance the safety of staff and patrons at licensed premises which may include video surveillance, license scanning and/or metal detection devices, urging the Government and the City of Edmonton to improve the enforcement of any regulations or by-laws governing occupancy limits in licensed premises.

Notices of Motions

Pursuant to Standing Order 34(2)(a), Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following Written Questions and Motions for Returns to be dealt with Monday, May 29, 2006:

Written Questions: WQ28, WQ30, WQ31, WQ32.

Motions for Returns: MR27, MR28, MR29, MR30, MR31, MR32, MR33, MR34, MR35.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Notice having been given:

Bill 215 Labour Relations Code (First Collective Agreement) Amendment Act, 2006
— Mr. Backs

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Coutts, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development:

Letter (written in French with translation provided) dated November 16, 2005, from Hon. Pierre Corbeil, Minister of Natural Resources and Fauna, Quebec, also on behalf of Hon. Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec, to Hon. Mr. Coutts, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, thanking Alberta Sustainable Resource Development for providing fire fighting support in Quebec during the summer of 2005

Sessional Paper 635/2006

Letter dated February 9, 2006, from Caroline Brookfield, D.V.M., Chair, Alternate Livestock and Wildlife, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, to Hon. Mr. Coutts, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, commending the Ministry for its leadership in standardizing and improving practices in the Alberta zoo industry

Sessional Paper 636/2006

Surface Rights Board and Land Compensation Board, Annual Report 2005

Sessional Paper 637/2006

Mr. Flaherty, Hon. Member for St. Albert:

Report dated May 18, 2006, entitled "Assessment of Provincial/Territorial Government Support for School Food Programs" prepared by Breakfast for Learning, Canadian Living Foundation

Sessional Paper 638/2006

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

Copy of a petition signed by 1,117 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

Sessional Paper 639/2006

Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview:

E-mail message dated April 21, 2006, from Michael Marlowe, Seniors United Now, to Mr. Mason, Hon. Leader of the New Democrat Opposition, attaching an e-mail dated April 5, 2006, from Mr. Marlowe to Hon. Mr. Klein, expressing concern regarding the Government's failed commitments to seniors

Sessional Paper 640/2006

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung:

Letter dated May 8, 2006, from Donna and Randy Kormos of Edmonton to Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, expressing concern regarding the process to have their daughter accepted into S. Bruce Smith School and requesting Mr. Elsalhy's assistance with this matter

Sessional Paper 641/2006

Letter dated March 22, 2006, from Karen Ferrari and Gabriella Maddalena-Makar, Co-Presidents, Windsor Park School Fundraising Society, to Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Minister of Education, expressing concern regarding cutbacks to the school's budget and attaching a mock invoice for items and services required by the school

Sessional Paper 642/2006

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

E-mail message dated May 17, 2006, from Terry Neraasen to Mr. Miller, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, expressing opposition to Bill 20, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act, 2006

Sessional Paper 643/2006

3 photographs depicting Government Members providing cheques for community programs

Sessional Paper 644/2006

Mr. Bonko, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore:

Letter dated April 6, 2006, unsigned, from John and Lori Harnack of Airdrie, to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, Hon. Mr. Boutilier, Minister of Environment, Hon. Mr. Coutts, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, Ms Haley, Hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere, and Dr. Morton, Hon. Member for Foothills-Rocky View, expressing concern regarding water contamination from nearby feedlots, with attached responses from Hon. Mr. Boutilier, Minister of Environment, and Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier

Sessional Paper 645/2006

Mr. Agnihotri, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie:

Letter dated May 18, 2006, from Mr. Agnihotri, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, to Donald Hamilton, Alberta Ethics Commissioner, requesting an investigation into a possible breach of the Conflicts of Interest Act by Mr. Pham, Hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose, and his involvement with the Applewood Park Community Association

Sessional Paper 646/2006

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. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, gave notice that the projected Government Business for the week of May 23 to May 25, 2006, will be Second Reading consideration of Bill 39 and Bill 41.

Speaker's Comment

The Speaker commented that the spring sitting of this Session sat for 42 days, including 28 evening sittings. That is the identical number to last year, 2005; 42 days, including 28 evening sittings. The number of minutes that we sat to nearly 5:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon is 14,198 minutes. This compares to 13,394 minutes in the 2005 spring sitting. In terms of the number of hours that you sat this year compared to last year: this year you sat 236 hours, 38 minutes; last year you sat less time, 223 hours and 14 minutes.

Now, what is really significant, the number of words spoken by Members to adjournment yesterday afternoon was 1,827,493. That compares to last spring which had 1,800,176 words. We've had some longer speeches it seems this spring, but we may also have had the shortest speech ever in the history of Alberta, too, yesterday afternoon, from the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford. We're checking that for verification.

In terms of Oral Question Period, those days on which we had more than 14 sets of questions, that is, when the Speaker had the privilege of recognizing 14 or more Members, this spring we had six occasions when there were 15 sets of questions asked and two occasions when there were 16 sets of questions asked. Last spring Members spent less time asking their questions and less time answering their questions than they did this spring. Last year we had 14 occasions when there were 15 sets of questions, 10 occasions with 16 sets of questions, eight occasions with 17 sets of questions, and on one occasion we were able to get in 18 different Members to participate in Question Period.

Government Bills that received Royal Assent or Third Reading this year is 41 compared to 40 in 2005. Government Bills left on the Order Paper this spring is two compared to four in 2005. Private Members' Public Bills that received Royal Assent is one in 2006 compared to two in 2005. Since we started this policy associated with Private Members' Public Bills in 1993, there have been 40 such Bills that have received Royal Assent.

This spring we had more tablings than we had last year: we had 633 in the spring Session of 2006 compared to 516 in 2005. The total number of Members' Statements this Session, not including the ones later this afternoon, is 231, and if we have six more today, that will be 237. Last year we had 168, but we changed the process and eliminated Recognitions last year and moved to the two-minute Members' Statements.

To conclude, earlier this year we published a book entitled “100 Years at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta: A Centennial Celebration.” I’ve indicated to Hon. Members that we’ve been working for nearly four years on a four-volume set of books that weighs a ton, and there are nearly 2,200 pages associated with those four books. They will be published and we’ll make them available to the public in the fall of this year. They will be called the Legislative Assembly of Alberta Centennial Series. Title 1 will be On Behalf of the Crown, title 2 will be The Mantle of Leadership, title 3 will be A Higher Duty, and title 4 will be A Century of Democracy. This has been four years in the making.

In addition to that, three additional books are being worked on and we will have them done hopefully by the end of this calendar year. One will deal with, because of a number of petitions by Members, the historical vignette series. Two volumes will be associated. Then I intend on taking all Members' Statements made last year and this year and having them published in a book, and it will be called the Historical Vignette Series, Statements of Members, 2005-2006.

Speaker’s Statement - Pages of the Assembly

The Speaker made a statement noting that Pages Janiesh Bali, Elaine Hoekstra, Daylan Hoffman, Desirée MacNeil, Chelsea Mitchell, Mikkel Paulson, Jenelle Pederson, and Stacy Schell, would not be returning for the next sitting of the Legislature, and read a letter he received from these eight Pages.

Deputy Speaker’s Statement - Pages of the Assembly

On behalf of the Speaker and Members, Mr. Marz, Deputy Speaker, made a statement recognizing the Pages who would not be returning for the next sitting of the Legislature and presented the Pages with a gift in recognition of their tireless efforts.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Adjournment

Pursuant to Government Motion 14 agreed to by the Assembly on March 20, 2006, and on motion by Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, May 18, 2006