



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 44

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Sixth Legislature

Monday, August 28, 2006

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

The Speaker made a statement and a moment of silence was observed in recognition of Canadian police officers and military personnel who have lost their lives while serving their country.

Speaker's Comment

The Speaker commented that the first Sergeants-at-Arms were the bodyguards of King Richard I, and these soldiers were each armed with a spiked club called a Mace. Over time, the Mace was no longer used as a weapon but rather became a symbol of the authoritative power of the Crown as exercised by parliament. Over time, and by tradition, the Assembly cannot sit without its presence.

The formal procession to bring in the Mace and announce the entrance of the Speaker was introduced in the 1970s by Alberta's eighth Speaker, the Hon. Gerard Amerongen. The Mace is placed on the Assembly Table, with the head toward the Government side of the House, by the Sergeant-at-Arms, who is the official custodian of the Alberta Mace.

Alberta's first Mace was constructed for the First Session in 1906 out of plumbing parts, old shaving mug handles, butts of an old bedstead, scraps of wood, and covered by a coat of gold paint.

For today and today only, it is displayed on the Assembly Table in the centre of this Chamber. Normally it rests in the display case on the third floor of the Legislature Building. This makeshift Mace was used for 50 years before being replaced on February 9, 1956, when the Civil Service Association of Alberta presented the Legislative Assembly of Alberta with a new Mace.

The design for the new Mace, our present Mace, was done by Lawrence Bonheur Blain, an Edmonton watchmaker, patternmaker, and employee of Irving Kline Limited. The final design was done by the firm of Joseph Fray Ltd. of Birmingham, England, and is the Mace that allows this Assembly to sit today.

On top of the Mace is a figure of a beaver mounted on the traditional crown representing the connection to Canada and the Crown. Both the Royal Coat of Arms and the Canadian Coat of Arms are displayed on the ball of the Mace. Sheaves of wheat representing Alberta's prairies, and wild roses, the floral emblem of Alberta, are engraved alternately on the crown. The headband of the crown is adorned with a ring of seven gems and semi-precious stones. They have been chosen, in part, because their initial letters spell out Alberta: amethyst, lazurite, bloodstone, emerald, ruby, topaz, and agate. Two bison heads are positioned just below the bowl. The shaft of the Mace is decorated with wild roses and is capped with a sheaf of wheat. The current Mace is three feet long, contains 5,669 grams of silver, and is overlaid with gold to weigh a total of approximately 11 kilograms. The total cost of the Mace in 1956 was \$3,000.

As part of our 100 years of the Alberta Legislative Assembly commemorations, we have designed a special 100-year Mace pin, the first of which was presented to the Honourable Premier on the last day of the Spring Sitting. Today I am pleased to provide all Members and Table Officers with a 100-year Mace pin. One will also be provided to all former Members, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and Members of the Alberta Legislature press gallery. I hope that all will wear the pin with pride.

Members' Statements

Mrs. Jablonski, Hon. Member for Red Deer-North, made a statement regarding the protection of democratic rights as they relate to the legalization of same-sex marriage in Canada.

Mr. Mitzel, Hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat, made a statement regarding a signing ceremony held on July 24, 2006, continuing an agreement between the Department of National Defence and the Government of Great Britain to provide training of British Armed Forces at Canadian Forces Base Suffield.

Mr. Rogers, Hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon, made a statement congratulating Northlands Park on successfully hosting the 77th Canadian Derby on August 26, 2006.

Mr. Chase, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, made a statement regarding the Progressive Conservative leadership campaign.

Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, made a statement regarding the City Centre Education Project.

Mrs. Tarchuk, Hon. Member for Banff-Cochrane, made a statement recognizing the Harvie family who made land available for the establishment of the Glenbow Ranch Provincial Park.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Flaherty, Hon. Member for St. Albert, presented a petition from 218 St. Albert residents urging the Government to adopt the position unanimously supported by St. Albert City Council to make every effort to move the northwest leg of the Anthony Henday Drive ring road south of the current proposal, enhance noise attenuation and safety measures for neighbouring residents, and minimize the environmental impact of the road.

