



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 22

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Thirty-First Legislature

Monday, March 11, 2024

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

The Speaker offered a prayer and a moment of silence was observed in recognition of the death of former Member Hon. Guy C. Boutilier, Member for Fort McMurray, 1997 to 2004, and Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo, 2004-2012, who passed away on March 8, 2024.

Speaker's Statement – Commonwealth Day

The Speaker made a statement in recognition of Commonwealth Day 2024.

Members' Statements

Mrs. Petrovic, Hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod, made a statement regarding a recent increase in new jobs in Alberta.

Ms Hayter, Hon. Member for Calgary-Edgemont, made a statement regarding achievements of women in the New Democratic Party caucus.

Mr. Wiebe, Hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti, made a statement recognizing the importance of rural Alberta.

Hon. Mr. Sabir, Hon. Member for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall, made a statement regarding Ramadan and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Hon. Ms Armstrong-Homeniuk, Hon. Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, made a statement recognizing the life and legacy of Kassandra Gartner.

MLA Hoyle, Hon. Member for Edmonton-South, made a statement regarding the Government's proposed policies with respect to transgender youth.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Hon. Ms Gray, Official Opposition House Leader:

Edmonton Journal website article dated March 8, 2024, entitled "Opinion: Shelving south Edmonton hospital means more hallway medicine," relating to comments made by Hon. Ms Gray during Oral Question Period on March 11, 2024

Sessional Paper 212/2023-24

MLA Irwin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood:

Letter dated February 26, 2024, from the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights to MLA Irwin, expressing support for Bill 205, Housing Statutes (Housing Security) Amendment Act, 2023

Sessional Paper 213/2023-24

Hon. MLA Ceci, Hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo:

2 pieces of correspondence, both dated February 13, 2024, between Rachel Hamilton and Hon. Ms Smith, Premier, President of Executive Council, and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations, regarding the Government's proposed policies with respect to transgender youth

Sessional Paper 214/2023-24

Letter, undated, from Janice to Hon. MLA Ceci, expressing concern regarding an increase in rent

Sessional Paper 215/2023-24

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. Horner, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, pursuant to the Sustainable Fiscal Planning and Reporting Act, cS -29, ss1(2) and 5(4):

Budget 2024, Ministry Business Plans

Sessional Paper 216/2023-24

Budget 2024, Government of Alberta 2024-27 Strategic Plan

Sessional Paper 217/2023-24

Speaker's Statement – Electronic Devices and Props in the Chamber

Honourable Members, I would like to bring to your attention the memo from the Hon. Speaker dated February 21, 2024. If you've been a Member of the Assembly for any period of time, you've received numerous memos, and I'm sure that every time it comes you drop it on the ground because of your care and consideration for it; you read it with bated breath. I would like to draw attention to page 8 of the memo, specifically section 20, about the use of electronic devices in the Chamber: "Except as listed below, the use of a Member's computer [or] tablet (e.g., laptop, Surface, iPad) or a Member's smartphone (data only) is permitted in the Chamber at any time during [the] morning, afternoon, or evening sittings, except during Oral Question Period."

The memo does go on to provide a small clarification that says, "[a Member] may use their mobile devices during Oral Question Period but [may] only use them as reading devices." My sense is that unless you're providing a question or a Member's Statement during the Daily Routine, there is no need for the use of an electronic device in the Chamber, as per the longstanding tradition of the Assembly.

I would also like to provide some further caution to Members who may like to decorate their individual laptops or otherwise, as it's reasonable for the Speaker to assume that that would be the use of a prop, which would be wildly unparliamentary. I encourage Members who may have stickers on their laptops – I can see none of the content other than I see many Members in the Assembly with stickers on those laptops – to govern themselves accordingly in the future.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Public Bills and Orders Other Than Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

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

Bill 204 Municipal Government (National Urban Parks) Amendment Act, 2023 —
Mr. Lundy

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to. With Hon. Mr. Cooper in the Chair, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the motion: 45

Amery	Johnson	Sawhney
Armstrong-Homeniuk	Jones	Schow
Boitchenko	LaGrange	Schulz
Bouchard	Loewen	Sigurdson (Highwood)
Cyr	Long	Sinclair
Dreeshen	Lovely	Singh
Dyck	Lunty	Stephan
Ellis	McDougall	Turton
Fir	McIver	van Dijken
Getson	Nally	Wiebe
Glubish	Nicolaides	Williams
Guthrie	Nixon	Wilson
Horner	Petrovic	Wright (Cypress-Medicine Hat)
Hunter	Pitt	Yao
Jean	Rowswell	Yaseen

Against the motion: 15

Arcand-Paul	Ellingson	Hoyle
Batten	Elmeligi	Irwin
Brar	Eremenko	Kasawski
Ceci	Gray	Tejada
Eggen	Haji	Wright (Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview)

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

Bill 205 Housing Statutes (Housing Security) Amendment Act, 2023 — MLA Irwin

A debate followed.

Debate adjourned, Mr. Lunty speaking.

The following Bill was read a Second time and referred to Committee of the Whole:

Bill 204 Municipal Government (National Urban Parks) Amendment Act, 2023 —
Mr. Lunty

Motions Other Than Government Motions

505. Moved by Mr. Getson:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly urge the Government to

- (a) recognize the significant health, economic and environmental impacts on Albertans resulting from Alberta wildfires, and
- (b) introduce a Bill to amend the Forest and Prairie Protection Act to increase the penalties for committing an offence under that Act.

A debate followed.

Hon. Mr. Eggen, Hon. Member for Edmonton-North West, on behalf of Hon. Ms Gray, Official Opposition House Leader, moved that the motion be amended

- (a) by striking out “and” at the end of clause (a), and
- (b) by adding the following immediately after clause (b):
 - (c) implement a comprehensive long-term strategy for managing forest and prairie fires outside of forest protection areas, as defined in the Forest and Prairie Protection Act, and
 - (d) acknowledge that climate change is causing a significant increase in the frequency and intensity of forest and prairie fires.

Sessional Paper 218/2023-24

A debate followed on the amendment.

The question being put, the amendment was defeated.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Adjournment

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(2), the Assembly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Nathan M. Cooper,
Speaker