



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 3

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

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

The Speaker offered a prayer and a moment of silence was observed in recognition of the death of former Members: Dr. Carl Michael Paproski, Member for Edmonton-Kingsway, 1982 to 1986, who passed away on January 13, 2008, and Ms Pamela Trainor Barrett, Member for Edmonton-Highlands, 1986 to 1993 and 1997 to 2000, who passed away on January 21, 2008.

Speaker's Statement - Operation of Question Period and Rotation of Members' Statements

Honourable Members, before we start on the first Question Period of the 27th Legislature, the Chair would like to review briefly some rules concerning the operation of Question Period including the rotation of questions.

While today's Order Paper outlines Government Motion 8 which proposes temporary amendments to the Standing Orders, Members may be interested to know that if they combed the Standing Orders of the Assembly they would not find any rules concerning the operation of Question Period. Standing Order 7(1) states where Oral Question Period comes in the Daily Routine and indicates that it shall not exceed 50 minutes. The rules concerning inappropriate language found in Standing Order 23 apply but the operation and rotation of questions is based on the practices and precedents of this Assembly.

Traditionally, the Chair has made a statement at the start of a Legislature concerning Question Period and other matters such as the rotation of Members' Statements. In determining these matters, the Chair is mindful of that fundamental principle of Canadian parliamentary law which appeared in a 1916 edition of Bourinot's Parliamentary Procedure and Practice in the Dominion of Canada and is restated in paragraph 1 of Beauchesne's, 6th edition, which is:

"To protect a minority and restrain the improvidence or tyranny of a majority; to secure the transaction of public business in an orderly manner; to enable every Member to express opinions within limits necessary to preserve decorum and prevent an unnecessary waste of time; to give abundant opportunity for the consideration of every measure, and to prevent any legislative action being taken upon sudden impulse."

Members may be aware that the numbers of the respective caucuses in the Assembly are very similar to those at the start of the 25th Legislature following the 2001 general election. The only difference is that the Official Opposition has nine Members instead of the seven it had after the 2001 election. The Chair sees little reason to depart from the rotation that existed at that time. Accordingly, the Official Opposition will be entitled to the first three sets of questions which is a main question followed by up to two supplementary questions. The third party New Democrats will be entitled to ask the fourth question. A Member from the Government Caucus will be entitled to the fifth question. The rotation will then shift back and forth between Members of the Official Opposition and private Members on the Government side. This means that the Official Opposition will have the sixth, eighth, and 10th questions and Government Members will be entitled to the seventh and ninth questions. The third party will be entitled to the 11th question. A Member from the Government side will have the 12th question and the Official Opposition will be entitled to ask the 13th question. In 2001, the 14th and subsequent questions went to Government Members. In light of the fact that the Official Opposition has two more seats than it did in 2001, they should have the 15th question with the Government Members being entitled to the questions after that should there be time for that many questions.

Prior to the temporary changes adopted in the spring of 2007, the well-established rule was that there could be a preamble to the first or main question and no preamble to supplementary questions. Last year, House Leaders convinced the Chair to implement a scheme where there was a 45-second time limit on questions and answers which virtually obliterated the difference between main and supplementary questions. In the Chair's view, the implementation of a time limit without any restrictions on supplementary questions did not raise the level of decorum in the Assembly.

As has been done at the start of past Legislatures, the Chair would like to remind all Members that brevity in questions and answers is of fundamental importance to the operation of Question Period. The Chair notes that the Canadian House of Commons imposes a time limit of 35 seconds for each question and answer.

It should be made clear that it is in no way the Chair's intention to limit the nature of questions asked in Question Period. As Members will know, the Chair is firmly committed to the history and traditions of Parliament. In a system of responsible government it is fundamentally important that the government be held to account by the Assembly. That is a cornerstone of our system of government. Question Period is an important component of that accountability. However, observing that principle does not mean that decorum becomes irrelevant. The Chair is dedicated to making sure that this Assembly remains an honourable place. Furthermore, the purpose of Question Period is to seek information from the government about government.

