



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Fifth Session

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

This being the first Day of the Fifth Session of the Twenty-Seventh Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, for the despatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation of His Honour Colonel (Retired) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, OC, OMM, AOE, MSC, CD, LLD, Lieutenant Governor, dated the 20th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve;

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly read the Proclamation as follows:

[GREAT SEAL]
CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

COLONEL (RETIRED) DONALD S. ETHELL,
Lieutenant Governor.

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada,
and Her Other Realms and Territories, QUEEN, Head of the Commonwealth,
Defender of the Faith

PROCLAMATION

To OUR FAITHFUL, the MEMBERS elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly of
Our Province of Alberta and to each and every one of you

GREETING

WHEREAS it is Our will and pleasure by and with the advice and consent of Our Executive Council of Our Province of Alberta to prorogue the Fourth Session of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of Alberta:

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective February 6, 2012, the said Legislature; and

Ray Bodnarek, Q.C.,
Deputy Minister of Justice
and Deputy Attorney General

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient for certain causes and considerations to convene the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta for the Fifth Session of the Twenty-seventh Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on Tuesday, the 7th day of February, 2012, at the hour of THREE o'clock in the afternoon, at Our City of Edmonton, personally be and appear, for the despatch of business, to treat, act, do and conclude upon those things which, in the Legislature of Our Province of Alberta, by the Common Council of Our said Province, may, by the favour of God, be ordained.

HEREIN FAIL NOT

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of Alberta to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS: COLONEL (RETIRED) THE HONOURABLE DONALD S. ETHELL, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this 20th day of January in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twelve and in the Sixtieth Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

VERLYN OLSON,
Provincial Secretary.

The Speaker entered the Assembly and took the Chair. After delivering the opening day prayer he invited Mr. Paul Lorieau to lead the Members of the Assembly and guests in singing Canada's National Anthem.

While awaiting the arrival of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the Royal Canadian Artillery Band played a brief musical interlude.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly and took his seat on the Throne.

His Honour then read the following Speech from the Throne:

Speech From the Throne

My fellow Albertans, Honourable Members, and distinguished guests, welcome to the Fifth Session of the 27th Alberta Legislature. It is my honour to deliver the Speech from the Throne and my privilege to serve the people of this province as Lieutenant Governor.

While these are trying times, other nations' difficulties do serve to remind us of how fortunate we are to live in the grand province of Alberta. We are blessed with a free and fair political system built on enduring constitutional foundations, and in 2012 this arrangement will receive the attention it deserves as we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Sixty years ago yesterday His Majesty King George VI passed away, and Her Majesty ascended the Throne. For six decades she has dedicated herself to serving as the anchor of the Commonwealth and the Monarch of our great nation. I know that many Albertans are as eager as I am to congratulate Her Majesty on her distinguished record.

We are blessed to reside in a province with unlimited opportunity. Alberta has abundant resources, world-class industries, and an indomitable spirit of enterprise and innovation. We have the ability, desire, knowledge, and freedom to attain our full potential.

In my lifetime alone Alberta has come a long way. I arrived in this province in the early '50s as a young soldier in the Canadian Army. Forced into hospital by a leg injury, I found myself surrounded by convalescent First World War veterans. They were receiving the very best care, and while it kept them alive, that was all it could do. These individuals and their families faced a very limited future. Today we have innovative institutions like the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine using previously unimaginable techniques like robotics and neural engineering to restore function and help heal the hidden trauma of disabilities and restore mental health. Now such individuals have a future without limits.

This is the future your government wants for all Albertans. The key to Alberta's success is its people and the vision they have for what this province can become. Our lives today are immeasurably better because Albertans in the past were inspired to look beyond the limits of their times to a vision of unmet needs and a greater future and then act upon it.

A little more than 40 years ago Alberta set out on the road to the modern age under the leadership of people with such foresight. Four decades ago our province was just beginning to find its place in an uncertain, fast changing world. New and untested opportunities glimmered on the horizon, and Alberta's government in 1971 resolved to make the most of them, promising to build "a society that is not inferior to that in any province or state in North America." It succeeded magnificently.

That government set forth with a clear vision for Alberta and fulfilled it but not by playing it safe. Recognizing the need for imaginative new programs, it made bold decisions that built up the province we take for granted today. It nurtured Alberta's energy sector, identifying the oil sands' potential and implementing the policies necessary for its long-term success. To save for future generations, it created the Heritage Fund. Alberta would never have become a global leader without such foresight. This was a government that boldly used an uncertain environment to its advantage, looking beyond the demands of the present to build lasting success and modernize Alberta.

Now, two generations on, Alberta faces fresh challenges. Long-established ways are being called into question, and comfortable assumptions are being examined anew while Albertans themselves are growing older. Your government will not miss the opportunity to reshape Alberta in response.

