



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 15

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Third Session

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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 Member Mr. Thomas George Thurber, Member for Drayton Valley-Calmar and Drayton Valley, 1989 to 2001, who passed away on March 7, 2010.

Members' Statements

Mr. Bhullar, Hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose, made a statement regarding a function organized by Mr. Bhullar to foster dialogue between government and community attended by Hon. Mrs. Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, five Calgary Members of the Legislative Assembly, and several Calgary seniors' groups.

Dr. Swann, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, made a statement regarding the 2010 Arctic Winter Games held in Grande Prairie from March 6-13, 2010.

Mr. Olson, Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose, made a statement regarding the Chester Ronning Centre at the University of Alberta Augustana campus in Camrose.

Ms Woo-Paw, Hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay, made a statement regarding the Calgary Vietnamese community's lunar new year celebration.

Mr. Rodney, Hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed, made a statement regarding Alberta's contributions to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from February 12-28, 2010.

Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere, made a statement regarding the oil and gas royalty framework.

Speaker's Statement - House Leaders' Agreement - Oral Question Period Rotation and Members' Statements

Honourable Members, before we commence Oral Question Period today, the Chair would like to advise the House that yesterday afternoon the Speaker's office received a copy of a House Leaders' agreement signed by the Government House Leader and the House Leaders for the Official Opposition, the New Democrat and the Wildrose Alliance caucuses, and the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

In brief, this agreement proposes a new Question Period rotation and the addition of two more Members' Statements per week. As indicated in the Chair's statement of February 8, 2010, on this subject of the rotation of questions, which can be found at pages 16 to 19 of Alberta Hansard for that day, the Chair is always amenable to agreement amongst the caucuses, but it must be acceptable to all the parties in the Assembly. In the absence of such agreement, which materialized only yesterday, the Chair devised a scheme for the rotation of Question Period to ensure the smooth operation of the Assembly while recognizing the changes in caucus numbers. The rotation outlined in the February 8, 2010, statement ends today and will be replaced by the rotation provided for in the House Leaders' agreement outlined in the memo from the Government House Leader to House Leaders dated March 4, 2010, and subsequently sent to the Speaker by the Government House Leader under cover of a March 9, 2010, memorandum.

The Chair wishes to advise Members that commencing today, the rotation of questions during Oral Question Period shall be as follows: the Official Opposition will continue to be entitled to the first three main questions each day. With respect to the routine on days one and three, the Wildrose Alliance will be entitled to the fourth question, the New Democrats will be entitled to the fifth, and it would then alternate between the Official Opposition and government Members until the 12th question, which would be asked by the Wildrose Alliance. The Official Opposition will be entitled to the 13th, 15th, and 17th questions, and members of the government caucus will be entitled to the 14th, 16th, 18th, and any subsequent questions, time permitting.

On day two the same sequence will apply except for the 12th question which will be asked by the New Democrats.

Finally, on day four the rotation will shift slightly to accommodate the Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

To be clear, the fourth question will go to the Wildrose Alliance, the fifth question will go to the New Democrats, and the independent Member will be entitled to the sixth question. The questions will then alternate between the Official Opposition and members of the government caucus until the 13th question, which will be asked by the New Democrats. The Liberals will be entitled to the 14th, 16th, and 18th questions. Government Members will be entitled to ask the 15th and 17th questions and any questions after the 18th.

For our four-day rotation, 18 questions per day schedule, the Official Opposition will see their numbers of daily questions increase from eight to nine. The Wildrose Alliance caucus will get six questions instead of their current eight, a reduction of two. The ND caucus will get six questions instead of their current eight, a reduction of two. The PC private Members' number will remain the same with six questions on days one, two, and three, and five on day four. The independent Member remains with one question per four days.

The Chair also notes that House Leaders agreed to eliminate preambles to supplementary questions. The Chair will continue to take a vigilant watch of the clock to ensure that questions and answers do not exceed 35 seconds and will reinstate the rule prohibiting preambles for supplementaries. The agreement makes it very clear that there are to be no preambles to the supplementaries and the supplementaries are to be on the same subject and purpose of the main question.

One last item noted in the agreement is the desire to increase the number of Members' Statements by two each week, with one being added to the Routine on Monday and the second on Thursday. This will require an amendment to the Standing Orders, so the Chair would anticipate that this will be brought forward in the near future by way of a Government Motion to be debated in the Assembly.

