



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 12

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

Thursday, May 1, 2008

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

Ministerial Statements

Hon. Mr. Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness, made a statement regarding the opening of the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute in Edmonton on May 1, 2008.

Mr. Taylor, Hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, commented on the statement.

Members' Statements

Ms DeLong, Hon. Member for Calgary-Bow, made a statement regarding the Calgary Olympic Development Association Centre of Sport Excellence.

Mr. Johnston, Hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, made a statement recognizing May 3, 2008, as Search and Rescue Day.

Mr. Chase, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, made a statement regarding the need for sustainable oil sands development.

Mr. Horne, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, made a statement regarding the River Valley Alliance.

Mr. Mason, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, made a statement recognizing May 1, 2008, as May Day or International Workers' Day.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Taylor, Hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, presented a petition from 20 Calgary residents urging the Government to commission an independent and public inquiry into the Alberta Government's administration of or involvement with the Local Authorities Pension Plan, the Public Service Pension Plan, and the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, presented a petition from 20 Calgary residents urging the Government to commission an independent and public inquiry into the Alberta Government's administration of or involvement with the Local Authorities Pension Plan, the Public Service Pension Plan, and the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, on behalf of Dr. Taft, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, presented a petition from 40 Calgary residents urging the Government to commission an independent and public inquiry into the Alberta Government's administration of or involvement with the Local Authorities Pension Plan, the Public Service Pension Plan, and the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Mr. Chase, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, presented a petition from 35 Calgary residents requesting the Legislative Assembly pass legislation that will prohibit emotional bullying and psychological harassment in the workplace.

Mr. Chase, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, presented a petition from 20 Calgary residents urging the Government to commission an independent and public inquiry into the Alberta Government's administration of or involvement with the Local Authorities Pension Plan, the Public Service Pension Plan, and the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Ms Pastoor, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, presented a petition from 38 Albertans urging the Government to commission an independent and public inquiry into the Alberta Government's administration of or involvement with the Local Authorities Pension Plan, the Public Service Pension Plan, and the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, presented a petition from 45 Albertans urging the Government to take measures that will require school boards and schools to eliminate all fees for instructional supplies and materials and general school services, including textbooks, musical instruments, physical education programs, locker rentals, lunch hour supervision, and required field trips and to ensure that schools are not deprived of the resources necessary to offer these programs and services without additional charges to parents or guardians.

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, presented a petition from 4 Edmonton residents urging the Government to take immediate steps to prevent the 43-hectare Qualico gravel pit operation proposed for southwest Edmonton from going ahead as it will have significant adverse effects, such as lower property values and a decline in quality of life due to noise, pollution, and heavy trucks.

Mr. Kang, Hon. Member for Calgary-McCall, presented a petition from 20 Calgary residents urging the Government to commission an independent and public inquiry into the Alberta Government's administration of or involvement with the Local Authorities Pension Plan, the Public Service Pension Plan, and the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Notice having been given:

Bill 205 Traffic Safety (Used Vehicle Inspection) Amendment Act, 2008 —
Mr. Bhardwaj

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Minister of Education:

Responses to questions raised by Mr. Fawcett, Hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill, and Mr. Chase, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, on April 24, 2008, Department of Education, 2008-09 Main Estimates debate
Sessional Paper 95/2008

Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona:

Document, undated, entitled "The Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI)"
Sessional Paper 96/2008

Report, undated, entitled "Coal-Fired Power Plant Approval Process" prepared by Alberta Environment
Sessional Paper 97/2008

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

Letter, undated, from Scott Chule to Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, requesting assistance with his Workers' Compensation Board claim
Sessional Paper 98/2008

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

5 letters, undated, from Edmonton residents to a Member of the Legislative Assembly suggesting five changes be implemented to Alberta labour laws
Sessional Paper 99/2008

Ms Pastoor, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East:

Report, undated, entitled "How to exempt yourself from the law. . . and win!"
with attached report, undated, entitled "Request for Royal Commission or
Provincial Inquiry" prepared by Larry Elford of Lethbridge
Sessional Paper 100/2008

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

E-mail message dated May 1, 2008, from Gail Rivard of Calgary to Mr. Chase,
Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, expressing support for Bill 204, Traffic Safety
(Hand-Held Communication Devices) Amendment Act, 2008
Sessional Paper 101/2008

E-mail message dated May 1, 2008, from Philip Carson of Calgary to Mr. Chase,
Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, expressing support for a ban on the use of
hand-held cell phones while driving and opposition to a ban on hands-free devices
while driving
Sessional Paper 102/2008

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:

Pamphlet entitled "Page Biographies, Legislative Assembly of Alberta, 27th
Legislature, First Session, Spring 2008"
Sessional Paper 103/2008

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Liepert, Minister of Health and Wellness:

Pursuant to the Health Facilities Review Committee Act, cH-3, s16(2), Alberta
Health Facilities Review Committee, Annual Report 2006-2007, April 1, 2006 to
March 31, 2007
Sessional Paper 104/2008

Pursuant to the Health Professions Act, cH-7, s4(2):
Alberta College of Social Workers, 2007 Annual Report
Sessional Paper 105/2008

