



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Thirtieth Legislature

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

This being the first Day of the Second 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, CM, AOE, LLD, Lieutenant Governor, dated the 12th day of February in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty;

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 Our will and pleasure by and
with the advice and consent of Our Executive
Council of Our Province of Alberta to prorogue
the First Session of the Thirtieth Legislature of
Alberta:

Frank Bosscha,
Deputy Attorney General

WE DO hereby prorogue, effective February 24, 2020, the said Legislature; and

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient for certain causes and considerations to convene the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta for the Second Session of the Thirtieth Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on Tuesday, the 25th day of February, 2020, at the hour of THREE o'clock 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.

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, this 12th day of February in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty and in the Sixty-ninth Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

DOUG SCHWEITZER,
Provincial Secretary.

The Speaker entered the Assembly and took the Chair. After delivering the opening day prayer, he 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.

Speech From the Throne

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, fellow Albertans:

I speak to you as Alberta's vice-regal representative of Our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II. It is my duty to open the Second Session of the 30th Legislature with the legislative program of Her Majesty's Government.

I begin by acknowledging someone here today whose ancestry vividly illustrates the origins of our province and our people. In the late 1700s a young Englishman named James Curtis Bird arrived in Rupert's Land as an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. He rose to become chief factor of Edmonton House and located the post on the North Saskatchewan River Valley flats, not far from where we are gathered today. The settlement that grew up around it is now a metropolis of 1.3 million, this great capital city.

James Bird married a Cree woman named Mary Oo-Menahomisk. Their children included James, a trader, interpreter, and frontiersman, who lived among the Blackfoot in southern Alberta and married a Peigan woman named Sarah Bull's Heart. His brother William married a Metis woman named Venus Hay, a union that produced 12 children, including William Jr., who farmed on the river flats just east of here and in the 1870s built a mill, after which the city's beautiful Mill Creek Ravine park is named.

Many thousands of Albertans can trace their ancestry to these Cree-Blackfoot-Anglo origins, including our special guest today, Roy Bird from Sherwood Park. Roy is the proud great-great-grandson of James Curtis and Mary and is president of the Northern Alberta Pioneers and Descendants Association. Thank you, Roy, for sharing your story that says so much about who we are and where we came from.

Stories like these from Alberta's rich history remind us how far we have come together, of the great things we have achieved, and of the potential stretching out before us: a river of infinite possibilities as broad and deep as the mighty North Saskatchewan, that nurtured Indigenous communities here for millennia.

In our 116th year as a province Alberta faces some of the biggest challenges we have ever met, but our history proves that Albertans are tough, resilient people. Together we will overcome these challenges. Together we will grow and prosper. Doing so will require that my Government take strong measures to renew our economy, bring order to our finances, and secure a fair deal for Alberta.

Getting Alberta back to work is my Government's central priority. My Government will introduce a comprehensive, long-term blueprint for jobs. It will focus on restoring investor confidence by making Alberta the freest, fastest-moving, and lowest-taxed province. With the job creation tax cut, we already have the lowest tax rate on job creators in Canada and are on track to achieve one of the lowest rates on the continent. This, plus cutting unnecessary red tape by at least one third, is restoring our competitive edge to make Alberta a magnet for investment and job creation.

My Government will introduce several Bills making it easier, faster, and less expensive for businesses, community groups, and governments to deliver services and create jobs.

My Government will also continue implementing its skills-for-jobs agenda to prepare Albertans for fulfilling future careers. We need more young people to recognize that there is a parity of esteem between experiential and academic learning and between trades and professions, young people like Cecile Bukmeier, who is with us today.

A strong-willed, independent-minded Albertan, Cecile rejected outdated advice and chose trades training after high school. She is now a successful autobody tradesperson, an instructor at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, the Skills Canada 2015 alumni of the year, and a medallist for Canada at the WorldSkills Competition. Thank you, Cecile, for inspiring a new generation to pursue excellence through the trades.

As part of the blueprint for jobs my Government will unveil the 2020 capital plan, committing \$6.4 billion to strengthen our infrastructure while creating jobs.

