



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 74

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Eighth Legislature

Thursday, November 28, 2013

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

Speaker's Statement

The Speaker invited Hon. Mr. Alward, Premier of New Brunswick, into the Chamber pursuant to Government Motion 46 approved by the Assembly on November 21, 2013.

Premier's Statement

Hon. Ms Redford, Premier, made a brief statement introducing Hon. Mr. Alward, Premier of New Brunswick, and invited him to address the Assembly. Hon. Ms Redford also introduced Dallas McCready, Deputy Minister of Executive Council, and Yvon Long, Deputy Chief of Staff, Government of New Brunswick.

Address by Hon. David Alward, Premier of New Brunswick

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Premier, Honourable Members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Premier Redford, for the warm welcome and the kind introduction. It's an honour for me to be the first New Brunswick Premier to address the people of Alberta in their House. En tant que Premier ministre de la seule province officiellement bilingue au Canada, je dis bonjour aux Franco-Albertains de la part des Acadiens et des Brayons du Nouveau-Brunswick.

As you know, New Brunswickers were honoured to welcome Premier Redford in June and to have the opportunity to hear her vision for building a strong national economy that can support jobs in our communities, progressive provinces, and a more prosperous Canada. As a fellow Premier and as a Canadian, I am energized by Premier's Redford's leadership. She's a nation-builder, and it's truly an honour to work with her to move Canada forward.

I was one of the many Canadians across our incredible country that was moved on election night when Premier Redford stated her vision of a strong Alberta within a strong Canada. When we speak about strengthening Canada through smart and responsible resource development, we must never lose track of what we're really speaking about: jobs in our communities all over our country. Projects like the Energy East Pipeline will translate into thousands of jobs in communities across Canada.

New Brunswick and Alberta are provinces built on natural resource development and we believe our future growth and prosperity depends on our ability to responsibly develop our resources and access new markets. In order to achieve this vision together, governments across our country must work together to forge a Canadian energy strategy. Again, I applaud the leadership of Premier Redford and what she has shown across our country in advocating a truly national strategy that can drive Canada's future growth and prosperity.

Last month the Canadian Chamber of Commerce released a report that shows how our lack of energy infrastructure at a national level is hindering our success in energy markets at a rate of \$50 million per day. This translates, very literally, into reduced investment, fewer jobs, and lost revenues for governments at all levels to invest in the priorities of our citizens. This is the stark reality that drives our belief that projects like the Energy East Pipeline will be as important to Canada's future growth and prosperity as the national railways construction was in our past.

Tidewater is key to accessing these new and, in some cases, emerging markets from Europe and Asia. New Brunswick offers the most direct, reliable, and proven access to these world-wide markets through the port of St. John, the deepest ice-free port on the east coast of North America. Let me be clear as well: New Brunswick favours a one-project, one-review approach to the Energy East Pipeline Project.

We recognize that the regulation of an inter-provincial energy pipeline falls under the jurisdiction of the National Energy Board. To date, TransCanada has completed seven open houses in various New Brunswick communities and will hold two more in December.

As a government we will continue to work in co-operation with the provinces of Alberta and Quebec, as well as Canada's oil and gas producers. Together, I'm convinced that we will achieve our common goal to safely and efficiently move crude oil and natural gas from western Canada to the east coast for refining, value-added upgrading, and shipment to international markets in the Atlantic basin and beyond.

Some of you may not realize this but New Brunswick is Canada's most export-driven province. Energy exports include refined petroleum products, electricity, and significant amounts of natural gas from both domestic and international sources including export from Canaport LNG, Canada's first and only LNG terminal. Our province's annual energy exports currently exceed \$10 billion, a significant economic and trade threshold for a province of just under 750,000 people.

New Brunswick provides key export advantages including the port of St. John, which has safely and efficiently handled the largest crude oil and LNG carriers in the world for decades. We also are home to the Irving Oil refinery, Canada's largest and most modern refinery, located in St. John. Again, in case you didn't know, this refinery supplies three out of five cars in Boston with gasoline – and we're not Boston Bruins fans, by the way. Some are, but we won't get into that debate.