To reconcile these principles and objectives, the Chair will recognize a 35-second time limit for questions and answers. There will be no preambles to supplementary questions. Supplementary questions will have to be well crafted and should not take 35 seconds. This will allow more Members to participate in Question Period and should help reinforce the purpose of Question Period which is the seeking of information. Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, sections 407 to 414 provides clarity and guidance.

The practice will continue of caucuses submitting lists to the Speaker's office prior to the start of the Session indicating those Members wishing to ask questions that day. To facilitate the operations of the Assembly, the Chair would appreciate it if the list could be submitted by 12:30 p.m. In accordance with the traditions of the Assembly, the Speaker will ultimately retain discretion when it comes to recognizing Members during Question Period similar to the practices across Canada out of respect for this office and the institution.

The Chair would also like to comment on the rotation of Members' Statements. Standing Order 7(5) states:

"Members' Statements shall be allocated in proportion to the number of Members other than members of the Executive Council in each party represented in the Assembly or as agreed to by House Leaders or, failing agreement, as determined by the Speaker."

As there is no House Leaders' Agreement concerning Members' Statements, the Chair will have to determine the allocation. There are 47 private Members on the Government side when the Speaker and Members of the Executive Council are excluded. The Official Opposition has nine Members and the third party New Democrats have two Members. In keeping with the proportions, a Member of the Official Opposition will be entitled to make a statement every day. Private Members on the Government side will be entitled to the other five statements for three of four days every week. On the fourth day, the third party will be entitled to make a statement which will mean the Government Members will be entitled to four statements. The Chair will be accommodating if requested to change the rotation on certain days to accommodate Members on a given day.

The Chair would like to make one last point. The Government has created a number of Parliamentary Assistant positions. Without detracting from the work they perform, for the purposes of the Assembly, Members occupying these positions are considered private Members as opposed to the Government. Accordingly, they may ask questions but cannot answer questions. Only Members of the Government, which is to say Members of Executive Council may answer. However, if a Parliamentary Assistant was to ask questions of the Minister with whom he or she works, there might be an expression of discomfort by the Chair and undoubtedly from Members.

Furthermore, it should be noted that Parliamentary Assistants will not have any special prerogatives with respect to sponsoring Bills. Standing Order 83 is quite clear that Money Bills, that is Bills that require the Royal Recommendation, must be moved by a Member of the Executive Council.

Members should have received a letter from the Chair dated April 8, 2008, outlining several points about decorum and the operation of the Assembly. In the interests of time, the Chair will refrain from making any further comments about the principles underlying the operation of Question Period at this time. If experience is any guide, the Chair will have an opportunity to review these principles as this Session progresses.

Members' Statements

Ms DeLong, Hon. Member for Calgary-Bow, made a statement recognizing April 6, 2008, as Tartan Day.

Mr. Marz, Hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, made a statement regarding the Junior B Provincial Hockey Championships held April 3-6, 2008, in Three Hills and Trochu.

Mr. Hehr, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, made a statement regarding the need to extend protection for sexual orientation to Alberta's Human Rights Code.

Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere, made a statement recognizing April 13-19, 2008, as National Victims of Crime Awareness Week.

Mr. Horne, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, made a statement congratulating Kevin Martin, John Morris, Marc Kennedy, and Ben Hebert on winning the 2008 World Men's Curling Championships on April 13, 2008, in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mr. Olson, Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose, made a statement congratulating the Camrose Kodiaks hockey team on winning the 2008 Alberta Junior Hockey League Championship in Camrose on April 15, 2008.