My Government will continue to advance the diversification of our economy, catalyzing job creation and growth in energy, agriculture, forestry, advanced technology – including artificial intelligence and medical technology – aviation and aerospace, finance and fintech, tourism, and other industries. Key to our success in all of these areas will be the social and economic mobility of our people. Through initiatives like the Indigenous Opportunities Corporation, my Government will partner with Indigenous communities to create unprecedented opportunities for investment, jobs, and prosperity.

Opportunities for newcomers will be increased by providing faster credential recognition through the Fairness for Newcomers Action Plan and by introducing the new Alberta Advantage Immigration Program, that will attract entrepreneurs to start new businesses and invest here.

Restoring investor confidence in Alberta's economy is essential. That is why my Government will establish a new investment promotion agency with funds set aside in the 2019 budget to expand Alberta's profile in key capital markets around the world.

My Government will also continue leading Canada in breaking down costly trade barriers. This includes efforts to bring more provinces into the New West Partnership Trade Agreement and leading by example on labour mobility by unilaterally recognizing other provinces' professional and trade qualifications, wherever feasible.

Alberta is now producing and shipping more energy products than at any point in our history. However, significantly expanding our access to established and new markets remains critical to our economic future, in part to reduce oil price differentials that diminish the great value of our natural resources. That is why my Government will do everything within its power to ensure the completion of the Trans Mountain expansion and Keystone XL pipelines while supporting and pursuing other projects to ship Alberta energy to the world. Growing efforts to landlock and phase out Alberta energy production will not succeed. My Government recognizes that the global energy supply is moving towards lower-emitting sources, but that includes the oil and gas we will produce here in Alberta for decades to come.

We will not surrender global energy markets to dictatorships that spread conflict and extremism around the world. The Government of Alberta is prepared to do whatever it takes to develop our resources responsibly and get them to global markets to compete with and displace energy from some of the world's worst regimes. In part that means working with industry to continue reducing the environmental impact of our energy. The Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction program will continue to invest in technology that makes Alberta the global leader in environmentally responsible nonrenewable resource extraction. Alberta will continue working with the Government of Canada to obtain an equivalency agreement on new methane regulations that further reduce emissions while minimizing the cost for industry. Through these and other policies we will support the growing efforts of major Alberta energy producers to achieve the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

But that is not all. When regulatory uncertainty, hostility by the federal government, or pressure from special interest groups inhibits investment in Alberta resource development, my Government will act. Like the Government of the late Premier Lougheed, Alberta is prepared to invest directly and support companies and Indigenous groups, when necessary, to ensure the future of responsible resource development.

Through these and other efforts to stimulate jobs and growth, my Government will do everything it can to reduce unacceptably high levels of unemployment and get people back to work.

My Government's second key priority for the new session is getting our fiscal house in order and ensuring that Albertans get full value for their tax dollars. We are wasting two billion tax dollars this year on interest payments to bankers and bondholders, money that could be left in the hands of taxpayers or spent on health care and education. Without action we will end up wasting billions more on debt interest payments, which means billions less on public services.

As the MacKinnon panel confirmed, Alberta spends far more per person than other big provinces, but we often get poorer outcomes for that spending, from life expectancy and surgical wait times to high school completion and university enrolment. We cannot continue to spend more for less while going deeper into debt.

My Government will work with the public service to contain costs and protect front-line services by carefully reducing overall spending by less than 3 per cent. This excludes the budgets for health care, education, community and social services, and children's services, where budgets are being maintained at or increased to record high levels.

Preserving a high-quality public healthcare system is essential. My Government will move forward with implementation of its surgical wait times initiative and other reforms that put patients, not politics, at the centre of medicare. In doing so, Alberta will be informed by universal, publicly funded healthcare systems in Canada and Europe, with the goals of increasing patient choice, reducing wait times, and improving health outcomes. Albertans will never have to pay out of pocket for medically necessary care.

Our overarching goal is to make life better for Albertans. That is why my Government will implement a renewed mental health and addictions strategy, backed by an additional \$140 million in support. Far too many Albertans have become trapped by addiction in recent years. Every one of them needs love and compassion. They also need access to treatment and recovery services, which is why the Government is funding the creation of at least 4,000 additional treatment spaces.

