



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 5

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Eighth Legislature

Thursday, May 31, 2012

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

Speaker's Statement - Member for Lesser Slave Lake

Honourable Members, today marks a very special day in our Assembly because today one Honourable Member – specifically the one from Lesser Slave Lake – has achieved an important milestone. As of today she becomes the longest-serving female Member in the history of our Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

As we all know, on April 23, 2012, this Honourable Member was elected to her seventh term of office, serving a total of 8,474 days, or 23 years, two months, and 11 days. The Honourable Member thereby now surpasses Cornelia Wood, a former Member for Stony Plain, who served from March 21, 1940, to June 29, 1955, had a break in service and then served again from June 18, 1959, to May 23, 1967. The Honourable Member for Lesser Slave Lake has served continually since March 20, 1989.

She is also the first Métis woman ever elected to this Assembly, and I know she's proud of it. The Honourable Member developed the first native language program that was introduced to Alberta schools, and she worked to establish education policy and curriculum to further strengthen Alberta's First Nations and Métis communities. She was responsible for developing the Cree language program for adult students.

She has tirelessly advocated for and spoken out on behalf of her constituents, as recently evidenced during the 2011 fire in Slave Lake. In addition to serving on numerous committees throughout her legislative career, she also has served as a Minister Without Portfolio responsible for children's services, the Associate Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

The Honourable Member has been honoured many times over the years for her tireless work for her community, including being presented with the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Public Service, the Esquao Circle of Honour Award, and the Aboriginal Role Model Award.

This milestone is a testament to the Member for Lesser Slave Lake's steadfastness and endurance. In fact, out of the 829 members who have served in this Assembly since 1905, only 16 other Members have ever served seven or more terms. The Honourable Member for Lesser Slave Lake becomes the 17th Member to do so.

She is also the honorary Chief of Paul Cree First Nation, an honorary member of Kapawe'no First Nation, and she was inducted into the Blackfoot Women's Society.

For that and on behalf of all Albertans we will thank her in a moment. Let me just say, (remarks in Cree) today is a great day. Honourable Members, join me in recognizing this wonderful milestone. Honourable Member, I'll ask you to rise and receive their thanks.

Members' Statements

Mr. Dorward, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, made a statement regarding a partnership between Braemar School and the Terra Centre to assist young mothers with their education, and their establishment of the Learner's Bursary Program.

Dr. Swann, Hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, made a statement regarding the need for occupational health and safety and workers' compensation protection for paid farm workers.

Mrs. Sarich, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, made a statement regarding the Dream Speakers Film Festival to be held in Edmonton from June 1-4, 2012.

Mr. Fraser, Hon. Member for Calgary-South East, made a statement recognizing May 31, 2012, as World No Tobacco Day.

Mr. Pedersen, Hon. Member for Medicine Hat, made a statement regarding the need for addiction services and programs in the Medicine Hat area.

Hon. Mr. Denis, Deputy Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 7(7) in order to complete the Daily Routine.

Ms DeLong, Hon. Member for Calgary-Bow, made a statement recognizing June 1-4, 2012, as Seniors' Week.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Notice having been given:

Bill 202 Public Lands (Grasslands Preservation) Amendment Act, 2012 —
Mrs. Jablonski on behalf of Dr. Brown

Speaker's Statement - Tabling Documents

Honourable Members, before we recognize anyone under this item in the Routine, I would like to correct the record in connection with the first document that was purportedly tabled yesterday by the Leader of the Official Opposition. As noted in Hansard at page 92, the Opposition Leader refers to her tabling as "a letter from Ken Kowalski indicating the Members who were on the no-meet committee, the Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing."

However, there was in fact no letter tabled from Mr. Kowalski. Rather, the documents that were tabled are as follows: a document dated May 30, 2012, on the letterhead of the Leader of the Official Opposition titled "PC Members of Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing Re-elected on May 23, 2012," and attached to that document was a letter dated March 9, 2012, from the former Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo to Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, regarding Mr. Boutilier's assignment to that committee. These documents have been recorded in the official records of the Assembly as Sessional Papers 16/2012 and 17/2012, and are described in the Votes and Proceedings as outlined above.

Honourable Members are just reminded that they must take due care to be accurate and succinct when describing the documents that they are in fact tabling since these become official records of the Assembly. Accordingly, this error has been corrected.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Mr. Denis, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General:

Letter dated May 31, 2012, from O. Brian Fjeldheim, Chief Electoral Officer, to Hon. Mr. Denis, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, responding to Hon. Mr. Denis's letter dated May 29, 2012, inviting Mr. Fjeldheim to provide recommendations for increasing openness and transparency in the legislation administered by the Chief Electoral Office

Sessional Paper 25/2012

Mr. Eggen, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder:

Information report dated May 8, 2012, from Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools, Edmonton Public Schools, to the board of trustees regarding allocations for students with moderate and severe educational needs

Sessional Paper 26/2012

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, on behalf of Dr. Swann, Hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View:

Document, undated, entitled "Vulnerable Mentally Ill Thwarted by Redford's Government," prepared by Twila Riopel