Alberta's families and businesses have a government that will help them adapt and build a province that present and future generations will be proud of. The actions we take today will help us reach our potential as individual Albertans and as a province. Our time is now, and your government will lead.

Your government will secure this province's economic future at home with smart spending and abroad by improving our competitiveness in global markets. Your government will listen to Albertans, engaging them on the issues that matter to bring about the change they want and need. Together with Albertans your government will make Alberta the best jurisdiction anywhere, based on a thriving economy and a quality of life that is the envy of the world.

Your government will start with the root of success, sound finances. Our main trading partners are struggling with debt and low growth, yet Alberta is in a stronger position. We are heading toward balanced budgets, reliable revenue streams, and strong economic growth.

However, Alberta's current fiscal framework relies too heavily on volatile energy revenue as a source of income. It's time for foundational change. It won't be easy, but it is the right way to better manage the annual unpredictability in the budgeting process. It begins now. Budget 2012 will bring predictable funding on a three-year cycle to education, advanced education, and municipalities. Your government will work with its partners in these areas to allow for greater stability, improved long-term planning and delivery of outcomes.

Your government will also introduce a new budgetary review process that includes a results-based approach, one that will allow for a thorough examination of how public spending is achieving outcomes for Albertans. Your government will examine its entire fiscal framework to ensure it spends Albertans' tax dollars appropriately while saving intelligently for your future and for generations to come. This will include reviews of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust and Sustainability Funds, capital and infrastructure projects, gaming revenue, our operating budget, and income taxes along with reviews of existing programs.

Once in every three-year cycle each part of the government, including agencies, boards, and commissions, will come under the spotlight. Your government will scrutinize all costs and challenge the automatic growth of spending, assigning funds only where they are needed. There must be a disciplined relationship between public expenditures and benefits for Albertans, resulting in no unjustified increases to departmental budgets.

With a new and robust plan linking expenditures to actual outcomes, your government will treat Albertans' money with the same care and respect they do, spending wisely on the services Albertans count on for an outstanding quality of life. Education is one way to protect that standard of living. The nature of work and progress is changing, and as technology advances, the demand for highly skilled, educated workers will increase.

Alberta must be able to succeed and thrive in the global knowledge economy, and that means giving every Albertan the opportunity to benefit from a cutting-edge education from kindergarten to post-secondary so everyone can reach their full potential.

Your government will strengthen Alberta's post-secondary sector, recognizing it as a key driver of a robust knowledge-inspired economy. By enhancing our trade and technology institutes and colleges, this government will help Alberta nurture the most highly skilled and trained workforce anywhere. Through the Building and Educating Tomorrow's Workforce strategy, your government will increase the supply of highly skilled, educated, and innovative people and high-performance work environments that make maximum use of innovation and technology.

Your government will attract the world's top talent to Alberta to contribute to a research agenda that will position this province on the international stage as a leader in helping to solve many of the world's challenges in energy, water, food, health, and improving our quality of life.

Your government will identify strategies to recruit more students from Métis and First Nations communities so they can continue to contribute to Alberta's success and solidify the bonds that sustain their heritage and keep their communities together.

Albertans' quality of life is driven in large part through finding innovative approaches to deliver publicly funded health care. Your government is committed to improving access to primary care for all Albertans. In 2012, building on the success of primary care networks, your government will embark on a plan to expand community-based care through the introduction of family care clinics staffed by multidisciplinary teams of health care professionals. Patients in need of medical attention will be able to get it quickly and easily at publicly funded clinics close to home. Your government will begin with the implementation of three pilot projects this spring.

Expanding access also means enhancing the way allied professionals such as pharmacists, nurses, and nurse practitioners interact with patients, allowing front-line staff to handle more duties and easing pressure on the health care system. Your government will enable health care providers to better meet Albertans' needs through a team-based approach.

Your government has fulfilled its commitment to empower the Alberta Health Quality Council to run an independent inquiry into various aspects of the health care system to make sure it delivers timely, unprejudiced, and equitable outcomes in which Albertans can have confidence.

The strength of the publicly funded health care system of today rests on the foresight and commitment of our local communities. This requires a strong relationship with government that offers communities a meaningful role in long-term planning and coordination of services at the local level. Recognizing this fundamental principle, your government will give local health advisory councils a more active voice and greater input in decisions that impact their communities.

A successful Alberta is one in which every Albertan is empowered to be part of the economic, social, and cultural life of the province. Your government is bringing these values to the services it provides to all Albertans.

Your government will provide seniors with the supports, services, and care they need to remain healthy, happy, and productive. This includes measures to help them stay in the peaceful security of their own homes, surrounded by the warmth of family, for as long as possible.

