



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 2

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Eighth Legislature

Monday, May 28, 2012

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

Speaker's Statement – Personal Credo

Honourable Members, I'd like to take three minutes before we begin the rest of our Daily Routine. On April 23, 2012, 87 of us were given a very special and a very rare honour to serve as MLAs in this Assembly. Thirty-eight of you are brand new Members and have been given that honour for the first time. I will remind you again that since 1905 only 829 Albertans have been given this honour. History will show that many of those MLAs were honoured again and yet again in their subsequent bids for re-election while others were not, and it causes one to wonder why. Therefore, if you feel like I do, that it truly is an honour to serve in this Assembly – and I'm sure you all do – and that we all ought to respect that honour through our words and actions – and I'm sure you all do – then I would ask you to consider developing a personal credo.

The word “credo,” as you will know, comes from the Latin language, and it means a system of beliefs and principles. It's a credo that I hope will serve you as your personal guide, your statement of commitment to yourself, as it were, to your colleagues, to your constituents, and to this Assembly. I ask you to do this in order to help establish a new atmosphere in this Chamber, one that is respectful of each other, of our parliamentary traditions, and of our Standing Orders.

We are all very aware of the numerous letters, e-mails, and phone calls that pour into the Speaker's office when Members misbehave, use unparliamentary language, rudely interrupt each other, deliver speeches that are nothing more than character assassinations, and the list goes on. Your Speaker believes we can, we must, and we will do better.

I ask you to construct your own personal credo so that it becomes your written conscience and reflects who you are and perhaps even more importantly how you want others to see you. For example, the letter “c” in your credo could stand for civility. The letter “r” could stand for respect. The letter “e” could stand for equality. The letter “d” for decorum, and the letter “o” for openness. I know that each of you is very creative and that you could come up with your own c, r, e, d, o. I invite you to do that, please. Your credo will symbolize the mark you wish to make in this Assembly. Please create it and refer to it before you speak and act in this Assembly and try not to be swayed by external influences that would have you stray from your own personal credo.

Honourable Members, it’s time to clean up our act in this Assembly. It’s also time to show Albertans that they have elected representatives in this Assembly who are truly worthy of the honour that has been bestowed upon each one of us. The opportunity is now, and it has been placed in your hands.

In closing, I can assure you that as your Speaker I fully understand and I fully support freedom of speech and that I am prepared to offer and afford considerable leeway in this regard. I can also assure you that as your Speaker I will not be very tolerant of words and actions that violate the long-standing decency and decorum for which this Assembly was first established over 100 years ago. Thank you for your attention, hopefully also for your anticipated cooperation in this regard.

Speaker’s Statement – Rotation of Oral Question Period and Members’ Statements

Honourable Members, before we carry on with Members’ Statements, it’s important for me to outline the rotation that will apply for Oral Question Period and for Members’ Statements. Late Friday afternoon, the Speaker’s office received a document signed by all four House Leaders on the rotation of Oral Questions and of Members’ Statements. At the appropriate time in the Routine I would invite the Government House Leader to table that document. I will ensure that the rotation outlined in that document is then distributed to all Members.

Meanwhile, I want to state that the contents of that document, which I have accepted as an agreement to proceed, will be an agreement for the benefit of everyone following these proceedings and for the permanent record of this Assembly. Flowing from the agreement, the Official Opposition is entitled to the first three main questions each day. The Liberal caucus is entitled to the fourth question and the ND caucus to the fifth. The Official Opposition is entitled to the sixth, and private Government Members are entitled to the seventh question. The Official Opposition is entitled to ask the eighth, 12th, 14th and 16th questions.

On days one and three in the Assembly schedule, the Official Opposition is entitled to ask the 18th question. Should Oral Question Period proceed that far, the Official Opposition will be entitled to ask the 20th and 21st questions. In the past few years about 18 or 19 sets of questions have typically been asked each day. After the fourth question each day, the third party Liberal caucus will be entitled to the 10th question. On day four in the schedule the Liberal caucus will be entitled to the 18th question. As indicated, the ND caucus will be entitled to the fifth question and to the 11th question each day.

After the seventh question each day, Government Members will be entitled to the ninth, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, and should we get there, the 22nd question. On Day two, Government Members will be entitled to the 18th question as well. With respect to Members' Statements, the rotation differs from the one that my office sent out on Thursday, May 24, 2012, as the House Leaders' Agreement arrived late Friday afternoon, May 25th.

