



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Eighth Legislature

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

This being the first Day of the First Session of the Twenty-Eighth 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 8th day of May 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. EHELL,
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 deemed expedient for certain
causes and considerations to convene the
Legislative Assembly of Our Province of
Alberta for the First Session of the Twenty-
eighth Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and
each of you, and all others in this behalf

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

interested, on Wednesday, the 23rd day of May 2012, at the hour of 1:30 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 8th day of May in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twelve and in the Sixty-first Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

JONATHAN DENIS,
Provincial Secretary.

The Members, having previously been duly sworn in by His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and having subscribed to the Roll containing the Oath, took their seats.

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

Statement by the Provincial Secretary

The Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Denis, then said:

Honourable Members, I am commanded by His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that he does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning of the present Legislature of this Province until the Speaker of the Assembly shall have been chosen according to law.

He therefore is pleased to retire from this Assembly, to return at a subsequent hour tomorrow, to declare the causes of his calling of this Legislature.

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

Election of Speaker

The Clerk advised the House that nominations were open, and the following Members were nominated and allowed their names to stand for the position of Speaker:

Mr. Zwozdesky, nominated by Mr. Quest;

Ms Blakeman, nominated by Mr. Hehr.

Receiving no additional nominations, the Clerk declared nominations closed.

Ballots were completed by the Members.

The Clerk, Table Officers, and Sergeant-at-Arms retired from the Chamber to count the ballots.

Election Results

The Clerk then announced the following:

The results of the first ballot for the election of the Speaker are as follows: the number of ballots cast, 86; the number of spoiled ballots, 1; the number of votes required to achieve the 50 percent plus one majority, 44; the Member having received the majority of votes cast, Mr. Zwozdesky. Mr. Zwozdesky is hereby declared Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the 28th Legislature.

Speaker's Address to the Assembly

The Speaker donned his robe. The Speaker thanked the Assembly for the honour conferred upon him with the following speech:

Thank you, Honourable Members. I'm both humbled and privileged by your support, and I will do my very utmost to ensure that we maintain that level of support in the Assembly. I will comment more on that at a later time.

Let me just say very quickly that I have four or five main areas of focus that I would like to leave with you to ponder over the next couple of days.

Number one is to be as impartial as I possibly can in the delivery of my duties with which you have charged me today. Number two is to maintain and where possible improve the civility and decorum in this House that we all know, love, and respect. Number three, to encourage more community interest and participation in Legislature proceedings and Legislature events. Number four, to increase student learning about the workings of government, the opposition, the democratic process, and the work in general that you do as MLAs. Number five, to help promote as positive an image as possible of our beloved province, Alberta, both nationally and internationally and, of course, locally. I'll be pursuing other priorities as well, and we'll get to those at a later time in some of my comments.

I want to thank the Honourable Member for Edmonton-Centre for putting her name forward. Laurie, we've known each other a long time, and somehow I just know that if I need help, it'll be there. So thank you for that.

I also want to thank our outgoing Speaker, Mr. Ken Kowalski. He did a truly outstanding job, and I could make an impromptu speech here for many, many minutes just on his role. But we will thank him at another time and in a more appropriate way than today's time allows. In any event, more comments soon to come.

The Speaker then took the Chair and the Sergeant-at-Arms placed the Mace on the Table. The Speaker delivered the prayer.

Let us pray each of us in our own way. Dear God, our great Creator and author of all wisdom, on this day of a new beginning we ask for Your guidance in the responsibility we have undertaken and Your help in fulfilling our duties. As Members of this Legislative Assembly may we faithfully serve all Albertans and, in serving them, serve You. Amen.

Election of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees

The Speaker advised the House that nominations were open, and the following Members were nominated and allowed their names to stand for the position of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees:

Mr. Rogers, nominated by Dr. Brown;

Ms Blakeman, nominated by Dr. Swann.

Receiving no additional nominations, the Speaker declared nominations closed.

Ballots were completed by the Members.

The Clerk, Table Officers, and Sergeant-at-Arms retired from the Chamber to count the ballots.

Election Results

The Clerk then announced the following:

The results of the first ballot for the election of the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees are as follows: the number of ballots cast, 85; the number of spoiled ballots, 1; the number of votes required to achieve the 50 percent plus one majority, 44; the Member having received the majority of votes cast, Mr. Rogers. Mr. Rogers is hereby declared Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly for the 28th Legislature.

Mr. Rogers thanked the Assembly for electing him Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees.

Election of Deputy Chair of Committees

The Speaker advised the House that nominations were open, and the following Member was nominated and allowed her name to stand for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees:

Mrs. Jablonski, nominated by Hon. Mr. Dallas.

Receiving no additional nominations, the Speaker declared Mrs. Jablonski Deputy Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly for the 28th Legislature.

Mrs. Jablonski thanked the Assembly for electing her Deputy Chair of Committees.

The Speaker made some closing remarks.

Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned at 2:44 p.m. until Thursday, May 24, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

Hon. Gene Zwozdesky,
Speaker

Title: Wednesday May 23, 2012