Notices of Motions

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, gave oral notice of her 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 arbitrary government sponsored changes to the Standing Orders of the Assembly which threaten the basic democratic principles, especially unanimous consent, of the Opposition Members.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Prins, Chair, Select Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, pursuant to the Auditor General Act, cA-46, s20(2):

Report of the Auditor General of Alberta, April 2008
Sessional Paper 3/2008

Hon. Mr. Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness:

News release dated April 16, 2008, entitled "Government launches aggressive action plan to make public health system more efficient and ensure equitable access to services" with related attachments, all prepared by Alberta Health and Wellness
Sessional Paper 4/2008

Hon. Ms Evans, Minister of Finance and Enterprise, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-7, s8(1):

Budget 2007, Third Quarter Fiscal Update, 2007-2008
Sessional Paper 5/2008

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar:

Flyer advertising upcoming rallies concerning the privatization of health care planned by the Vigils Committee
Sessional Paper 6/2008

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

10 letters, undated, from Edmonton residents to a Member of the Legislative Assembly suggesting five changes be implemented to Alberta labour laws
Sessional Paper 7/2008

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

Pamphlet entitled "Bridges that Unite" advertising a travelling exhibition presented by the Aga Khan Foundation Canada
Sessional Paper 8/2008

Program from the Passover Haggadah festival recently held in Calgary
Sessional Paper 9/2008

Program from the 14th Alberta East Coulee Spring Festival held on April 12, 2008

Sessional Paper 10/2008

Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona:

Alberta Progressive Conservative Party Platform Book

Sessional Paper 11/2008

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, cF-25, s63(2), the Health Information Act, cH-5, s95(2), and the Personal Information Protection Act, cP-65, s44:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Annual Report 2006-2007

Sessional Paper 12/2008

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Snelgrove, President of the Treasury Board:

Return to Order of the Assembly MR4, asked for by Mr. Miller on May 28, 2007:

A copy of all ministerial expense claims, broken down by Minister, submitted between December 15, 2006, and March 1, 2007.

Sessional Paper 13/2008

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit:

Pursuant to the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Act, cA-19, s14(2):

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Annual Report 2001/02, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2002

Sessional Paper 14/2008

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Annual Report 2002/03, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2003

Sessional Paper 15/2008

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Annual Report 2003/04, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2004

Sessional Paper 16/2008

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Annual Report 2004/05, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2005

Sessional Paper 17/2008

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Annual Report 2005/06, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2006

Sessional Paper 18/2008

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Annual Report 2006/07, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2007

Sessional Paper 19/2008

Pursuant to the Historical Resources Act, cH-9, s15(2):

Historical Resources Fund, 2001-02 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2002

Sessional Paper 20/2008

Historical Resources Fund, 2002-03 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2003

Sessional Paper 21/2008

Historical Resources Fund, 2003-04 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2004

Sessional Paper 22/2008

Historical Resources Fund, 2004-05 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2005

Sessional Paper 23/2008

Historical Resources Fund, 2005-06 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2006

Sessional Paper 24/2008

Historical Resources Fund, 2006-07 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2007

Sessional Paper 25/2008

Pursuant to the Historical Resources Act, cH-9, s47:

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 2001-02 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2002

Sessional Paper 26/2008

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 2002-03 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2003

Sessional Paper 27/2008

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 2003-04 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2004

Sessional Paper 28/2008

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 2004-05 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2005

Sessional Paper 29/2008

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 2005-06 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2006

Sessional Paper 30/2008

Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, 2006-07 Annual Report, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2007

Sessional Paper 31/2008

Pursuant to the Wild Rose Foundation Act, cW-8, s7(3):

Wild Rose Foundation, Annual Report 2001-02, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2002

Sessional Paper 32/2008

Wild Rose Foundation, Annual Report 2002-03, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2003

Sessional Paper 33/2008

Wild Rose Foundation, Annual Report 2003-04, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2004

Sessional Paper 34/2008

Wild Rose Foundation, Annual Report 2004-05, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2005

Sessional Paper 35/2008

Wild Rose Foundation, Annual Report 2005-06, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2006

Sessional Paper 36/2008

Wild Rose Foundation, Annual Report 2006-07, with attached Financial Statements dated March 31, 2007

Sessional Paper 37/2008

Motion for Adjournment for an Emergency Debate

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, 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 the arbitrary government sponsored changes to the Standing Orders of the Assembly which threaten the basic democratic principles, especially unanimous consent, of the Opposition Members.