The Irving Oil refinery currently operates at a capacity in excess of 300,000 barrels a day. Its output accounts for 42 per cent of all of Canada's finished petroleum product exports to the U.S. New Brunswick is ready to step forward to help Canada rise to meet the opportunities ahead.

In addition to the thousands of jobs associated with construction, refining, and shipping, the Energy East Pipeline has the capacity to create new jobs and opportunities through expanded supply chains. In New Brunswick we see the potential for brand new industries such as petrochemicals and plastics. We believe an expanded natural gas industry in New Brunswick will have the potential to create just as many opportunities, such as global LNG exports, a re-energized manufacturing sector, and the potential to add value to New Brunswick's abundant potash reserves through the construction of fertilizer plants.

These opportunities, in addition to the jobs and investments that will be generated with the development of each well, provide a very bright economic future for New Brunswick communities. Our government firmly believes that environmental stewardship and economic growth are both vital pillars of a strong society and a healthy future. To echo the words spoken by Premier Redford in New Brunswick last June, "The false premise that we must choose between the environment and the economy is indeed removed from reality."

Canada boasts some of the strongest environmental protections in the world. The confidence we place in our laws to protect our environment has been well-earned. As Canadians we value the environment as the natural infrastructure of our communities. As we continue to develop our natural resources responsibly we will gain more opportunities to invest revenues and to research in innovation that will power our economy and protect our environment for future generations. I began this by saying that we must never forget why we are doing the work we are doing, to allow for the smart and responsible development of our natural resources. This is about jobs for Canadian men and women.

We stand here at a critical moment in our history. We are at a crossroads at home in New Brunswick, and, indeed, across our country. Canada is at risk of standing still while our competitors around the world are moving forward and making plans to move past us. As Canadians we need to think about what that will mean for our grandchildren and their children. Prosperity and opportunity are not inherited rights. We cannot take for granted that future generations will inherit the same opportunities that we've been blessed with.

There are some 15,000 New Brunswickers working outside New Brunswick today in natural resource sectors, and we're not isolated with this story. In fact, when I took two flights today to get to Edmonton, I met several workers who are plying their trade here in Alberta right now. What they say to me is that they are blessed to be able to gain that opportunity but they are looking for the opportunity in a year and a half or so to ply their trade back home.

In fact, as well, my youngest son, Ben, is 23, he's a red seal plumber and a last block pipefitter, who works in Kerr Lake. As I was flying here today, Ben was flying home for a week.

Canadians want to work and need to work. Canadians want to build prosperity and economic opportunity no matter what region they live, and by working together, and by building on the foundation of respect and friendship that we have built between provinces, I am convinced that we can move Canada forward.

Thank you so much for the chance to address the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. C'est un honneur pour moi d'avoir l'opportunité. Merci. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 7(7) in order to continue the Daily Routine until 3:30 p.m.

Members' Statements

Mr. Bhardwaj, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie, made a statement regarding the opening of the Michael Strembitsky School playground on September 11, 2013, funded in part by the Community Facility Enhancement Program, and recognizing the work of the Summerside Community League and the Summerside Playground Committee.

Mr. Kang, Hon. Member for Calgary-McCall, made a statement regarding the Sikh community's generosity and commitment to humanitarian causes.

Mr. Cao, Hon. Member for Calgary-Fort, made a statement regarding Chris Gibbons of Calgary who passed away on November 23, 2013.

Mr. Goudreau, Hon. Member for Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley, made a statement congratulating the Grande Prairie Regional College on its high rankings in three categories for Canada's top research colleges in 2013, achieved in part because of its work in establishing the National Bee Diagnostic Centre.

Ms Smith, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, made a statement regarding the announcement on November 28, 2013, that the Be Brave Ranch for victims of childhood sexual abuse will open in the summer of 2014 and operate for a two-year trial period, and recognizing the Little Warriors organization which raised the funds necessary to open the ranch.

Mr. Sandhu, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, made a statement regarding the opening of Brintnell Park in the summer of 2013 and the difficulties faced by communities in raising funds to build parks.