Sessional Paper 27/2012

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

City of Edmonton website article entitled "2012 Property Taxes FAQ"

Sessional Paper 28/2012

Reprint of a Globe and Mail article dated April 12, 2012, entitled "Looking for the Nenshi effect on Alberta's campaign trail"

Sessional Paper 29/2012

Document, undated, responding to a statement made by Hon. Mr. Horne, Minister of Health, in the Assembly on May 28, 2012, regarding standards in long-term care facilities, and outlining several accommodation and personal care standard violations at the Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre prepared by Bev Munro

Sessional Paper 30/2012

Mr. Saskiw, Hon. Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills:

E-mail message dated May 31, 2012, from Drew Westwater, Director, Election Operations and Communications, to Bill Bewick, Director of Policy and Research, Wildrose Caucus, regarding Elections Alberta's interpretation of section 5(4) of the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act

Sessional Paper 31/2012

Mr. Pedersen, Hon. Member for Medicine Hat:

Map of Alberta entitled "Residential Detox and Treatment Facilities in Alberta March 2010"

Sessional Paper 32/2012

Mr. Anderson, Hon. Member for Airdrie:

Copy of a petition signed by several thousand people urging the Minister of Culture to request a written apology and agreement from the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium regarding an orchestra net for all Shen Yun performances

Sessional Paper 33/2012

Projected Government Business

Hon. Mr. Campbell, Deputy Government House Leader, advised that in anticipation of the Assembly adjourning later this day, there was no projected Government business to report.

Speaker's Ruling - Points of Order

Honourable Members, yesterday a number of points of order were raised during Oral Question Period. On a point of order raised by the Government House Leader in response to comments made by the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills, the Chair deferred making a decision yesterday so that he could review it through the night. The Chair has since had an opportunity to review the Hansard and the context in which the remarks were made.

The two questions posed by the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills which caused the Government House Leader to rise on a point of order are found at page 86 of yesterday's Hansard and are as follows:

Given the Premier made a funding announcement to Mount Royal right before the election and then during the election the Premier's picture appeared on the cover of their alumni magazine together with a puff piece, is it fair to say that Albertans should be concerned about this obvious unethical conflict of interest?

Given that the Premier herself is at the core of the problem by passing a law that makes convicted political parties unaccountable to Albertans and now that her own riding has accepted illegal donations, how can Albertans believe that the Premier ...

These were comments made by the particular Member. In speaking to his point of order, the Government House Leader stated that the question violated Standing Order 23(h), (i) and (j) and other authorities.

The authors of House of Commons Procedure and Practice, second edition, state at page 614:

Remarks directed specifically at another Member which question that Member's integrity, honesty or character are not in order. A Member will be requested to withdraw offensive remarks, allegations, or accusations of impropriety directed towards another Member.

The same authority also provides at pages 502 and 503 that, "A question should not ... reflect on the character or conduct of ... Members of the House."

Members may also wish to refer to the December 4, 2007, ruling by Speaker Kowalski at pages 2391 and 92 of Hansard for that day in which the Speaker found that a Member who had alleged the then Premier had involvement with accepting illegal campaign donations to be out of order and required the remarks withdrawn.

In speaking to the point of order yesterday at page 94 of Hansard, the Official Opposition House Leader denied that his colleague was saying that the Premier did anything illegal, but, rather, it was her constituency association. First, I think the Opposition House Leader is trying skillfully to avoid the inescapable conclusion that the Member is creating the impression that the Premier is doing something illegal. Second, if the question really was about the funding of the constituency association then it was clearly out of order.

The authorities are clear. The Chair would refer Members to Beauchesne's, sixth edition, paragraphs 409(6), 410(5), 410(17), and to the House of Commons Procedure and Practice, second edition, at pages 501 to 503 on these points. For instance, Beauchesne's, sixth edition states at paragraph 410(17), "Ministers may not be questioned with respect to their party responsibilities."

In fact, the Chair cautioned the Member on this point after the Member's main question in this same sequence. The primary purpose of questions in Oral Question Period is to seek information from the Government about Government programs, Government services, Government funding, Government policies, and other Government issues that call the Government to account for its actions as a Government. Oral questions involving party matters or party responsibilities do not come within the administrative authority of the Government. As such, they have no place in Question Period.

While the Chair is aware that it is only the fourth day of regular business in our 28th Legislature and that many new Members are adjusting to their roles, allegations of this nature against another Member of this Assembly are simply not acceptable and they will not be tolerated. The Chair finds a point of order with respect to the allegations made against the Premier and also finds a point of order based on the fact that these questions dealt with party, not Government responsibilities. Members must therefore be reminded that that they can and will be called to order if they violate the Standing Orders, which you have all pledged to uphold and abide by, or if they violate parliamentary traditions and authorities, such as I have alluded to in Beauchesne's or Erskine May or Montpetit or the House of Commons Procedure and Practice or any of our other revered books of tradition, as was done yesterday.

As such, the Chair will now recognize the Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills and invite him to do the honourable thing and withdraw his remarks.

The Member for Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills withdrew his remarks.