With us today is a man whose life story embodies these truths. Calgarian Samuel Sturdy succumbed to opioid addiction as a teenager and overdosed many times. He did not get his life back until he undertook treatment and started down the path to recovery. Samuel now works as a youth addiction counsellor. He is living proof that treatment works and recovery is possible. Congratulations, Samuel. Thank you for being an inspiration.

My Government will introduce legislation to protect the vulnerable by enhancing public safety. This includes an act to protect survivors of human trafficking, part of our action plan to fight human trafficking and combat the scourge of this modern form of slavery.

My Government will amend the Vital Statistics Act to prevent convicted sexual offenders from covering their tracks by legally changing their names.

My Government will table Bills to toughen sanctions against impaired driving and to protect minors from risks associated with vaping.

Amendments will be proposed to the Victims of Crime Act to strengthen financial benefits for victims.

At the heart of the Alberta advantage is our strong, pluralistic public education system. That is why my Government will introduce a choice in education act, to reaffirm that parents have primary responsibility for their children's education. This law will be the first in Canada to incorporate the language of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stating that "parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children."

My Government will also implement recommendations of the curriculum review committee, including its call for a refocus on teaching core competencies, depoliticizing the curriculum, and standardized testing.

To further make life better for Albertans, my Government will undertake significant reforms to strengthen democracy in Alberta, including the tabling of a citizen initiative act that will allow Albertans to put important issues to a referendum; a recall act, allowing constituents to remove their MLAs, municipal councillors, mayors, and school board trustees from office between elections; Bills to enact fixed dates for provincial elections and provincial budgets; statutory provisions to get big money out of Alberta politics by introducing donor contribution limits to so-called political action committees while prohibiting party-affiliated groups from circumventing donation limits; amendments banning foreign money from Alberta politics by making it illegal for foreign entities to contribute to third-party advertisers; and amendments to the Alberta Taxpayer Protection Act requiring a referendum before a consumer carbon tax can be imposed.

Finally, my Government will do everything within its power to stand up for our province and get a fair deal for Alberta. Thank you to the members of the Fair Deal Panel and the tens of thousands of Albertans who attended their town halls or contributed to their deliberations. Sadly, the panel's work was made more difficult by the sudden passing of one of its members, Jason Goodstriker.

Chief Goodstriker was a proud leader of the Blackfoot people, an Alberta patriot who dedicated himself to the preservation of Indigenous culture and to helping First Nations become partners in prosperity through resource development, but most importantly, he was a loving father, and a husband to Tiffany, who is with us today. Thank you, Tiffany, for sharing your husband with Alberta.

My Government will table legislation to advance our province's objectives for a fair deal within the Canadian federation. This will include an act to protect critical infrastructure, to address the illegal blockades we have seen across Canada, to increase the penalties for blocking roads, railways, and other infrastructure, and to clarify that in Alberta police do not have to wait for a warrant to act in the face of illegal activity and uphold the rule of law; amendments to the Constitutional Referendum Act to clarify the referendum process and allow for the holding of referendums not related to constitutional issues; amendments to the Alberta Senate Election Act to update the election rules for the next Senate election in conjunction with the municipal elections in the fall of 2021; and legislation to replace the federal parole board with a provincial parole board in charge of parole eligibility and terms for provincial prisoners.

Following the report of the Fair Deal Panel other Bills may be tabled to give effect to its recommendations.

This summarizes my Government's legislative program for the Second Session of the 30th Legislature. It is an ambitious, practical program that will stimulate investment, job creation, and growth and get Alberta back to work. It will achieve fiscal responsibility, strengthen our democracy, and protect the vulnerable, and it will arm Alberta with more of the tools our province needs to stand up for our right to a fair deal within the Canadian federation.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, thank you for all your efforts on behalf of your constituents. I invite you to exercise your utmost wisdom as you chart the future course of our beloved province, and may the blessings of Almighty God rest upon your counsels as you work to keep Alberta strong and free.

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 1/2020

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 "Critical Infrastructure Defence Act". Hon. Mr. Kenney accordingly presented the Bill and the same was received and read a First time.

