



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 14

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Third Session

Twenty-Sixth Legislature

Thursday, April 5, 2007

The Speaker took the Chair at 1:00 p.m.

Speaker's Statement - 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

Honourable Members, the House will not sit on Easter Monday. On that day 90 years ago, this country launched what was to be a singular and defining expression of courage, character, and of national will. On Easter Monday, the 9th of April, 1917, the entire Canadian Corps comprising the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th divisions rose as one for the first time in the first great war. The day's opening weather, a combination of driving snow and sleet, was not unwelcome on the allied side. Beginning in the pre-dawn hours, 49 battalions of the Canadian expeditionary force, numbering over 100,000 men, joined the battle. From Alberta the 10th, the 31st, the 49th, and the 50th battalions were in the thick of the action.

To see Vimy Ridge and to have read the history of the first great war is to begin to understand the cold enormity of the challenge that faced the Canadian Corps. The ridge's brooding dominance over the Plains of Douai and the intractable nature of the allied campaign to that stage pointed to a prospect of dismal failure. How did the battle go? Let me read from the diary kept, contrary to the King's regulations of the day, a diary of the late Private Adelbert Franklin Brayman of the 50th Calgary battalion Canadian expeditionary force. He is the great-grandfather-in-law to Diane Brayman, our acting Head of Visitor Services.

“Just as dawn broke clear we were well over Vimy Ridge and digging in for protection. At 9:45 a.m. we had dug in ready for a counterattack which we expected. As we looked back up that ridge in the early dawn we witnessed a scene never to be forgotten. The entire face of the hill was covered with German green and Canadian khaki. Men lay out there in their blood-soaked field, some dead some dying. A horrible sight but one quite necessary. All day we seemed dazed and sore and the strain was beginning to show but we were supposed to hold and we held. Vimy Ridge belongs to Canada.”

Brayman had captured the essence of the moment and the national achievement. Canadians had gained more ground, took more guns, and captured more prisoners than had any previous British offensive in World War I. In 1936 France forever deeded Vimy Ridge to Canada. A superb and fitting monument was unveiled. There King Edward VIII gave an address to the thousands of Canadian war veterans who had made, in the height of the depression, a lengthy and difficult pilgrimage that evoked and stirred deep, plaintive emotion.

In the company of the President of France, and having spoken in French, the King said:

“All the world over there are battlefields, the names of which are written indelibly on the pages of our troubled human history. It is one of the consolations which time brings that the deeds of valour done on those battlefields long survive the quarrels which drove the opposing sides to conflict. Vimy will be one such name . . . Around us here today there is peace and rebuilding of hope. And so also in dedicating this memorial to our fallen comrades our thoughts turn rather to the splendour of their sacrifice and to the consecration of our love for them than to the cannonade which beat upon this Ridge . . .

Honourable Members, we know what the contribution of Canadian blood at Vimy Ridge meant to Canada. His Excellency Daniel Jouanneau, the Ambassador of France to Canada, has conveyed a letter to us and the people of Alberta telling us what Vimy Ridge means to France. I would like to read the contents of his letter into our Hansard so that all Albertans, forever, will know. The letter is dated March 26, 2007.

“Honourable Mr. Speaker, on April 5th, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

I know how important Vimy is to Canada. On April 9, 1917, four Canadian divisions, who were fighting for the first time as an independent corps, showed the rest of the world the great fortitude and military ability of Canadians, in a very carefully planned, and brilliantly executed attack. Two years, and many feats of arms later, this commitment gave Canada the right to sign the Versailles Treaty on it's own behalf, and the right to become one of the founding members of the League of Nations.

Vimy was a defining moment for Canada, but it was also one of the most important events of our 400-year common history and friendship. France will never forget these young men, all volunteers, who crossed the Atlantic to fight for the core values of our two countries: democracy, the rule of law, human rights and international solidarity. 3,598 young Canadians lost their lives at Vimy, and 7,100 were badly wounded, to help us free our soil. We will always remember their sacrifice, as a token of Canadian immense generosity.

We remember also that Vimy was fought in the context of a large allied attack, with the French focussing on the deadly “Chemin des Dames” a few days after the victory of their Canadian brothers in arms. The French people will always be grateful to Canada, and particularly to Alberta, for its support during one of the most difficult times of our history.

Please convey my warm regards and my respect to all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Yours very sincerely, Daniel Jouanneau, Ambassador of France to Canada.”

On Monday, April 9, on Canadian soil in France at Vimy, our Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II, our Prime Minister, the Prime Minister of France, and tens of thousands of modern day Canadian pilgrims, including our Sergeant-at-Arms, will rise as one. They will mark the 90th anniversary of the battle and the re-dedication of the newly restored Canadian National Vimy Memorial.

We cannot be there. But today let us give thanks for the lives of those who lie there and for what they and their comrades so freely gave to this great dominion 90 years ago. The blood of our very best earned Canada the right to take its place among the nations of the world.

Ministerial Statements

Hon. Mr. Stelmach, Premier, made a statement recognizing April 9, 2007, as the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

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

The Speaker invited Mr. Mason, Hon. Leader of the New Democrat Opposition, and Mr. Hinman, Hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner, to comment on the Ministerial Statement.

