



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Thirtieth Legislature

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

This being the first Day of the First Session of the Thirtieth Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, for the despatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation of Her Honour the Honourable Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor, dated the 30th day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen;

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly read the Proclamation as follows:

[GREAT SEAL]
CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

LOIS MITCHELL,
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 Thirtieth Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on Tuesday, the 21st day of May, 2019, 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.

Philip Bryden
Deputy Attorney General

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: THE HONOURABLE LOIS MITCHELL, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, in Our City of Edmonton in Our Province of Alberta, this 30th day of April in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen and in the Sixty-eighth Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

DOUG SCHWEITZER,
Provincial Secretary.

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

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

Statement by the Provincial Secretary

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

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

She therefore is pleased to retire from this Assembly, to return at a subsequent hour on the next sitting day, to declare the causes of her calling of this Legislature.

Her Honour the Honourable 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. Cooper, nominated by Mr. Hanson;

Ms Sweet, nominated by Ms Gray.

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, 87; 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. Cooper. Mr. Cooper is hereby declared Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the 30th 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:

Members, before I begin let me just take a moment to honour – I see former Speaker Ken Kowalski in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. It is a pleasure to have you here. So nice of you to join us on this fantastic day. Thank you for joining us.

As this is my first opportunity to do so, I wish to send my greatest and deepest thank yous to the outstanding constituents of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills for placing their trust back in me. I also wish to congratulate all Members of the Assembly. Whether it was your first election or your re-election, congratulations on being here today, and thank you – thank you so very much – from the very bottom of my heart for placing your trust in me to serve as Speaker of the 30th Legislative Assembly.

Whether it is your first time as an MLA or you faithfully served this institution, like the Leader of the Official Opposition, for 4,097 days or, in the case of the Member for Calgary-Hays or Cypress-Medicine Hat, for 2,585 days, I am sure that all of them will tell you that coming to the Chamber for the very first time after an election is a very, very, very special time. This is a special place, where the weight of history meets our own unbridled hopes as we race towards the future.

My hope is that in your debates we will be vigorous, thoughtful, and amicable. To date in this Chamber only 954 people have ever been elected to serve and represent Albertans. As we honour their legacy and service, let us be mindful that we now set the standard for those who come after us. May we not take this duty or calling lightly. Together we have an incredible opportunity and responsibility.

And with that in mind, may I indulge you just for a brief moment to recognize a special guest in the Assembly today for the very first time, Louise Cooper. She is a remarkable woman in every single way, and she also happens to be my grandmother. I can tell you all that I would not be here today if it was not for her. Her courage and bravery in lockstep with her loving generosity have played such a pivotal role in my life. I have learned many, many lessons from her words and her examples. Not the least of this is that in our haste to do good, we must never forget to be good, for our families, our communities, and for our province. It is her example that I will endeavour to live up to in this new role.

It is with a servant's heart that I seek to serve this Assembly, to ensure the rules and conventions and Standing Orders are applied equally, and that all Members of the Assembly have access to the resources you need to effectively represent your constituents. I will seek to uphold the high standard of those who have come before us. I intend to serve you to the best of my ability. You set the tone and order of the Assembly, and I am a servant for you. For it is, in my view, the primary role of the Speaker to first serve the House. It is the Speaker's responsibility to ensure that all Members can exercise their rights and privileges in the Assembly. The Speaker's authority comes from you, the Members. And that allows this parliament to function properly and fairly and in the manner expected by the people of Alberta, who have sent us here today.

As Speaker Betty Boothroyd once famously said: you've got to ensure that the holders of an opinion, however unpopular, are allowed to get their points across. It is with this in mind that I commit to you that as long as I have the privilege of serving as Speaker, your privileges and duties as elected Members of this Assembly will be recognized and defended. I encourage and entrust all of you to remember that in our haste to do good for each other, we must never forget to be good for each other.

I have reviewed the calendar, and there are many busy days ahead, so let us proceed.

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

Father, 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:

Mrs. Pitt, nominated by Mr. van Dijken;

Ms Sweet, nominated by Ms Gray.

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, 0; the number of votes required to achieve the 50 percent plus one majority, 43; the Member having received the majority of votes cast, Mrs. Pitt. Mrs. Pitt is hereby declared Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly for the 30th Legislature.

The Speaker recognized the former Speaker, Mr. Robert Wanner, for his diligent and dutiful service.

Election of Deputy 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 Chair of Committees:

Ms. Sweet, nominated by Ms Gray;

Mr. Milliken, nominated by Mr. Gotfried.

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 Chair of Committees are as follows: the number of ballots cast, 84; the number of spoiled ballots, 0; the number of votes required to achieve the 50 percent plus one majority, 43; the Member having received the majority of votes cast, Mr. Milliken. Mr. Milliken is hereby declared Deputy Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly for the 30th Legislature.

Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned at 3:07 p.m. until Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.

Hon. Nathan M. Cooper,
Speaker