Your government's commitment to protecting property rights embraces all Albertans. To strengthen those rights, it created a task force that met with Albertans and listened to learn what property rights mean to them. Your government will use Albertans' contributions to make common-sense decisions on this issue.

Your government believes that a vibrant arts and culture scene is vital to the fabric of Alberta's communities, and it will continue to work with partners to keep the sector flourishing. Your government looks forward to engaging constructively with community leaders from diverse cultural and creative organizations to find the best methods of encouraging growth.

Healthy businesses are a crucial part of a strong economy. Your government will work hard to create and maintain the conditions for their success before getting out of the way.

Your government is committed to the development of northern Alberta as a prosperous and attractive place to live, work, and play. It will initiate a comprehensive northern Alberta development strategy to help the region continue to grow and develop in a sustainable manner with an outstanding quality of life. Your government will work creatively with municipalities and industry to address infrastructure challenges. The north is the source of much of our prosperity, so success there is critical for a successful Alberta overall.

A terrific quality of life requires the province to work closely with all municipalities. Your government will continue to build on its long tradition of effective partnership with municipal governments as part of the review of the Municipal Sustainability Initiative. The review will focus on having a streamlined program with increased flexibility, giving municipalities an even greater ability to meet local needs. Your government will continue to work towards establishing three-year funding cycles so municipalities can count on stable, predictable funds.

Municipalities support strong communities, and strong communities are safe communities. Your government will continue its support for anti-gang initiatives while reaching out to at-risk youth to deny organized crime new recruits.

Your government will proudly tell Alberta's story and promote Albertans' vision and actions on the world stage. Your government will better integrate our global strategies as we continue to bolster Alberta's reputation abroad, showcasing our diversity in everything from tourism to arts and culture, education, and trade and investment opportunities, and Albertans can be sure this government will fulfill its role responsibly and honestly.

It will cooperate closely and openly with Ottawa, building on its strong relationship with the Federal Government. A strong Alberta is one that can put aside jurisdictional differences and stand as a proud, committed, and constructive member of Confederation. The Federal Government and the province share much in common, including the desire to give farmers more choice through the dismantling of the Wheat Board and a commitment to bringing down crime through new, more stringent federal legislation. Albertans expect government to work together on their behalf, and your government will not let you down. But in doing this, it will not shy away from standing up for this province. Your government will never hesitate to reiterate Albertans' perspectives at federal, provincial, and territorial levels.

A Canadian energy strategy will play a major role in this effort. Energy is critical to our prosperity, but Alberta must diversify its customer base to achieve the greatest returns. Your government will actively design initiatives to access global markets and assist Canadians and our trading partners in understanding Alberta's energy goals. The infrastructure necessary to get our resources to new markets must cross other jurisdictions, so any expansion will involve various partners at the provincial, national, and international levels. The more we work together to coordinate our efforts, the greater our success and the more prosperity for everyone involved.

The people of this province share a deep love and respect for its environment and natural resources, and your government will develop them responsibly in the interests of all Albertans. Your government will continue to partner with Ottawa to defend Alberta's energy sector and develop an improved oil sands environmental monitoring program that is among the best in the world. Both governments are now standing together behind a plan that is credible, science based, and fully transparent. Your government's action on establishing and reaching key environmental outcomes and sharing its performance with Albertans and the world will leave no doubt of its commitment to these goals.

Albertans know their livelihoods and communities are tied to the land and water we all cherish. They want their children to inherit a province as clean, healthy, and productive as the one they inherited. The twin needs of keeping Alberta beautiful and its economy healthy are not starkly opposed. By investing in emerging technologies, this government will do both.

But our natural resources extend beyond oil and gas. Agriculture is the largest renewable industry in our province, and your government wants it to stay that way. Alberta's rural communities are a critical piece of Alberta's success story. Settlers and farmers founded this province, and their values run deep. Through policy development, advocacy, and programs and services that reinforce market access and economic competitiveness, your government will preserve and expand the legacy they left us, ensuring our farmers are the best in the world. Our prosperity is intimately tied to the strength of rural Alberta, and government will never forget it.

Over 40 years ago a bold government saw the need for sweeping change and rose to the occasion, ushering in a new era of prosperity and progress for Alberta. Now the time has come to bring that spirit and vision into the 21st century. The world is changing faster than ever, and we must stay at the forefront.

Alberta can be proud of rich natural resources, North America's most competitive business environment, and a vibrant technology and innovation sector that helps push human achievement to unparalleled heights. All these advantages rely on the passion and drive of Albertans, who make them possible, and it is Albertans who will always remain the central focus of this government.

