



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Ninth Legislature

Monday, June 15, 2015

The Speaker took the Chair at 3:00 p.m.

After delivering the opening day prayer the Speaker invited Mr. Robert Clark, accompanied by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, to lead the Members of the Assembly and guests in singing Canada's National Anthem.

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

Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly and took her seat on the Throne.

Speaker's Address to the Lieutenant Governor

The Speaker said:

May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not the Assembly, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Province, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Honour's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Honour the most favourable construction.

Statement by the Provincial Secretary

The Provincial Secretary, Hon. Ms Ganley, then said:

I am commanded by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that she freely confides in the duty and attachment of this Assembly to Her Majesty's person and Government, and, not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, she grants and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to Her Honour upon all seasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from her the most favourable construction.

Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor then read the following Speech from the Throne:

Speech From the Throne

Friends, Alberta is a province of indigenous peoples whose roots in this land go back thousands of years and who will be stewards of this land for thousands of years to come. Together we are learning to respect that.

We are also a province built by wave after wave of pioneers and settlers, farmers and oil workers, researchers and students, job seekers and job creators. We are people from all around the world who share a dream of a better life and who have found it here in Alberta. We are an optimistic, hopeful, entrepreneurial, remarkably diverse, and community-minded people. We are people who dream no little dreams and live them. We are people who get things done.

In this province what we wish for ourselves we desire for all, like freedom from poverty and freedom from violence, and freedom from discrimination because of who you love. We believe in looking after our children and making sure they are safe, healthy, and have access to excellent education. We believe in looking after our seniors and making sure they are safe, healthy, and have a dignified place to live. We believe in respecting women, including our sisters who have disappeared or who have been murdered, and whose families are looking for answers and for justice.

Albertans are working together to build a prosperous, entrepreneurial, diversified economy full of opportunity for us all; we are working together to build a lifelong learning system that brings out the potential in us all; and we are working together to build a health system that is there when it is needed, for us all.

We haven't always got it right. As I speak, we face another oil price challenge that is having a more profound effect on our families and on our public finances than it might have because we have not always made the right choices in this Legislature. But as has been proven, this Legislature can change.

There are 70 new MLAs in this House as a result of the recent election. The people of Alberta decided it was time for a change, and they didn't get there through half measures. And so we can begin again.

We can work together. We can disagree without being disagreeable. We can talk about what unites us as well as what divides us. We can listen to each other and build on each other's best ideas, just as Albertans have been doing with their neighbours since the foundation of this province.

It is in this spirit that this Government begins its new mandate and takes up the tasks given to it by the people of Alberta. The Government begins its work mindful that it is building on the achievements of governments who have come before.

Alberta's first Government was led by the Liberal Party. As is remembered in a small but important memorial just outside of this building, that was when democracy and responsible government were brought to Alberta.

Today our political and party system cries out for renewal, and so we will take a first important step towards renewing our democracy as the first piece of business our new Government puts before you.

Alberta's next Government was led by the United Farmers of Alberta. The UFA was an alliance of farmers and workers determined to put the interests of Alberta families at the heart of the work of this House.

Alberta's new Government will reintroduce a fair and progressive tax system and restore stable support for health and education in order to do exactly that. We will put the interests of Alberta families at the heart of the work of this Legislature.

Elected in the depths of the Depression, our province's next Government was led by Social Credit. The Socreds were men and women who believed that Alberta could overcome adversity and return to prosperity by working together in the common interest. The Social Credit Government was a strong supporter of job creators and entrepreneurs. It also equipped our province with important tools to build prosperity, such as Alberta Treasury Branches, which is still contributing to prosperity in Albertan communities large and small today.

Alberta's new Government will also be a good partner with job creators, with entrepreneurs, with small business, with credit unions and co-ops, and with the great enterprises we have built together.

Finally, the Progressive Conservative Government elected in 1971 fought a ferocious battle with Ottawa to ensure, beyond debate, that our energy resources were owned and controlled by the people of Alberta. The PCs then set out a plan for a successful and sustainable energy industry, managed in both our people's short- and long-term interests. Their plan recognized that our resources are a trust. Those are principles to which Alberta's new Government will now return to.