Alberta Dental Association and College, 2007 Annual Report
Sessional Paper 106/2008

College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta, Annual Report 2006/07,
with attached Financial Statements for the Year Ended September 30, 2007
Sessional Paper 107/2008

Pursuant to the Physical Therapy Profession Act, P-14, s8(4), College of Physical
Therapists of Alberta, Annual Report 2007
Sessional Paper 108/2008

Pursuant to the Public Health Act, cP-37, s7(2), Public Health Appeal Board,
Annual Report 2007

Sessional Paper 109/2008

Pursuant to the Regional Health Authorities Act, cR-10, s14(3), Peace Country
Health, Annual Report 2006-2007

Sessional Paper 110/2008

Pursuant to the Regional Health Authorities Act, cR-10, s14(3) (AR130/2006),
Health Quality Council of Alberta, 2006-2007 Annual Report

Sessional Paper 111/2008

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

Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, Annual Review, April 1,
2006 - March 31, 2007

Sessional Paper 112/2008

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. Hancock, Government House Leader, gave notice of projected Government
Business for the week of May 5 to May 8, 2008:

Monday, May 5	8:30 p.m.	- Government Bills and Orders
		Committee of Supply
		Main Estimates
		Service Alberta
		Committee of the Whole
		Bill 6
		Second Reading
		Bill 1, 2
		And as per the Order Paper
Tuesday, May 6	Aft.	- Government Bills and Orders
		Committee of Supply
		Main Estimates
		Culture and Community Spirit

		<p>Committee of the Whole Bill 6</p> <p>Second Reading Bill 1, 2 And as per the Order Paper</p>
	Eve.	<p>- Government Bills and Orders</p> <p>Committee of Supply Main Estimates Infrastructure</p> <p>Committee of the Whole Bill 6</p> <p>Second Reading Bill 1, 2 And as per the Order Paper</p>
Wednesday, May 7	Aft.	<p>- Government Bills and Orders</p> <p>Committee of Supply Main Estimates Tourism, Parks and Recreation</p> <p>Second Reading Bill 1, 2 And as per the Order Paper</p>
	Eve.	<p>- Government Bills and Orders</p> <p>Committee of Supply Main Estimates Justice</p> <p>Second Reading Bill 1, 2 And as per the Order Paper</p>
Thursday, May 8	Aft.	<p>- Government Bills and Orders</p> <p>Committee of Supply Main Estimates Advanced Education and Technology</p>

Second Reading

Bill 1, 2

And as per the Order Paper

Speaker's Statement - Oral Question Period and Main Estimates Consideration

In light of the decorum that's been displayed in the House during Oral Question Period and, quite frankly, the unprecedented numbers of questions and answers that are occurring on a daily basis, I revisited the ruling that I gave on April 16, 2008, and I wish to advise that effective Monday, because of the large number of questions and responses, the 17th question will now be given to the Official Opposition if they choose to use it. That means that there will be one additional question that will be afforded to the Official Opposition.

When I originally mapped this strategy out, I calculated the amount of time it would take to do a question and answer and then inflated it by just a couple of seconds in the event that there might be a little bit of enthusiasm in the House, divided into 50 and came out with 32. The 15th was the last question that I thought would go to the Official Opposition. I basically made the statement then, that each question thereafter would go to private Government Members.

The fact is that we're doing 17, 18, and 19 questions. The intent was always to maximize the fairness. So if we get to 17 questions, the Official Opposition would have nine, the Members of the Government Caucus would have six, and the Third Party would have two. That will start effective Monday. That means that there are nine questions for the Official Opposition, and it means that each of their Members can raise a question, or if one Member wants to raise all nine, that's their right as well. They can determine that order.

The second matter. I'm pleased that three House Leaders – the Government, the Official Opposition, and the third representation – had a discussion with respect to Standing Order 61(3) with respect to Committee of Supply. Essentially, since 2001, Standing Order 61(3) has indicated that the opposition would have the first hour in estimates. In 2007 as the result of a temporary Standing Order, that read that the Official Opposition would have the first hour. So there has been some discussion, I understand, in the House and Committee with respect to how this has been applied. I've looked at the Standing Order and the Standing Order basically says:

The Committee of Supply shall consider estimates in the following manner:

- (a) the Minister, or member of Executive Council acting on the Minister's behalf, and Members of the opposition may speak during the first hour, and
- (b) any Member may speak thereafter.

I've asked both the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees and the Deputy Chair of Committees to start reviewing that interpretation as of today's estimates to read that it is the Official Opposition that will have the first hour in the estimates, and then a Member of another grouping would have their time thereafter. Like all agreements the success of this will depend on the goodwill of all parties. This should be another matter, as a result of the motion that was passed not too long ago, that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing will consider when it reviews all of the temporary Standing Orders and reports back to the Assembly later in the year.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Committee of Supply (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 Mr. Lund reported as follows:

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee of Supply has had under consideration certain resolutions of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, 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

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(5), the Assembly adjourned at 5:30 p.m. until Monday, May 5, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, May 1, 2008