



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 40

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Third Session

Twenty-Sixth Legislature

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

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

Speaker's Statement - Roberta MacAdams

In 1916 in this Assembly, an Act called the Alberta Equal Suffrage Act was passed. That Act did two things. One, it provided for the first time the opportunity for women to vote. As well, it also offered an opportunity for women to run for political office. In 1917 a second Act was passed called the Alberta Military Representation Act. Remember, Canada was at war in 1917. That particular Military Representation Act indicated and said that in the next provincial election in Alberta, two seats would be available for men or women of military background in this Assembly.

The provincial election was held on June 7, 1917. The first woman in the history of the British Empire, one of the first women anywhere in the world, Louise McKinney, was elected as an independent in the constituency of Claresholm. At the same time servicemen and servicewomen had the right to elect two Members of this Assembly. They were all located, of course, in northern France in the trenches. A lieutenant nurse by the name of Roberta MacAdams was in London, England, in the summer of 1917, and she visited a photographer who took a picture of her. The picture to my right, your left, is a painted portrait of the original picture. She then had a campaign poster printed with a very interesting slogan. Twenty-one people contested this election in the trenches in northern France for these two seats in Alberta.

Her campaign slogan – very skilful – said "Give one vote to the man of your choice and the other to the sister." At that time, "sister" referred to a nurse. Twenty-one people contested that election in the trenches in northern France: one woman, 20 men.

Under the slogan "Give one vote to the man of your choice and the other to the sister," Roberta MacAdams became the second woman to be elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. She received 4,023 votes, which was almost 700 votes ahead of her next closest competitor on the list. The other 20 competitors, of course, were men. Ninety-plus per cent of the people voting for Roberta MacAdams in the summer election of 1917 in northern France were men. So, she joined Louise McKinney as one of the first two women ever to have been elected anywhere in the British Empire.

When she returned to Alberta, she became the first woman in the British Empire to have a piece of legislation introduced and passed. The Bill that was introduced and passed was called the War Veterans' Next-of-Kin Association. This is a remarkable part of the history of this Legislative Assembly and a remarkable part of Alberta's history as well.

Little has really been known about Roberta MacAdams until now. Last evening a book was released in co-operation with the University of Calgary press.

I might add one thing. This picture was commissioned in 1967 as a Centennial project here in the Province of Alberta. It's a painting. It then rested in the archives for years. It has been retrieved, and we're now going to place it in permanent residency on the fifth floor of the Legislature Building so that all people in the future can come and see it. It'll come to be in the Famous Five gallery.

Members' Statements

Mr. Strang, Hon. Member for West Yellowhead, made a statement recognizing June 4-10, 2007, as Environment Week and June 5, 2007, as World Environment Day.

Mr. VanderBurg, Hon. Member for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne, made a statement recognizing the nominees for the 10th annual Minister's Seniors Service Awards which will be presented by the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports at a ceremony to be held on June 6, 2007.

Mr. Dunford, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-West, made a statement regarding the University of Lethbridge's spring convocation on May 31 and June 1, 2007, during which Richard Davidson was inducted as the University's 11th Chancellor, and former Member of the Legislative Assembly John Gogo and Calgary businessman Terry Royer received honorary doctorates.

Ms Pastoor, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, made a statement recognizing former Member of the Legislative Assembly John Gogo who received an honorary Doctor of Laws by the University of Lethbridge on June 1, 2007.

Dr. Brown, Hon. Member for Calgary-Nose Hill, made a statement regarding the 63rd anniversary of the D-Day invasion of occupied Europe by Allied forces.

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, made a statement recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Youth Emergency Shelter Society on April 20, 2007.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Bonko, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, presented a petition from 1,206 Albertans urging the Government to immediately conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment and initiate full public consultations regarding the proposed seismic testing on Marie Lake, and to deny permission for testing or further development if possible adverse effects are identified or the majority of affected members of the public are opposed.

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, presented a petition from 94 Edmonton and area residents 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. Lougheed, Hon. Member for Strathcona, presented a petition from 203 Edmonton and area residents urging the Government to introduce legislation that will ensure that where a person who holds a graduated driver's licence is operating a motor vehicle that is involved in a collision resulting in serious injury or death, that person's licence shall be suspended immediately and notification shall be provided to the Alberta Transportation Safety Board, and the Board shall immediately conduct a review of the incident to determine whether the person's licence should be reinstated, and if so, under what conditions.

Notices of Motions

Hon. Mr. Renner, Deputy Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the disposition of Written Questions and Motions for Returns, pursuant to Standing Order 34(3.1):

Written Questions

To be accepted: WQ15, WQ16.
To stand and retain their places: None appearing on the Order Paper.

Motions for Returns

To be dealt with: MR7, MR8.
To stand and retain their places: None appearing on the Order Paper.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Chase, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity:

Letter dated April 20, 2007, unsigned, from W.S. Bill Wilson, Wheatland Developments Limited, to Hon. Mr. Stelmach, Premier, expressing concern regarding a change in the design criteria of the northeast freeway being constructed in Calgary

Sessional Paper 580/2007

E-mail message dated March 1, 2007, from Rob Lerouge to affordable.housing@gov.ab.ca expressing concern regarding high rent costs and the ongoing lack of funding for social programs and suggesting these two issues be addressed collectively

Sessional Paper 581/2007

Mr. Eggen, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder:

7 letters dated May 23, 2007, from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Stelmach, Premier, and Hon. Mr. Liepert, Minister of Education, expressing concern regarding the unfunded liability of the Alberta Teachers' Pension Fund

Sessional Paper 582/2007

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

E-mail message dated June 4, 2007, from Bob Borreson of Bon Accord to the New Democrat Caucus expressing concern regarding the exportation of raw bitumen to the United States for processing

Sessional Paper 583/2007

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

Document addressed to Dr. Swann, Hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, with attached appendices expressing concern regarding proposed seismic testing and oil sands development under Marie Lake

Sessional Paper 584/2007

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Dr. Oberg, Minister of Finance, pursuant to the Insurance Act, cI-3, s655(2):

Alberta Automobile Insurance Rate Board, Annual Report For the Year Ending December 31, 2006

Sessional Paper 585/2007

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Stevens, Minister of Justice and Attorney General:

Responses to questions raised by Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, on May 28, 2007, Department of Justice and Attorney General, 2007-08 Main Estimates debate

Sessional Paper 586/2007

Responses to questions raised by Mr. Strang, Hon. Member for West Yellowhead, on May 30, 2007, Department of Justice and Attorney General, 2007-08 Main Estimates debate

Sessional Paper 587/2007

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation:

Responses to questions raised by Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, on June 5, 2007, Department of Infrastructure and Transportation, 2007-08 Main Estimates debate

Sessional Paper 588/2007

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Committee of Supply (Hours 55 to 57 — Main Estimates)

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

(Assembly in Committee)

And after some time spent therein, the Deputy Speaker assumed the Chair and Ms Haley reported as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions, for the Department of Executive Council, reports progress thereon, and requests leave to sit again.

The question being put, the report and the request for leave to sit again were agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 5:25 p.m. until Thursday, June 7, 2007, at 1:00 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Wednesday, June 6, 2007