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 Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Intersessional Deposits

Pursuant to Standing Order 38.1(3), the following documents were deposited with the Clerk of the Assembly and are deemed to have been laid before the Assembly:

Mr. Ellis, Chair, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, pursuant to the Auditor General Act, cA-46, s20(2):

Report of the Auditor General dated December 2019, entitled “Alberta Advanced Education, Report on Post-secondary Institutions, 2019”, deposited on December 19, 2019

Sessional Paper 554/2019

Hon. Mr. Copping, Minister of Labour and Immigration, pursuant to the Chartered Professional Accountants Act, cC-10.2, s28(2):

Chartered Professional Accountants Alberta Annual Report 2018/19, deposited on December 19, 2019

Sessional Paper 555/2019

Hon. Mr. Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks, pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, cE-12, s34(2):

Environmental Protection and Security Fund Annual Report, April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019, deposited on January 15, 2020

Sessional Paper 556/2019-20

Hon. Mr. Nicolaidis, Minister of Advanced Education, pursuant to the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act, cA-42, s6(2):

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Annual Report 2018-2019, deposited on January 24, 2020

Sessional Paper 557/2019-20

Hon. Mr. Cooper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the Legislative Assembly Act, cL-9, s39(3):

Revised Members’ Services Committee Order No. MSC 01/20, Regulations Exemption and Variance Amendment Order (No. 2), deposited on January 24, 2020

Sessional Paper 558/2019-20

Hon. Mr. Shandro, Minister of Health, pursuant to the Health Professions Act, cH-7, s4(2):

Alberta College of Paramedics 2019 Annual Report, deposited on February 4, 2020

Sessional Paper 559/2019-20

Hon. Mr. Copping, Minister of Labour and Immigration, pursuant to the Veterinary Profession Act, cV-2, s6.1(2):

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association 2018 Annual Report, deposited on February 7, 2020

Sessional Paper 560/2019-20

Hon. Mr. Glubish, Minister of Service Alberta, pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, cF-25, s86:

Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Annual Report 2016-2017, deposited on February 13, 2020

Sessional Paper 561/2019-20

Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Annual Report 2017-2018, deposited on February 13, 2020

Sessional Paper 562/2019-20

Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Annual Report 2018-2019, deposited on February 13, 2020

Sessional Paper 563/2019-20

Mr. Ellis, Chair, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, pursuant to the Child and Youth Advocate Act, cC-11.5, s21(4):

Standing Committee on Legislative Offices Report on the Review of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate 2018-2019 Annual Report, February 2020, deposited on February 14, 2020

Sessional Paper 564/2019-20

Hon. Mr. Shandro, Minister of Health:

Pursuant to the Mental Health Act, cM-13, s47(2), Mental Health Patient Advocate 2018/19 Annual Report, deposited on February 14, 2020

Sessional Paper 565/2019-20

Pursuant to the Alberta Health Act, cA-19.5, s6(2), Alberta Health Advocate 2018/19 Annual Report, deposited on February 14, 2020

Sessional Paper 566/2019-20

Hon. Mr. Copping, Minister of Labour and Immigration, pursuant to the Land Surveyors Act, cL-3, s9(4):

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association Report of Proceedings of the One Hundred and Tenth Annual General Meeting, deposited on February 19, 2020

Sessional Paper 567/2019-20

Mr. Ellis, Chair, Standing Committee on Legislative Offices, pursuant to the Auditor General Act, cA-46, s20(2):

Report of the Auditor General dated February 2020, entitled "Alberta Education, Processes to Manage the Student Class Size Initiative Followup", deposited on February 21, 2020

Sessional Paper 568/2019-20

Report of the Auditor General dated February 2020, entitled “Alberta Health Services, Wave One Implementation of Connect Care Clinical Information System”, deposited on February 21, 2020

Sessional Paper 569/2019-20

Report of the Auditor General dated February 2020, entitled “Alberta Infrastructure, Fort McMurray Residential Facility-Based Care Centre (Willow Square) Project Management”, deposited on February 21, 2020

Sessional Paper 570/2019-20

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Nixon, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:41 p.m. until Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Hon. Nathan M. Cooper,
Speaker