And so, to the work of this session. As its first act our new Government will introduce Bill 1, An Act to Renew Democracy in Alberta. At long last this act, if passed, will ban corporate and union donations to political parties in this province.

There is much more that needs to be done to renew our democracy. Alberta's new Government will work closely with all Members in this House and will take careful account of your views and those of all Albertans before taking the necessary additional steps.

As its second act our new Government will introduce Bill 2, An Act to Restore Fairness to Public Revenue. This Bill will ask those who have benefited the most from the boom times in Alberta to now contribute a little more so that our schools and health care can be spared from chaos and reckless cutbacks. Corporate taxes on the largest and most profitable corporations in Alberta will be increased from 10 per cent to 12 per cent, small business taxes will remain at the current rate, three per cent, and progressive income taxes will be reintroduced in Alberta for those earning more than \$125,000 a year. When these changes are implemented, each and every citizen of Alberta will still be contributing by far the lowest provincial taxes in Canada.

As its third act Alberta's new Government will propose Bill 3, an act to restore stability to Alberta's education, health care, and human services. This is an interim supply Bill which will maintain stability in essential public services while Alberta's new Government reviews our province's economic situation, its finances, and its budget priorities.

We will invest in stable and predictable funding for our schools and post-secondary institutions because our children are worth it, because our communities are worth it, and because investing in skills and education is the single best investment our province can make to ensure our future prosperity; we will invest in stable and predictable funding for our health system because universal, accessible, high-quality health care must be there when Alberta families need it and because the time has come to meet our society's growing need for community services like long-term care and home care; and we will invest in stable and predictable funding for human services because the people who have suffered the most in the recent economic downturn should not be the first in line to be cut.

With this agreed, our new Government will then work on a new budget and a new legislative program, and will present those to you in the fall.

Alberta's new Government knows well that these are only a few first steps. There is a great deal that needs to be done. This province needs to work with steady determination to create the conditions for a sustainable, diversified, and prosperous economy, an economy that will provide Albertans with good jobs. Alberta needs a stable, long-term plan for our health care and education. This province needs to demonstrate real leadership on the environment and on climate change.

Concurrently, we must forge a much stronger partnership with our fellow provinces and with the federal government in order to build a Canadian energy strategy that ensures a sustainable, responsible Canadian energy industry can reach markets all around the world. We need to review how the people of Alberta, including our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren many years from now, will be rewarded for the development of their own energy resources.

We need to return to a respectful relationship with this land's indigenous peoples.

We need to make sure all Albertans are paid fairly at work, including those on the minimum wage.

We need to ensure this province's rural and resource communities have the tools they need to keep contributing to the prosperity of Alberta.

There are parks to tend, public transit and roads to build, hospitals to build and renovate, schools to plan and open, people living on our streets to help. It won't all happen at once, but we will start. We will start today with these first steps, and we will do more in the fall, when my new Government presents its first budget and its first full legislative program.

Thank you friends. God bless Alberta. God bless Canada. God save the Queen.

The Speaker then invited Mr. Robert Clark, accompanied by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, to lead the Members and guests in the singing of God Save the Queen.

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

Tabling Documents

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

Sessional Paper 1/2015

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Ordered, that the Honourable Ms Ganley have leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Renew Democracy in Alberta." Hon. Ms Ganley accordingly presented the Bill and the same was received and read a First time.