Dr. Miller, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Glenora, presented a petition from 196 Albertans urging the Government to take measures to control unacceptable increases in rent.

Dr. Swann, Hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, presented a petition from 83 Albertans urging the Government to consider increasing funding in order that all Alberta Works income support benefit levels may be increased.

Notices of Motions

Dr. Taft, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, gave oral notice of his intention to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, to adjourn the ordinary business of the Assembly to discuss a matter of urgent importance, namely the mounting risk to pending and future investments in Alberta's oil sands, the potential loss of public royalty revenues, and the diminishing ability of local authorities to cope due to the failure of the Government to plan and provide funding for the necessary public infrastructure and community services in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, gave oral notice of his intention to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, to adjourn the ordinary business of the Assembly to discuss a matter of urgent importance, namely that the failure of the Government to develop an affordable housing strategy has exacerbated housing shortages, causing rapidly increasing rental rates, homelessness, and unsafe tenancies across Alberta, and that the Assembly should urge the Government to immediately create a ministry of housing to address this crisis.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, on behalf of Hon. Mrs. McClellan, Minister of Finance:

Standard and Poor's commentary dated August 22, 2006, entitled "Province of Alberta 'AAA' Ratings Affirmed On Extremely Low Debt; Outlook Stable"
Sessional Paper 666/2006

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

Letter dated August 21, 2006, from Sherry Eastwood to Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, expressing concern regarding Alberta Blue Cross ambulance coverage policies

Sessional Paper 667/2006

E-mail message dated August 17, 2006, from Chris Evans, M.D. to Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, expressing concern regarding the criteria necessary to receive social services benefits

Sessional Paper 668/2006

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

3 recent e-mail messages, the first from David Cournoyer of Edmonton to Dr. Morton, Hon. Member for Foothills-Rocky View, the second from Jason Rumer of Edmonton to Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, and the third from Gary Simpson of Edmonton to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, all expressing opposition to Bill 208, Protection of Fundamental Freedoms (Marriage) Statutes Amendment Act, 2006

Sessional Paper 669/2006

Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods:

E-mail message dated August 15, 2006, from Kent Cameron to Niki Wosnack, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Strategies and Support Division, Alberta Children's Services, with attached text of an e-mail message, undated, from Ms Wosnack to Mr. Cameron, requesting information concerning funding of the City Centre Education Project

Sessional Paper 670/2006

E-mail message dated August 25, 2006, from Matthew Tang to Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, expressing opposition to Bill 208, Protection of Fundamental Freedoms (Marriage) Statutes Amendment Act, 2006

Sessional Paper 671/2006

Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, on behalf of Mr. Mason, Hon. Leader of the New Democrat Opposition:

Calgary Herald article posted on the ProQuest website dated May 12, 2006, entitled "Health minister buries remains of Third Way" written by Michelle Lang
Sessional Paper 672/2006

Ms Pastoor, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East:

18 recent letters from Albertans to Ms Pastoor, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, and Hon. Mr. Dunford, Minister of Economic Development, expressing concern regarding salary levels for staff who work with persons with developmental disabilities

Sessional Paper 673/2006

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

Petition signed by 48 Albertans urging the Government to establish a system of affordable housing development suitable for seniors and war veterans

Sessional Paper 674/2006

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

E-mail message dated August 26, 2006, from Julie Chow of Edmonton to Mr. Miller, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, expressing support for Bill 208, Protection of Fundamental Freedoms (Marriage) Statutes Amendment Act, 2006

Sessional Paper 675/2006

13 e-mail messages and 2 letters from Albertans to Mr. Miller, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, Mr. Hancock, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud, Dr. Morton, Hon. Member for Foothills-Rocky View, and Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, expressing opposition to Bill 208, Protection of Fundamental Freedoms (Marriage) Statutes Amendment Act, 2006

Sessional Paper 676/2006

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Horner, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, pursuant to the Agriculture Financial Services Act, cA-12, s15:

AFSC (Agriculture Financial Services Corporation), Annual Report 2005-2006

Sessional Paper 677/2006

Speaker's Statement - Standing Order 2 - Committee of Supply Procedure

Honourable Members, the Chair is faced with an issue concerning the procedure for conclusion of Committee of Supply consideration on a Monday evening that has not previously been the subject of a ruling by the Chair. Under Standing Order 2, the Speaker is to decide upon the procedure in all unprovided-for contingencies. The Chair is making a statement at this time under this Standing Order so as to remove any uncertainty about the proceedings in Committee of Supply this evening. Essentially, the Chair must find a way so that there is not a conflict between two Standing Order provisions that come into play because we are considering Estimates in Committee of Supply on a Monday night.