Members' Statements

Dr. Brown, Hon. Member for Calgary-Nose Hill, made a statement regarding the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Mr. Johnston, Hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, made a statement regarding the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Ms Pastoor, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, made a statement regarding the Battle of Vimy Ridge and 41 students from the Winston Churchill and Lethbridge Collegiate Institute who will attend the re-dedication ceremony at Vimy, France.

Mr. Backs, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, made a statement regarding the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

Ms DeLong, Hon. Member for Calgary-Bow, made a statement recognizing April 6, 2007, as Tartan Day.

Mr. Tougas, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark, made a statement recognizing Shauna Seneca, who passed away on December 14, 2006, for establishing the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society.

The Speaker requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to allow Hon. Mr. Boutilier, Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations, to participate in Members' Statements.

Hon. Mr. Boutilier, Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations, made a statement regarding a visit he made to Vimy Ridge a number of years ago.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, presented a petition from 476 Castle Downs residents urging the Government to reconsider the location of the new Edmonton Remand Centre and work with the federal government to relocate the new site closer to the Edmonton Maximum Security prison.

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, presented a petition from 33 Albertans urging the Government to take immediate, meaningful measures to help low-income and fixed-income Albertans, Albertans with disabilities, and those who are hard-to-house maintain their places of residence and cope with the escalating and frequent increases in their monthly rental costs.

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, presented a petition from 35 Lethbridge and area residents urging the Government to ensure that the remuneration paid to employees working with people with disabilities is standardized across the sector, regardless of whether these workers are employed by government, community-based, or private providers; ensure these employees are fairly compensated and that their wages remain competitive with other sectors to reflect the valuable and crucial service they provide; improve employees' access to professional development opportunities (training and upgrading); and introduce province-wide service and outcomes-focussed level-of-care standards.

Mr. Bonko, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, presented a petition from 1,080 Albertans urging the Government to add the drug Elaprase to the Drug Benefit List approved by Alberta Health and Wellness in order to ensure that those suffering from Hunter's Syndrome, including Jordan Miranda, Riley Miranda, and Tyler Chauhan, get the care they need to reduce their suffering and live full lives.

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

E-mail message dated April 2, 2007, with the sender's name struck out, to Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, regarding Arlene Henderson's rent increase after receiving a rent subsidy

Sessional Paper 191/2007

Mr. Mason, Hon. Leader of the New Democrat Opposition:

9 recent letters from Edmonton and area residents to Mr. Mason, Hon. Leader of the New Democrat Opposition, requesting assistance in obtaining financial aid for the Jerrard family of Edmonton to cover the cost of the drug Avastin, used to treat cancer

Sessional Paper 192/2007

E-mail message dated March 27, 2007, from Brad Bluett of Fort McMurray to Hon. Mr. Boutilier, Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations, regarding housing costs in Fort McMurray, child custody and support issues, and temporary foreign workers

Sessional Paper 193/2007

Mr. Backs, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning:

2 letters dated February 27, 2007, from Geraldine Sutton and Dale R. Thimer, both of the Unity Centre of North East Edmonton, to the Affordable Housing Task Force expressing concern regarding homelessness

Sessional Paper 194/2007

Projected Government Business

Pursuant to Standing Order 7(6), 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. Renner, Deputy Government House Leader, gave notice of projected Government Business for the week of April 10 to April 12, 2007:

Tuesday, April 10	Government Bills and Orders Second Reading Bill 12, 15 Committee of the Whole Bill 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 16, 21 And as per the Order Paper
Wednesday, April 11	Government Bills and Orders Third Reading Bill 3 Committee of the Whole Bill 15, 16, 21, 22 Second Reading Bill 17, 18, 19 And as per the Order Paper
Thursday, April 12	Government Bills and Orders Third Reading Bill 12, 15, 16, 21, 22 And as per the Order Paper

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

On the motion that the following Bill be now read a Second time:

Bill 14 Pandemic Response Statutes Amendment Act, 2007 — Mrs. Jablonski

Mrs. Jablonski moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Committee of the Whole

According to Order, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole and the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

(Assembly in Committee)

And after some time spent therein, the Acting Speaker assumed the Chair.

Progress was reported on the following Bill:

Bill 3 Climate Change and Emissions Management Amendment Act, 2007 —
Hon. Mr. Renner

Mr. Lougheed, Acting Chair of Committees, tabled copies of an amendment considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

Amendment to Bill 3 (Hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder) — Defeated
Sessional Paper 195/2007

Second Reading

The following Bills were read a Second time and referred to Committee of the Whole:

Bill 7 Private Vocational Schools Amendment Act, 2007 — Mr. Webber

Bill 12 Income and Employment Supports Amendment Act, 2007 — Hon.
Ms Evans

Bill 13 Access to the Future Amendment Act, 2007 — Mr. Rodney

Bill 14 Pandemic Response Statutes Amendment Act, 2007 — Mrs. Jablonski

Bill 16 Police Amendment Act, 2007 — Hon. Mr. Lindsay

Adjournment

Pursuant to Standing Order 3(4) and on motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 5:54 p.m. until Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, April 5, 2007