It will help all Albertans reach their full potential, setting the stage for future generations to enjoy even greater success. It will revitalize publicly funded health care services to increase access and suit an aging population with diverse needs. It will find new and effective ways to reach out to vulnerable Albertans and make them a part of the province's success story. It will revamp Alberta's education system so all graduates can hit the ground running and contribute more effectively than ever. It will budget for the long term and be rigorous in managing our fiscal framework so all Albertans can count on the services they need for many years to come.

History has shown us that short-term focus can result in long-term problems. Your government will address the root causes of problems rather than just respond to symptoms. Albertans expect better and demand excellence. And so above all, your government will not waver. It will not be deterred from change. Your government will not let you down.

God bless Alberta. God bless Canada. God save the Queen.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and may God bless you all.

The Speaker then invited Mr. Paul Lorieau to lead the Members and guests in the signing of God Save the Queen.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor then retired from the Assembly.

Speaker's Statement - Diamond Jubilee

Honourable Members and ladies and gentlemen, as His Honour has so eloquently advised us, yesterday marked the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II's reign. She became Queen of the United Kingdom and Head of the Commonwealth on February 6, 1952, and was the first Monarch to be styled as such. Commonwealth countries whose head of state was the Queen passed legislation through their respective parliaments to acknowledge the Monarch of the United Kingdom as their own. In 1953 in this country the Royal Style and Titles Act formally conferred upon her the title of Queen of Canada, making her the first of Canada's sovereigns to have this title.

The Diamond Jubilee Central Weekend is scheduled for June 2 through 5 to coincide with the anniversary of her coronation, which took place in Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953.

Queen Victoria was the only other monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee in over 1,200 years of British history. She reigned for 63 years and seven months, with her Diamond Jubilee occurring in 1897. Queen Elizabeth II, hopefully, will reign until September 10, 2015, to reign longer than her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901.

Queen Elizabeth II is the 32nd great-granddaughter of King Alfred the Great, who was the first effective King of England from 871 to 899. She became Queen at the young age of 25. The Queen celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1977 and her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

Her reign of 60 years has seen 12 Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, beginning with Winston Churchill. As Canada's Head of State there have been 11 individuals who served as Prime Minister, and the Province of Alberta has had seven Premiers since 1952.

Queen Elizabeth has visited the Alberta Legislature four times. Her first visit took place in October of 1951 as Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth made the trip in place of her father, King George VI, who was in poor health at the time. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II returned in July of 1959 as part of a 45-day cross-country Canadian tour. The fountain in the rotunda of the Legislature Building is a permanent reminder of that visit. The Queen returned to the Legislature Building in August of 1978 while in Edmonton to celebrate the 11th Commonwealth Games. On May 24, 2005, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II toured the Legislature Grounds and became the first reigning Monarch to address Albertans from the Throne in the Legislative Assembly as Alberta celebrated its centennial.

Please let us all join together to extend our best wishes to Her Majesty on this remarkable occasion and invite all Albertans to celebrate this historic event throughout the coming year.

Tabling Documents

The Speaker informed the Assembly he had obtained a copy of the Speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, which was laid on the Table.

Sessional Paper 1/2012

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Ordered, that the Honourable Ms Redford have leave to introduce a Bill entitled "Results-based Budgeting Act." Hon. Ms Redford accordingly presented the Bill and the same was received and read a First time.

Government Motions

1. Moved by Hon. Ms Redford:

Be it resolved that the Speech of His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration Wednesday, February 8, 2012.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Intersessional Deposits

Pursuant to Standing Order 38.1(3), the following documents were deposited with the Clerk of the Assembly and are deemed to have been laid before the Assembly:

Hon. Mr. Lukaszuk, Minister of Education, pursuant to the Legislative Assembly Act, cL-9, s45 and the Government Accountability Act, cG-7, s14:

Education, Annual Report Update, 2010-2011, deposited on December 22, 2011
Sessional Paper 650/2011

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Minister of Human Services:

Response to Written Question WQ6, asked for by Mr. Chase on March 21, 2011, deposited on January 11, 2012:

How many occupational health and safety *investigation files* has the Ministry of Employment and Immigration sent to *Alberta Justice between 2003 and 2010 for its review to determine whether the evidence supports laying charges?*

Sessional Paper 651/2011

Hon. Mr. Weadick, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology:

Return to Order of the Assembly MR21, asked for by Dr. Taft on December 5, 2011, deposited on January 12, 2012:

A copy of all internal documents that show the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology's rationale for approving a deficit budget for the University of Calgary in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Sessional Paper 652/2011

Hon. Mr. Lukaszuk, Minister of Education:

Response to Written Question WQ14, asked for by Mr. Hehr on May 9, 2011, deposited on February 6, 2011:

How many appeals were filed in Alberta concerning the assessments and supports provided to special needs students in each of the years 2005-2010 and how many of these appeals were successful?

Sessional Paper 653/2011

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:55 p.m. until Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Tuesday, February 7, 2012