Under Standing Order 61(1), for consideration of Estimates to constitute a sitting day, Committee of Supply must consider the Estimates for a minimum of two hours any afternoon or evening. Under Government Motion 25 approved by the Assembly last Thursday, the number of days that Committee of Supply is being called to consider Supplementary Supply is two days. Standing Order 62(2) requires that on the last day of Estimates' consideration by Committee, the Chair is to interrupt 15 minutes before the normal adjournment hour and put a single question proposing the approval of all matters not yet voted on. The normal adjournment hour tonight, according to Standing Order 62(1), is 11:00 p.m. so the Chair should interrupt at 10:45 p.m. The problem is that this would mean there would not have been two hours spent on the Estimates so it wouldn't qualify as a sitting day.

This issue has not arisen before. In an attempt to interpret the Standing Orders so that there is no contradiction, the Chair interprets them so that at the conclusion of two hours, or if there are no Members who wish to speak before that time, the Chair will put a single question on the Supplementary Supply Estimates as required under Standing Order 62(2). This interpretation assumes that the Committee of Supply starts its consideration after 8:45 p.m. this evening.

Motion for Adjournment for an Emergency Debate

Dr. Taft, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, requested leave to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, to adjourn the ordinary business of the Assembly to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the mounting risk to pending and future investments in Alberta's oil sands, the potential loss of public royalty revenues, and the diminishing ability of local authorities to cope due to the failure of the Government to plan and provide funding for the necessary public infrastructure and community services in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

A debate followed on urgency.

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

Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, requested leave to move, pursuant to Standing Order 30, to adjourn the ordinary business of the Assembly to discuss a matter of urgent importance, namely that the failure of the Government to develop an affordable housing strategy has exacerbated housing shortages, causing rapidly increasing rental rates, homelessness, and unsafe tenancies across Alberta, and that the Assembly should urge the Government to immediately create a ministry of housing to address this crisis.

A debate followed on urgency.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Written Questions

The following Written Questions were accepted:

WQ31. Moved by Mr. Chase on behalf of Mr. Flaherty:

What measurable impacts do the activities of the System Improvement and Reporting Branch of Alberta Education have on enhancing teaching and educational outcomes for students?

Unanimous Consent

Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 32(2) to shorten the interval between division bells from 10 minutes to two minutes.

WQ32. Moved by Mr. Chase on behalf of Mr. Flaherty:

For fiscal years 2000-2001 through 2004-2005, what are the total expenses broken down by project or function in the areas of system improvement and reporting within the System Improvement and Reporting Branch of Alberta Education?

WQ33. Moved by Mr. Martin on behalf of Mr. Mason:

For the fiscal years 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006, what was the total cost of administering the Alberta Health Care Insurance Act, broken down by costs associated with provision of customer services, registration and benefit processing?

WQ34. Moved by Mr. Martin on behalf of Mr. Mason:

For the fiscal years 2003-2004, 2004-2005, and 2005-2006, what was the total cost of administering the Health Insurance Premiums Act, and of that total what percentage was attributable to administering premium subsidies, and what percentage to collecting overdue accounts, including payments to collection agencies?

WQ35. Moved by Mr. Martin:

What is the total dollar amount spent by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development on the "Choice Matters" and related campaigns promoting marketing choice for each of the fiscal years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, and 2005-06, what is the estimated amount to be spent in 2006-07, and for each of these years what portion was spent or will be spent on paid advertising?