Notices of Motions

Hon. Mr. McIver, Deputy Government House Leader, gave oral notice of Written Questions and Motions for Returns to be accepted or otherwise dealt with, pursuant to Standing Order 34(3):

Written Questions

To be accepted: WQ42, WQ43

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Khan, Chair, Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund:

Report entitled "Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, Second Quarter 2013-2014," prepared by the Alberta Government

Sessional Paper 1183/2012-13

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre:

Edmonton Journal article dated May 1, 2013, entitled "Union calls off illegal walkout"

Sessional Paper 1184/2012-13

Photocopy of a CTV News webpage entitled "Province Responds to Safety Concerns" noting a comment by Dan Laville, Justice and Solicitor General Ministry Spokesperson

Sessional Paper 1185/2012-13

Report dated November 27, 2013, entitled "Tabling Report - Pension Sustainability Reforms," prepared by Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre

Sessional Paper 1186/2012-13

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

Report dated November 2013 entitled "From Words to Action, Alberta Can Afford a Real Poverty Reduction Strategy," prepared by John Kolkman and Bill Moore-Kilgannon

Sessional Paper 1187/2012-13

Ms Blakeman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, on behalf of Dr. Sherman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark:

Letter dated November 27, 2013, from Dr. Sherman, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark, to The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, requesting a full and independent public inquiry into the state of Alberta's First Nations, Metis, and Inuit children in care

Sessional Paper 1188/2012-13

Mr. Bilous, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview:

Copies of 21 recent letters and postcards, several from the Coalition for Action on Post-Secondary Education, expressing opposition to post-secondary education funding cuts

Sessional Paper 1189/2012-13

Mr. Donovan, Hon. Member for Little Bow:

Copy of page 38 of the Alberta Health Services Performance Report - Q4 2012/13, regarding the breast cancer screening participation rate

Sessional Paper 1190/2012-13

Hon. Mr. Lukaszuk, Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education:

Copies of three Twitter postings dated November 27, 2013, from Kim Trynacity, Matt Dykstra, and Thomasean Vernon relating to Bill 46, Public Service Salary Restraint Act

Sessional Paper 1191/2012-13

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Drysdale, Minister of Infrastructure:

Response to Written Question WQ28, asked for by Mr. Barnes on April 15, 2013:

As of November 1, 2012, what costs have been incurred on the Edmonton Federal Building and Centennial Plaza project?

Sessional Paper 1192/2012-13

Response to Written Question WQ29, asked for by Mr. Barnes on April 15, 2013:

As of November 1, 2012, what is the status of all infrastructure projects in Phase One and Phase Two of the Health Capital Plan (2010-2013)?

Sessional Paper 1193/2012-13

Response to Written Question WQ33, asked for by Mr. Barnes on April 15, 2013:

What was the cost to build each school under the Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement I and Alberta Schools Alternative Procurement II initiatives and the ABC Schools Partnership, and what is the ongoing annual cost of the maintenance agreements for each school?

Sessional Paper 1194/2012-13

Privilege - Independence of the Members' Services Committee, a Government-issued Brochure, and Media Briefing on Bills

The Speaker requested clarification in connection with the purported question of privilege raised on November 27, 2013, by Ms Notley, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, on behalf of Mr. Mason, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, regarding the following issues:

1. If and when a brochure containing the material referred to yesterday by the Member for Edmonton-Strathcona and the Deputy Premier was produced and distributed, and by whom.
2. The nature of the news conference held yesterday in connection with Bills 45 and 46. Was it a technical briefing? What time did the session start and what time did it finish? Was there more than one media session or technical briefing? Was the session or sessions subject to an embargo?

The Speaker requested written responses to these questions no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 29, 2013, and will table the responses in the Assembly on Monday, December 2, 2013. The Speaker stated that he would rule on the purported question of privilege at a later date.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills and Orders

Committee of the Whole

According to Order, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole and the Speaker left the Chair.

(Assembly in Committee)

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

Progress was reported on the following Bill:

Bill 28 Modernizing Regional Governance Act — Hon. Mr. Griffiths

Mr. Khan, Acting Chair of Committees, tabled copies of an amendment considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

Amendment to Bill 28 (A1) (Hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs) —
Adjourned debate

Sessional Paper 1195/2012-13

Second Reading

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

Bill 45 Public Sector Services Continuation Act — Hon. Mr. Hancock

A debate followed.

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

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 4:26 p.m. until Monday, December 2, 2013, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Gene Zwozdesky,
Speaker

Title: Thursday, November 28, 2013