Speaker's Statement - Pages of the Assembly

The Speaker read a letter from the Pages who would not be returning for the next sitting of the Legislature. The Deputy Speaker made some remarks then presented the departing Pages with a gift.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

(Day 3)

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.

Mr. Quadri moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to. With Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky in the Chair, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the motion: 33

Amery	Horner	Quadri
Bhardwaj	Jansen	Quest
Calahasen	Jeneroux	Rodney
Campbell	Johnson (Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater)	Rogers
Cao	Kennedy-Glans	Sarich
Casey	Kubinec	Scott
Dallas	Luan	VanderBurg
DeLong	McDonald	Weadick
Denis	McIver	Webber
Dorward	Olesen	Xiao
Fraser	Olson	Young

Against the motion: 17

Anglin	Fox	Saskiw
Barnes	Hale	Stier
Bilous	McAllister	Strankman
Blakeman	Pastoor	Towle
Donovan	Pedersen	Wilson
Eggen	Rowe	

Speaker's Statement - Order and Decorum

Honourable Members, just before the House rises at the end of the first sitting of the 28th Legislature, the Chair finds it necessary to offer two minutes of brief reflections on decorum and parliamentary behaviour. As noted in my comments on Monday, I encouraged all of you to adopt your own personal credo to serve as a guide as you fulfill your duties as Members to the constituents you serve and to your colleagues and to this Assembly. The long-standing tradition of respect, dignity, and honour for each other and this institution must be maintained.

We have had a productive first few days in this House but I know we can do even better. Realizing that 38 of you are new to parliamentary procedure and protocol, the Chair offered considerable leeway in various aspects of the proceedings of the House. Nonetheless, the Chair would like to offer Members a few friendly reminders before the Assembly adjourns for the summer. Number one, Members should always speak through the Chair. Number two, preambles will not be permitted on supplementary questions during Oral Question Period. Number three, Members are not permitted to refer to the absence of another Member. Number four, Members should not refer to other Members by their proper names. They should use their constituency names or their Ministerial titles. Number five, when a Member comments about a document that is about to be tabled, the Member should be brief and should accurately describe the document in no more than one or two sentences to avoid taking up precious time of the House. Number six, when introducing guests, which is important to all of us, I would ask you to please be very brief to allow the maximum number to be introduced.

Also, with respect to the rotation, several notes were sent up to the Chair yesterday and again today, and it concerns in what order we speak or don't speak and so on. Please understand that there is no specified order in our rules that dictates how this should go, but there is a respected tradition to alternate between the Government Member or Minister and an Opposition Member and going back and forth and to and fro, but the Chair can only be as effective as the information with which he or she is provided when chairing. I have asked before to receive speaking lists of Members who wish to speak, and we do our best to include them. Today was an example where we had one list from one particular side, and we did not for some reason have the list written out on the other side. We're looking at that. I've met with some of the House Leaders and spoken with them about it. Please keep that in mind.

Also, please know that today the Chair did allow some leeway to go back to a Member who had been skipped over because of circumstances, and we had a similar circumstance yesterday when we had some health issues that arose with a couple of people. So we allowed some of those speeches to be made. The Chair will continue to be lenient in that respect, and you will find that it will work for your advantage as well as for others' advantage from time to time.

Members should also be aware that when we are in the Assembly, Members must take their seat and should not move freely about the Chamber. Again, we realize that there are new Members here who are here for the first time who don't know all these rules, so we've permitted some leeway. The Sergeant-at-Arms also permitted some leeway. You are permitted to move freely about the Chamber during Committee of the Whole or Committee of Supply or any of the committees. That's when the Chair leaves the Throne, as it's called, the dais, and the Deputy Chair takes over at the Clerk's Table here. At that point you're free to move around. You're free to go and sit at other people's desks and chat with your colleagues and discuss world affairs. Remember that.

If you wish to speak to your colleagues in any event, please use the chamber outside to do that. We have excellent services also that are provided by Pages, who would be happy to send notes back and forth to other colleagues.

Finally, the Chair would like all Members to do a little bit of parliamentary homework, please, over the summer, since there have been some transgressions this week in connection with statements uttered that amount to serious allegations against other Members both during Question Period and also during Members' Statements. I would ask you to review in your good conscience what the purpose of Members' Statements really is. It is not an opportunity to stand up and deride or throw derogatory comments at another Member. That is not what it's all about.

Finally, we are all referred to as Honourable Members and the basis of the word honourable is integrity and respect. There is little point in you arriving at orders for the House, called Standing Orders, or having rules or guidelines in parliamentary books and traditions, if you aren't prepared to abide by them yourselves.

The Speaker's job as with the Deputy Speaker's job and the Deputy Chair's job is simply to enforce your rules and the long-standing parliamentary traditions that have guided hundreds of others across this great country.

Adjournment

Pursuant to Government Motion 7 agreed to by the Assembly on May 29, 2012, and Standing Order 3(4)(b), the Assembly adjourned at 4:30 p.m. until Monday, October 29, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Gene Zwozdesky,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, May 31, 2012