



**Legislative Assembly  
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

First Session

Thirtieth Legislature

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Wednesday, May 22, 2019

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

After delivering the opening day prayer, the Speaker invited Cara McLeod, 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. Mr. Schweitzer, then said:

Honourable Members, 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**

Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly, fellow Albertans:

I speak to you as the Province of Alberta's vice-regal representative of Her Majesty Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada.

This province honours its enduring ties to the Royal Family and our democratic tradition of constitutional monarchy. One hundred and fifty years ago this year the Hudson's Bay Company sold Rupert's Land, including much of the territory that became the Province of Alberta, to the Dominion of Canada, bringing all of these lands under the Canadian Crown. The same Crown enjoined us in treaties with First Nations to respect the rights, privileges, and traditions of indigenous communities, a duty which we are bound to honour. Last year we renewed our ties to the Crown when we were honoured by the visit of Anne, the Princess Royal. I had the privilege of joining with her to announce Edmonton's Commonwealth Walkway, the first in the Capital Region.

As Her Majesty's representative it is my honour and duty to open the First Session of the 30th Legislature with the presentation of the legislative program of Her Majesty's Government.

Spring is the season of renewal. For all the people blessed to call Alberta home, from the First Peoples, who have built vital communities on these lands for millennia, to recent newcomers from across Canada and around the world, spring arrives with an explosion of nature's irrepressible energy. Every spring we experience the breathtaking vitality of nature's rush to renewal and are invigorated by it. So it is with our democracy. Once again, this spring, Albertans participated in the great democratic ritual of a free election bequeathed to us by the Westminster parliamentary tradition, and they voted decisively for democratic and economic renewal through a change in government.

Recognizing that our province is beset by severe external political and economic constraints and consequently saddled with serious internal fiscal challenges requiring urgent action, my Government will bring in a legislative program focused on three main priorities. First, a relentless focus on policies designed to create jobs, growth, and economic diversification: Alberta must show the world that we are open for business to restore investor confidence while carefully restoring balance to our province's finances. Second, standing up for our province's right to control and develop our natural resources and compete freely and fairly in the national and international economies: this requires securing pipeline access for Alberta oil and gas to world markets. Third, making life better for all Albertans by ensuring the quality and effectiveness of our public services, especially in health care and education, and by supporting the most vulnerable in our society.

Bill 1, as promised, will be the carbon tax repeal act. In providing \$1.4 billion in tax relief, it will make everything more affordable for Albertans. If needed, my Ministers will take legal action to protect Albertans from a federal carbon tax and to support other provinces doing the same.

Bill 2 will be the open for business act. It will strengthen the rights of Alberta workers within unions, promote job creation for young Albertans, and retain recent advancements in compassionate leave. This will be followed in the autumn by further labour reforms to protect workers and help employers create more jobs.

This spring my Government will also introduce Bill 3, the Job Creation Tax Cut Act. It will lower the tax burden on employers by one-third, from 12 per cent to 8 per cent. This will give Alberta businesses the lowest tax rate in Canada and among the lowest rates in North America, renewing Alberta as a magnet for job-creating investment. Economists estimate that this reduction will generate 55,000 new full-time jobs and increase the size of our economy by \$12.7 billion.

My Government will bring forward Bill 4, the Red Tape Reduction Act. This will provide the means to lower the regulatory burden on Alberta's economy by one-third, reducing costs, speeding up approvals, and freeing job creators to get more Albertans back to work.

Estimates for the interim supply of public services will be presented in an Appropriation Act, to be followed by a full budget this fall. That budget will be informed by the report of the Fiscal Review Panel, chaired by former Saskatchewan Finance Minister Janice MacKinnon, which will make recommendations on how to restore balance to our province's finances so that we stop encumbering future generations with debt. My Government will also engage in widespread public consultations on how best to end deficit spending while protecting front-line public services.

My Government will also present a Tax Statutes Amendment Act.

My Government will propose amendments to the Municipal Government Act. These will enable municipalities to use property tax incentives to attract investment and create jobs.

My Government will table a Royalties Guarantee Act. Part of a plan to restore the competitiveness of the Alberta energy sector and win back the confidence of investors, this legislation will provide certainty that the royalty structure in place when a well is drilled remains in place for the life of the well.