Announcement by the Clerk of the Assembly of Members Elected

Mr. Speaker, I have received from the Chief Electoral Officer of Alberta, pursuant to the Election Act, a report containing the results of the General Election conducted on the 5th of May 2015. The report states that an election was conducted in the following electoral divisions, and the said report further shows that the following Members were duly elected:

Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley	Margaret McCuaig-Boyd
Lesser Slave Lake	Danielle Larivee
Calgary-Acadia	Brandy Payne
Calgary-Bow	Deborah Drever
Calgary-Buffalo	Kathleen Ganley
Calgary-Cross	Ricardo Miranda
Calgary-Currie	Brian Malkinson
Calgary-East	Robyn Luff
Calgary-Elbow	Greg Clark
Calgary-Fish Creek	Richard Gottfried
Calgary-Foothills	Jim Prentice *Disclaimed
Calgary-Fort	Joe Ceci
Calgary-Glenmore	Anam Kazim
Calgary-Greenway	Manmeet Bhullar
Calgary-Hawkwood	Michael Connolly
Calgary-Hays	Ric McIver
Calgary-Klein	Craig Coolahan
Calgary-Lougheed	Dave Rodney
Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill	Karen McPherson
Calgary-McCall	Irfan Sabir
Calgary-Mountain View	David Swann
Calgary-North West	Sandra Jansen
Calgary-Northern Hills	Jamie Kleinsteuber
Calgary-Shaw	Graham D. Sucha
Calgary-South East	Rick Fraser
Calgary-Varsity	Stephanie McLean
Calgary-West	Mike Ellis
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	Deron Bilous
Edmonton-Calder	David Eggen

Edmonton-Castle Downs	Nicole Goehring
Edmonton-Centre	David Shepherd
Edmonton-Decore	Chris Nielsen
Edmonton-Ellerslie	Rod Loyola
Edmonton-Glenora	Sarah Hoffman
Edmonton-Gold Bar	Marlin Schmidt
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	Brian Mason
Edmonton-Manning	Heather Sweet
Edmonton-McClung	Lorne Dach
Edmonton-Meadowlark	Jon Carson
Edmonton-Mill Creek	Denise Woollard
Edmonton-Mill Woods	Christina Gray
Edmonton-Riverview	Lori Sigurdson
Edmonton-Rutherford	Richard Feehan
Edmonton-South West	Thomas Dang
Edmonton-Strathcona	Rachel Notley
Edmonton-Whitemud	Bob Turner
Airdrie	Angela Pitt
Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater	Colin Piquette
Banff-Cochrane	Cameron Westhead
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock	Glenn van Dijken
Battle River-Wainwright	Wes Taylor
Bonnyville-Cold Lake	Scott Cyr
Cardston-Taber-Warner	Grant Hunter
Chestermere-Rocky View	Leela Sharon Aheer
Cypress-Medicine Hat	Drew Barnes
Drayton Valley-Devon	Mark Smith
Drumheller-Stettler	Rick Strankman
Fort McMurray-Conklin	Brian Michael Jean
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	Tany Yao
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	Jessica Littlewood
Grande Prairie-Smoky	Todd Loewen
Grande Prairie-Wapiti	Wayne Drysdale
Highwood	Wayne Anderson

Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	Don MacIntyre
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills	David B. Hanson
Lacombe-Ponoka	Ron J.N. Orr
Leduc-Beaumont	Shaye Anderson
Lethbridge-East	Maria Fitzpatrick
Lethbridge-West	Shannon Phillips
Little Bow	David A. Schneider
Livingstone-Macleod	Pat Stier
Medicine Hat	Robert Wanner
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	Nathan M. Cooper
Peace River	Debbie Jabbour
Red Deer-North	Kim Schreiner
Red Deer-South	Barb Miller
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre	Jason Nixon
Sherwood Park	Annie McKittrick
Spruce Grove-St. Albert	Trevor Horne
St. Albert	Marie Renaud
Stony Plain	Erin Babcock
Strathcona-Sherwood Park	Estefania Cortes-Vargas
Strathmore-Brooks	Derek Gerhard Fildebrandt
Vermilion-Lloydminster	Richard Starke
West Yellowhead	Eric Rosendahl
Wetaskiwin-Camrose	Bruce Hinkley
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne	Oneil Carlier

Government Motions

1. Moved by Hon. Ms Notley:

Be it resolved that the Speech of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration on June 16, 2015.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Mason, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:44 p.m. until Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Robert E. Wanner,
Speaker

Title: Monday, June 15, 2015