Under the agreement Government Members will be entitled to four statements on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and three statements on Wednesday. The Official Opposition will be entitled to two Members' Statements on Tuesday and Wednesday and one on Monday and Thursday. The third party Liberals will be entitled to one statement on Monday and Thursday, and one Member of the ND caucus will have the opportunity to make a statement each Wednesday. Under the agreement the ND caucus is entitled to an additional Member's Statement every third week. The Liberal caucus has one fewer Member's Statement every fourth week. Adjustments will be made to the number of Government Members' statements accordingly.

I want to briefly comment on the conduct of Oral Question Period. Members asking a question will be entitled to a main question and two supplementary questions. There should not be preambles to the supplementary questions. However, in keeping with the practice of the last Legislature, questions and answers should be no longer than 35 seconds each. The Chair will enforce this time to enable the maximum number of Members possible to participate in the Question Period. In keeping with a level of civility and decorum that I referenced earlier, it would be helpful if answers to questions were responsive.

With respect to Members' Statements, I want Members to know that they will continue to enjoy great leeway when it comes to this item of business. Members' Statements provides an opportunity in the Daily Routine for Members to recognize people, organizations, or events in their constituencies and for those words to be recorded in Hansard. It is also a time for Members to comment on whatever issues they choose. However, it will not be an occasion for Members to engage in unparliamentary language or to disparage other Members, as I indicated earlier. I was a Member in 1993 when this item of business was introduced into the Daily Routine, and it was never the intention to have Members make derogatory allegations against other Members.

Members' Statements

Mrs. Sarich, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, made a statement regarding Primary Care Network Edmonton North launching the Stepping Up! Pedometer Challenge as part of its fifth anniversary celebrations.

Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie, made a statement regarding Shen Yun artists not being permitted to perform at the Southern and Northern Jubilee Auditoriums.

Ms Fenske, Hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, made a statement regarding the high definition CT scanner at the new Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital.

Ms Kennedy-Glans, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, made a statement regarding the 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award recipients.

Dr. Starke, Hon. Member for Vermillion-Lloydminster, made a statement regarding Lloydminster hosting Hockey Day in Canada in February 2013.

Mr. Hehr, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo, made a statement regarding income taxation or user-pay systems to fund services instead of natural resource revenue.

Privilege - Media Briefing

Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, gave oral notice of her intention to raise a purported question of privilege under Standing Order 15 regarding the Government's decision to provide a briefing on Bill 1, Worker's Compensation Amendment Act, 2012, to members of the media without providing a similar briefing to Members of the Opposition.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie:

E-mail message dated May 5, 2012, from Nina Nath to Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie, regarding difficulties facing people with disabilities and seniors and urging the leaders of the country to consider the input of people with disabilities and seniors before making and implementing decisions

Sessional Paper 2/2012

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader:

E-mail message dated May 25, 2012, from Sherry Kozak, Assistant to the Executive Director of House Procedures and Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Premier, to Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, attaching documents entitled "Final - Question Period Rotation" and "Final Members' Statements Rotation" signed by each of the House Leaders

Sessional Paper 3/2012

Mr. Hehr, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo:

Macleans.ca web site article dated January 11, 2011, entitled “Stuck in traffic”
Sessional Paper 4/2012

Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie:

Copy of a petition signed by approximately 1,000 Edmonton and area residents urging the Premier to reinstate the Shen Yun show dates in 2013 at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium and to ensure the concerns raised by the Falun Dafa Association of Calgary are addressed so that Shen Yun will return to Calgary
Sessional Paper 5/2012

Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Legislative Assembly Act, cL-9, s39(3):

Revised Members’ Services Committee Order No. MSC 01/12, Executive Council Salaries Amendment Order (No. 07)
Sessional Paper 6/2012

Revised Members’ Services Committee Order No. MSC 02/12, Members’ Allowances Amendment Order (No. 22)
Sessional Paper 7/2012

Revised Members’ Services Committee Order No. MSC 03/12, Members’ Committee Allowances Amendment Order (No. 08)
Sessional Paper 8/2012

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

MLA Compensation Review – Alberta, May 2012 Report, prepared by the Honourable J.C. Major, CC, QC
Sessional Paper 9/2012

Tablings to the Clerk

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

Pursuant to the Metis Settlement Act, cM-14, s211(2), Metis Settlements Appeal Tribunal, Annual Report 2011
Sessional Paper 10/2012

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Horner, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance:

Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation Alberta, 2011 Annual Report
Sessional Paper 11/2012

Privilege - Media Briefing

Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, raised a purported question of privilege under Standing Order 15 regarding the Government's decision to provide a briefing on Bill 1, Worker's Compensation Amendment Act, 2012, to members of the media without providing a similar briefing to Members of the Opposition.