My Government will introduce the Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Trades Act. This legislation will renew and reinforce Alberta's historic role as a place of economic opportunity by making it easier and fairer for newcomers to be credentialed in their professions, work at their skill level, and contribute to our shared prosperity.

Her Majesty's Government, on the very day it was sworn in, proclaimed the Preserving Canada's Economic Prosperity Act. It will be used as necessary to ensure the value of Alberta's energy products is maximized.

Also in the spring session my Government will present amendments to the Education Act. These will include implementing the will of the Legislature as expressed in legislation passed in 2012 so that these well-considered reforms are in place for the start of the new school year in September of this year. They will also include a commitment to curriculum reform based on proven pedagogy that teaches essential knowledge needed to achieve foundational competences and to prepare young Albertans to succeed in the future.

My Ministers will also undertake important non-legislative actions this spring. These include standing up for Alberta's interests within the Canadian federation by seeking the Legislature's support for a motion calling for the complete rejection of federal Bill C-48, which seeks to block access for Alberta's bitumen resources to British Columbia's northwest coast. A motion will also be proposed rejecting in its current form federal Bill C-69, the proposed Impact Assessment Act, which threatens Alberta's exclusive jurisdiction over non-renewable natural resources and is damaging investor confidence. In bringing forward these and other initiatives, we will seek unity amongst Alberta's political parties, wherever possible, to speak with one voice.

In a world where the demand for energy will continue to rise, Alberta can, should, and will be one of the largest suppliers. That is why my Government will create an agency mandated to proactively tell the truth about how we produce energy with the highest environmental, labour, and human rights standards on Earth. My Government will also challenge those who have for too long misrepresented these facts. In part, this will be done by launching a public inquiry into the foreign sources of funds responsible for the campaign to landlock Alberta's energy.

This year Her Majesty's Government will also create the Indigenous Opportunities Corporation. Alberta's First Peoples have played a crucial role in the development of this province, symbolized by Siksika Chief Crowfoot, who as leader of the Blackfoot peoples 150 years ago led his people into peaceful cooperation with the Crown, including the signing of Treaty 7. But while Alberta's natural resource wealth has been greatly developed since then, indigenous peoples have not fully participated in that prosperity. The Indigenous Opportunities Corporation will support First Nations' and other indigenous groups' financial participation in natural resource development and infrastructure projects here and in other parts of Canada. We have a moral obligation to empower First Nations to be full partners in the development of the resources that lie below the lands which their ancestors first inhabited and to become partners in prosperity.

In the fall session my Government will bring forward several other important bills. These include the Farm Freedom and Safety Act, which will reduce the tax and regulatory burden on farmers, strengthen their property rights and competitiveness, and restore balance, fairness, and common sense to regulation of Alberta's agricultural sector.

My Government will further improve Alberta's education system by presenting the Choice in Education Act. It will renew the Alberta Advantage in education by restoring and expanding the choices available to parents and children.

My Government will take action to address climate change by introducing legislation to replace the Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation with a technology innovation and emissions reduction fund. This will be a balanced, environmentally responsible, and economically efficient approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Alberta through regulation at the primary source, large industrial emitters. Further, it will ensure investment in new emissions-reducing technologies, which can be exported around the world.

To help protect vulnerable Albertans, my Government will introduce the Saving the Girl Next Door Act and table legislation to give effect to Clare's Law. The former will introduce protections for victims of human trafficking, and the latter will expand protections for victims of domestic violence. My Government will implement a strategy to combat the wave of crime that has victimized too many Albertans, in part by hiring more Crown prosecutors and providing additional resources to police to respond to such terrible crimes as the exploitation of children.

And in order to improve decorum in this Assembly and civility in our politics, my Government will propose amendments to the Standing Orders.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, this summarizes my Government's legislative program for the spring and fall sessions. Further legislation anticipated for 2020 will address matters related to democratic reform, economic growth and environmental protection, public infrastructure, charitable giving, municipal governance, the economic rights of artists, conservation and outdoor recreation, and family law.

Renewal is the animating theme of my Government's immediate legislative priorities. It is the appropriate and necessary response to the fiscal and economic setbacks Albertans have experienced in recent years, and it is only fitting to look to our history, the magnificent endowment of our natural resources and environment, and above all, the values and character of our people to inspire and achieve this renewal.