A debate followed on urgency.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Message From His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor

Hon. Mr. Snelgrove, President of the Treasury Board, delivered a Message from His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker read the Message to the Assembly (the Members standing).

Hon. Mr. Snelgrove, President of the Treasury Board, tabled the following budget-related document, pursuant to the Government Accountability Act, cG-7, s8(1):

2007-08 Supplementary Supply Estimates (No. 2), General Revenue Fund
Sessional Paper 38/2008

Government Motions

4. Moved by Hon. Mr. Snelgrove:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly do resolve itself into Committee of Supply, when called, to consider supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to. With Hon. Mr. Kowalski in the Chair, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the motion: 49

Ady	Fawcett	Marz
Allred	Forsyth	McFarland
Amery	Fritz	McQueen
Anderson	Goudreau	Mitzel
Benito	Griffiths	Morton
Berger	Groeneveld	Oberle
Bhullar	Hancock	Olson
Blackett	Hayden	Ouellette
Boutilier	Horner	Prins
Campbell	Jablonski	Redford
Cao	Jacobs	Snelgrove
Dallas	Johnson	Stevens
Denis	Klimchuk	Weadick
Doerksen	Knight	Woo-Paw
Drysdale	Leskiw	Xiao
Elniski	Lund	Zwozdesky
Evans		

Against the motion: 7

Blakeman	Kang	Swann
Chase	Pastoor	Taft
Hehr		

5. Moved by Hon. Mr. Snelgrove:

Be it resolved that the Message from His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the 2007-08 Supplementary Supply Estimates (No. 2) for the General Revenue Fund, and all matters connected therewith, be referred to Committee of Supply.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to. With Hon. Mr. Kowalski in the Chair, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the motion: 49

Ady	Goudreau	McQueen
Allred	Griffiths	Mitzel
Amery	Groeneveld	Morton
Benito	Hancock	Oberle
Berger	Hayden	Olson
Bhullar	Horner	Ouellette
Boutilier	Jablonski	Prins
Campbell	Jacobs	Quest
Cao	Johnson	Redford
Dallas	Klimchuk	Snelgrove
Denis	Knight	Stevens
Doerksen	Leskiw	Weadick
Drysdale	Liepert	Webber
Elniski	Lund	Woo-Paw
Evans	Marz	Xiao
Forsyth	McFarland	Zwozdesky
Fritz		

Against the motion: 7

Blakeman	Kang	Swann
Chase	Pastoor	Taft
Hehr		

6. Moved by Hon. Mr. Snelgrove:

Be it resolved that, pursuant to Standing Order 61(9), the number of days that Committee of Supply will be called to consider the 2007-08 Supplementary Supply Estimates (No. 2) for the General Revenue Fund shall be one day.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to. With Hon. Mr. Kowalski in the Chair, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the motion: 47

Ady	Forsyth	Mitzel
Allred	Goudreau	Morton
Amery	Griffiths	Oberle
Anderson	Groeneveld	Olson
Berger	Hancock	Ouellette
Bhullar	Hayden	Prins
Boutilier	Horner	Quest
Campbell	Johnson	Redford
Cao	Klimchuk	Snelgrove
Dallas	Knight	Stevens
Denis	Leskiw	Weadick
Doerksen	Liepert	Webber
Drysdale	Lund	Woo-Paw
Elniski	Marz	Xiao
Evans	McFarland	Zwozdesky
Fawcett	McQueen	

Against the motion: 7

Blakeman	Kang	Swann
Chase	Pastoor	Taft
Hehr		

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Moved by Mrs. Leskiw and seconded by Mr. Bhullar:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

A debate followed.

Debate adjourned.

Adjournment

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(3), the Assembly adjourned at 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2008 — 8:00 P.M.

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Moved by Mrs. Leskiw and seconded by Mr. Bhullar:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE, the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

A debate followed.

Hon. Mr. Hancock moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

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

Bill 1 Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Implementation Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 — Hon. Mr. Stevens on behalf of Hon. Mr. Stelmach

Hon. Mr. Stevens moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 9:39 p.m. until Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Wednesday, April 16, 2008