The following Written Questions were rejected:

WQ28. Moved by Mr. Miller on behalf of Mr. Bonko:

What consultations, studies, research, or other information-gathering exercises pertaining to the impact of illegal drugs and alcoholism on workplace performance, productivity, and absenteeism are currently planned or underway under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development?

WQ30. Moved by Mr. Chase on behalf of Mr. Bonko:

What consultations, studies, research, or other information-gathering exercises pertaining to the impact of divorce on workplace performance, productivity, and absenteeism are currently planned or underway under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development?

The following Written Questions were ordered to stand:

None remaining on the Order Paper.

Motions for Returns

The following Motions for Returns were accepted:

MR27. Moved by Mr. Chase on behalf of Mr. Bonko:

That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a Return showing:
Copies of all documents related to the \$150,800 grant provided to Maskalyk Miles as described in the 2004-2005 General Revenue Fund Details of Grants, Supplies, Services, Tangible Capital Assets and Other Payments.

MR28. Moved by Mr. Chase on behalf of Mr. Bonko:

That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a Return showing:
Copies of all documents related to the \$188,000 grant provided to Jean Henry Paul as described in the 2004-2005 General Revenue Fund Details of Grants, Supplies, Services, Tangible Capital Assets and Other Payments.

MR29. Moved by Mr. Chase on behalf of Mr. Bonko:

That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a Return showing:
Copies of all documents related to the \$103,000 grant provided to Lefebvre Edmond as described in the 2004-2005 General Revenue Fund Details of Grants, Supplies, Services, Tangible Capital Assets and Other Payments.

Debate on the following Motion for Returns was adjourned:

MR30. Moved by Mr. Taylor:

That an Order of the Assembly do issue for a Return showing:
Copies of all documents including, but not limited to, studies, reports, submissions, and correspondence regarding the design, cost, location competition, and curriculum for the proposed Alberta Police and Peace Officer College.

A debate followed.

Debate adjourned, Mr. Taylor speaking.

The following Motions for Returns were ordered to stand:

MR30 (debate adjourned), MR31, MR32, MR33, MR34, MR35, MR36.

Adjournment

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2006 — 8:00 P.M.

Motions Other Than Government Motions

512. Moved by Mr. Groeneveld:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to work with provincial governments and the Federal Government to standardize health and slaughter protocols for cattle across the country, thereby increasing interprovincial beef trade.

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Committee of Supply (Day 2 — Supplementary Supply Estimates)

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

(Assembly in Committee)

Pursuant to Standing Order 61(1) and Government Motion 25 agreed to by the Assembly on August 24, 2006, at 10:52 p.m. the Chair interrupted the proceedings and immediately put the question on the Supplementary Supply Estimates resolutions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007, which was agreed to.

The Acting Speaker resumed the Chair and Mr. Griffiths reported as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the 2006-07 Supplementary Supply Estimates, General Revenue Fund, 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:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$715,000

Advanced Education

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$49,200,000

Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$270,800,000

Community Development

Non-budgetary Disbursements \$15,537,000

Economic Development

Expense \$2,235,000

Education

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$293,300,000

Environment

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$11,400,000

Health and Wellness

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$262,000,000

Human Resources and Employment

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$5,300,000

Infrastructure and Transportation

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$171,644,000

Capital Investment \$139,420,000

Innovation and Science

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$20,000,000

Justice and Attorney General

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases \$3,600,000

Municipal Affairs

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases	\$20,356,000
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Solicitor General and Public Security

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases	\$4,000,000
Capital Investment	\$9,600,000

Sustainable Resource Development

Expense and Equipment / Inventory Purchases	\$251,503,000
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The question being put, the report and the request for leave to sit again were agreed to.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to revert to Introduction of Bills.

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

Bill 44 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2006 (No. 2) (\$) — Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky on behalf of Hon. Mrs. McClellan

Government Motions

26. Oral notice having been given Thursday, August 24, 2006, Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, moved the following motion:

Be it resolved that when the Assembly adjourns to recess the Summer Sitting of the Second Session of the 26th Legislature, it shall stand adjourned until a time and date as determined by the Speaker, after consultation with the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 10:59 p.m. until Tuesday, August 29, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Monday, August 28, 2006