The scale and pace of social and economic progress in Alberta over the last 114 years exceeds that of virtually any other polity on Earth. We should always be grateful for those who have gone before us, who have been stewards of a great tradition of ordered liberty. Albertans have consistently applied the principles of free enterprise, free markets, equality of opportunity, and prudent stewardship to optimize our God-given gifts. No economic hardship has ever ruined us. No political enmity has ever defeated us. No natural disaster has ever stopped us. Our success, our resiliency, and our yet-untapped potential is a powerful magnet that continues to attract ambitious and talented newcomers from across Canada and the world.

The political forces standing in the way of this inevitable destiny today are external and temporary. Her Majesty's Government has a strong mandate to stand up for Alberta against those forces, powered by the unstoppable will, energy, and talent of Albertans. Few places on Earth provide such freedom of opportunity to achieve so much upward social and economic mobility. This in turn fuels our economic growth and generates wealth that spills far beyond our borders and secures the prosperity and welfare of Confederation. It is our duty and our destiny to renew Alberta's role as an economic and political leader within Canada.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, if you would indulge my passion for Alberta history, I will leave you with the closing words of our province's very first Speech from the Throne, on March 15, 1906, delivered by His Honour Lieutenant Governor George Hedley Vicars Bulyea:

To the several matters herein referred to and to all others that may be brought before you, I invite your careful attention, with the fullest confidence that the result of your deliberations will be beneficial to the Province and to the Dominion as a whole.

May the blessings of Almighty God rest upon your counsels as you work to renew an Alberta that is, in the words of our province's official motto, strong and free.

The Speaker then invited Cara McLeod, 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.

## **Speaker's Statement - Characteristics of the Members of the 30th Legislature**

Ladies and gentlemen, former Premiers, Members, family, friends, MPs, thank you all so, so very much today for joining us on this very exciting occasion for all of us here today and, in fact, all of us in the province. On April 16, 2019, over 1,894,000 votes were cast in 87 constituencies throughout the Province of Alberta. As a result, 46 new Members have joined the select group of individuals who have served as Members of this Assembly. Since 1905, a grand total of 954 people have been elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

It is important to let Albertans know more about the 61 men and 26 women who are serving as MLAs. In addition to the 46 new Members, 35 Members are in their second term of office, four Members are in their third term, and two Members are in their fourth term of office.

Based on the information available to us, the average age at the time of the general election was approximately 46 years, which is unchanged from the 29th Legislature. As of April 16, 2019, there were four Members in their 20s, 18 Members in their 30s, 24 Members in their 40s, 25 Members in their 50s, and eight Members in their 60s.

Alberta is a dynamic province that welcomes people from other cultures and countries. The majority of Members were born in Alberta. However, there are Members who were born in other Canadian provinces as well as in Brazil, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Fiji, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. In addition to English, Members are also able to communicate in French, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Cree, German, Greek, Hindi, Igbo, Italian, Japanese, Pahari, Punjabi, Spanish, Telugu, and Urdu.

Diversity is also reflected in Members' previous work experience. The occupational backgrounds of Members vary from musician to economist, engineer to hairstylist, and investment banker to hydrogeologist. To be more specific, there are 15 entrepreneurs and business people, 11 lawyers, 11 teachers and post-secondary instructors, eight ranchers and farmers, and six social workers.

One Member was formerly a Member of Parliament, and seven Members held positions in local government as councillors or school trustees.

From an educational standpoint, Members collectively hold 66 Bachelor degrees, 25 Masters degrees, one Doctorate, and 57 other diplomas, certificates, and professional designations.

Members of the 30th Legislature have notable family ties. There are for the first time in the history of the Assembly two brothers serving at the same time. There are two Members whose fathers have previously served in this Assembly. One Member's great-grandfather served in the 1930s. There are three Members whose great uncles or great uncles-in-law served in our Assembly. Finally, we have three Members whose cousins also served as MLAs.

To conclude, the Members of the 30th Legislature are a diverse and capable group, whose knowledge and experience will assist us in carrying out our responsibilities as parliamentarians and elected representatives in service of the people of this great province.