In light of the new reality brought about by the House Leaders' agreement, it seems only fitting that today be considered day one. The revised schedule is on Members' desks. At the appropriate time in the Routine I will table the agreement, and following Orders of the Day Members will receive copies of the agreement that I hope all will read carefully so that they can more completely understand all aspects of the agreement. This agreement is not precedent setting and does not bind either the Chair or the Assembly. It may change as new realities arrive.

Notices of Motions

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following motion:

- A. Be it resolved that the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta be amended in Standing Order 7 by adding the following after suborder (4):

7(4.1) When Members' Statements is called, Members other than members of the Executive Council may make a statement, each statement to be no more than 2 minutes in duration, according to the following allocation:

- (a) on Monday and Thursday, up to 7 Members, and
- (b) on Tuesday and Wednesday, up to 6 Members.

- B. Be it further resolved that

- 1. The amendment in this motion shall come into force on passage and shall have effect until the dissolution of the 27th Legislature;
- 2. Standing Order 7(4) shall not have effect for the balance of the 27th Legislature.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Dr. Morton, Minister of Finance and Enterprise, pursuant to the Alberta Economic Development Authority Act, cA-16, s6(2):

Alberta Economic Development Authority, Activity Report 2009
Sessional Paper 74/2010

Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona:

Report dated March 31, 2006, entitled "Annual Report of Oil Sands Development in 2005 and Projected for 2006, Mildred Lake Oil Sands Mine" prepared by Syncrude Canada Ltd.

Sessional Paper 75/2010

Copies of three still photos taken from video of ducks in the bitumen mat of Syncrude's Aurora tailings pond in northern Alberta on April 29, 2008

Sessional Paper 76/2010

Copies of 24 postcards from Albertans to Hon. Mr. Stelmach, Premier, regarding long-term care beds

Sessional Paper 77/2010

Ms Pastoor, Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East:

E-mail message dated December 9, 2009, from Sandy Bray of Calgary to Rick Miller regarding the difficulties she faces in providing care for her father who suffers from dementia

Sessional Paper 78/2010

Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere:

Report dated March 9, 2010, entitled "Energy. Environment. Community. Restoring Alberta's Energy Competitiveness" prepared by the Wildrose Alliance Caucus

Sessional Paper 79/2010

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

Letter dated March 5, 2010, from Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, to Don Fleming, Chairman of the Board, Edmonton Public School Board, regarding data used by the school board to recommend school closures

Sessional Paper 80/2010

Magazine dated Spring 2010 entitled "Options, your guide to private medicine"

Sessional Paper 81/2010

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

Memorandum dated March 9, 2010, from Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, to Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, regarding an agreement dated March 4, 2010, signed by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Ms Blakeman, Official Opposition House Leader, Mr. Mason, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere, and Mr. Boutilier, Hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, outlining a new Oral Question Period rotation and Members' Statement allocation

Sessional Paper 82/2010

Projected Sitting Days Calendar as of March 10, 2010

Sessional Paper 83/2010

Chart entitled "Oral Question Period rotation based on House Leaders' agreement dated March 4, 2010, and provided to the Speaker on March 9, 2010"

Sessional Paper 84/2010

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Webber, Minister of Aboriginal Relations:

Responses to questions raised by Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, Dr. Taft, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview, Ms Calahasen, Hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake, and Dr. Brown, Hon. Member for Calgary-Nose Hill, on February 10, 2010, Department of Aboriginal Relations, Main Estimates debate

Sessional Paper 85/2010

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

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

Bill 7 Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2010 — Hon. Ms Redford

Hon. Ms Redford moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

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

Bill 1 Alberta Competitiveness Act — Hon. Mr. Stelmach

A debate followed.

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

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

Bill 4 Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Amendment Act, 2010 —
Mr. Olson

A debate followed.

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

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

Bill 6 Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2010 — Mr. Bhullar

A debate followed.

Hon. Mr. Denis 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 Acting Speaker left the Chair.

(Assembly in Committee)

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

The following Bill was reported:

Bill 3 Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2010 — Mr. Weadick

Second Reading

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

Bill 1 Alberta Competitiveness Act — Hon. Mr. Stelmach

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

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Denis, Deputy Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 4:59 p.m. until Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Wednesday, March 10, 2010