The Speaker heard from Ms Notley, Hon. Mr. Hancock, Ms Blakeman, and Mr. Anderson.

The Speaker advised that he would review the arguments raised and make further comments at a later date.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Hancock requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 8(1) in order to proceed to Government business.

Government Motions

8. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock on behalf of Hon. Mr. Denis:

Be it resolved that the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta be amended as follows:

1. Standing Order 52(1)(b) is amended by striking out "17 Members" and substituting "21 Members".
2. Standing Order 52.01 is amended by striking out suborder (1) and substituting the following:
 - (1) At the commencement of the first session of each Legislature, 3 Legislative Policy Committees, consisting of 25 Members each, shall be established to consider the following subject areas:
 - (a) Standing Committee on Families and Communities – mandate related to the areas of Health, Human Services, Justice and Solicitor General, Culture, Education, and Service Alberta;
 - (b) Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future – mandate related to the areas of Agriculture and Rural Development, Aboriginal Relations, International and Intergovernmental Relations, Enterprise and Advanced Education, Tourism, Parks and Recreation, and Infrastructure;
 - (c) Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship – mandate related to the areas of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Transportation, Municipal Affairs, Treasury Board and Finance, and Energy.
3. The Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are amended by striking out "Policy Field" wherever it occurs and substituting "Legislative Policy".

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

9. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

Be it resolved that the following Members be appointed to the Assembly's three Legislative Policy Committees:

Standing Committee on Families and Communities (25 Members)

Pastoor (Chair)	Jeneroux	Notley
Forsyth (Deputy Chair)	Johnson (Calgary-Glenmore)	Pedersen
Allen	Kang	Sarich
DeLong	Kubinec	Saskiw
Fox	Lemke	Swann
Fraser	Leskiw	Wilson
Fritz	Luan	Young
Jablonski	McAllister	Vacant
Jansen		

Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future (25 Members)

Amery (Chair)	Hehr	Sandhu
Bikman (Deputy Chair)	Jansen	Sherman
Bhardwaj	Luan	Smith
Blakeman	McDonald	Starke
Donovan	Olesen	Strankman
Dorward	Quadri	Towle
Eggen	Quest	Young
Fenske	Rogers	Vacant
Goudreau		

Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship (25 Members)

Kennedy-Glans (Chair)	Cao	Lemke
Rowe (Deputy Chair)	Casey	Leskiw
Anderson	Fenske	Sandhu
Anglin	Fraser	Stier
Barnes	Hale	Webber
Bilous	Hehr	Xiao
Blakeman	Johnson (Calgary-Glenmore)	Young
Brown	Kubinec	Vacant
Calahasen		

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

10. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock on behalf of Hon. Mr. Denis:

Be it resolved that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts:

Kang	Stier	Webber
Starke		

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

Moved by Ms Olesen and seconded by Mr. Luan:

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

To His Honour Colonel (Retired) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, OC, OMM, AOE, MSC, CD, LLD, 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 Motions

11. Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

- A. Be it resolved that the Assembly approve in principle the recommendations of the Review of Compensation of Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta (“the Report”) submitted by the Honourable J.C. Major, CC, QC, and refer the Report to the Special Standing Committee on Members’ Services (“the Committee”) for implementation where possible by June 30, 2012, subject to the following exceptions:
- a) that Recommendation 4 regarding salary for the Premier not be implemented but that the Committee implement a salary that reflects a differential of +25% between the Premier’s salary and that of a Minister with Portfolio;
 - b) that Recommendation 10 concerning the expense portion of a Member’s remuneration, known as the tax-free allowance, not be implemented and that the amount of that expense allowance be set at zero, pending an amendment to the Legislative Assembly Act to eliminate it;
 - c) that Recommendation 11 regarding the implementation of a new Transition Allowance be rejected and that no further amounts shall be accumulated beyond those accrued by eligible Members prior to the commencement of the 28th Legislature;
 - d) that the Committee examine alternatives to the pension plan for Members proposed in Recommendation 12 and discussed in section 3.5 of the Report, including defined contribution plans, and report to the Assembly with its recommendations;
- B. Be it resolved that nothing in this Motion shall limit the Committee’s ability to report to the Assembly on any other matter arising from the Report.

A debate followed.

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

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor’s Speech

Moved by Ms Olesen and seconded by Mr. Luan:

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

To His Honour Colonel (Retired) the Honourable Donald S. Ethell, OC, OMM, AOE, MSC, CD, LLD, 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. Horner moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 5:52 p.m. until Tuesday, May 29, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Gene Zwozdesky,
Speaker

Title: Monday, May 28, 2012