### **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 1/2019

### **Introduction of Bills (First Reading)**

Ordered that Hon. Mr. Kenney, Premier, President of Executive Council, and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations, have leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Act to Repeal the Carbon Tax (\$)." Hon. Mr. Kenney 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 16th of April 2019. 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:

Calgary-Acadia	Tyler Shandro
Calgary-Beddington	Josephine Pon
Calgary-Bow	Demetrios Nicolaides
Calgary-Buffalo	Joe Ceci
Calgary-Cross	Mickey Amery
Calgary-Currie	Nicholas Milliken
Calgary-East	Peter Singh
Calgary-Edgemont	Prasad Panda
Calgary-Elbow	Doug Schweitzer
Calgary-Falconridge	Devinder Toor



Calgary-Fish Creek	Richard Gotfried
Calgary-Foothills	Jason Luan
Calgary-Glenmore	Whitney Issik
Calgary-Hays	Richard William (Ric) McIver
Calgary-Klein	Jeremy Nixon
Calgary-Lougheed	Jason Kenney
Calgary-McCall	Irfan Sabir
Calgary-Mountain View	Kathleen T. Ganley
Calgary-North	Muhammed Yaseen
Calgary-North East	Rajan Sawhney
Calgary-North West	Sonya Savage
Calgary-Peigan	Tanya Fir
Calgary-Shaw	Rebecca Schulz
Calgary-South East	Matt Jones
Calgary-Varsity	Jason Copping
Calgary-West	Mike Ellis
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	Deron Bilous
Edmonton-Castle Downs	Nicole Goehring
Edmonton-City Centre	David Shepherd
Edmonton-Decore	Chris Nielsen
Edmonton-Ellerslie	Rod Loyola
Edmonton-Glenora	Sarah Hoffinan
Edmonton-Gold Bar	Marlin Schmidt
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood	Janis Irwin
Edmonton-Manning	Heather Sweet
Edmonton-McClung	Lorne Dach
Edmonton-Meadows	Jasvir Deol
Edmonton-Mill Woods	Christina Gray
Edmonton-North West	David Eggen
Edmonton-Riverview	Lori Sigurdson
Edmonton-Rutherford	Richard Feehan
Edmonton-South	Thomas Dang
Edmonton-South West	Kaycee Madu
Edmonton-Strathcona	Rachel Notley

Edmonton-West Heday	Jon Carson
Edmonton-Whitemud	Rakhi Pancholi
Airdrie-Cochrane	Peter Guthrie
Airdrie-East	Angela Pitt
Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock	Glenn van Dijken
Banff-Kananaskis	Miranda Rosin
Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul	David Hanson
Brooks-Medicine Hat	Michaela Glasgo
Camrose	Jackie Lovely
Cardston-Siksika	Joseph Schow
Central Peace-Notley	Todd Loewen
Chestermere-Strathmore	Leela Sharon Aheer
Cypress-Medicine Hat	Drew Barnes
Drayton Valley-Devon	Mark Smith
Drumheller-Stettler	Nate Horner
Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche	Laila Goodridge
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo	Tany Yao
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville	Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk
Grande Prairie	Tracy Allard
Grande Prairie-Wapiti	Travis Toews
Highwood	R.J. Sigurdson
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	Devin Dreeschen
Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland	Shane Getson
Lacombe-Ponoka	Ron Orr
Leduc-Beaumont	Brad Rutherford
Lesser Slave Lake	Pat Rehn
Lethbridge-East	Nathan Neudorf
Lethbridge-West	Shannon Phillips
Livingstone-Macleod	Roger Reid
Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin	Rick Wilson
Morinville-St. Albert	Dale Nally
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	Nathan Cooper
Peace River	Dan Williams
Red Deer-North	Adriana LaGrange

Red Deer-South	Jason Stephan
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre	Jason Nixon
Sherwood Park	Jordan Walker
Spruce Grove-Stony Plain	Searle Turton
St. Albert	Marie Renaud
Strathcona-Sherwood Park	Nate Glubish
Taber-Warner	Grant. R. Hunter
Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright	Garth Rowswell
West Yellowhead	Martin Long

## **Government Motions**

1. Moved by Hon. Mr. Kenney:

Be it resolved that the Speech of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration the week of May 27, 2019.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

## **Adjournment**

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:46 p.m. until Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

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Hon. Nathan M. Cooper,  
Speaker