



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 35

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Thirty-First Legislature

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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

Members' Statements

MLA Boparai, Hon. Member for Calgary-Falconridge, made a statement regarding Vaisakhi (some remarks made in Punjabi).

Mr. Long, Hon. Member for West Yellowhead, made a statement regarding the Government's recently announced funding for regional airports.

Mr. Haji, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore, made a statement regarding the lack of Government support for Black entrepreneurs in Alberta.

Mr. van Dijken, Hon. Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, made a statement regarding Government plans to address potential drought conditions in Alberta.

Ms Al-Guneid, Hon. Member for Calgary-Glenmore, made a statement regarding recent rolling blackouts in Alberta and the need for Government to diversify the electricity grid.

MLA Batten, Hon. Member for Calgary-Acadia, made a statement regarding the recent closure of two youth treatment centres in northern Alberta.

Notices of Motions

Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the intention to introduce the following Bill:

Bill 18 Provincial Priorities Act — Hon. Ms Smith

Privilege – Incident Between Members

Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the intention to raise a purported question of privilege under Standing Order 15 regarding an incident which occurred April 8, 2024, outside the Chamber, in which the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar allegedly intimidated and obstructed the Hon. Member for Camrose in the performance of her parliamentary duties.

Introduction of Bills (First Reading)

Oral notice having been given April 8, 2024:

Bill 17 Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence Act — Hon. Mr. Williams

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

E-mail message dated March 14, 2024, sender's name redacted, to Hon. Mr. Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services, expressing support for Bill 205, Housing Statutes (Housing Security) Amendment Act, 2023
Sessional Paper 289/2023-24

Ms Renaud, Hon. Member for St. Albert:

Letter dated March 26, 2024, from the Alberta Life Lease Protection Society to Hon. Ms Smith, Premier, President of Executive Council, and Minister of Intergovernmental Relations, and Hon. Mr. Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, expressing concern regarding Bill 12, Consumer Protection (Life Leases) Amendment Act, 2024

Sessional Paper 290/2023-24

Privilege – Incident Between Members

Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, raised a purported question of privilege under Standing Order 15 regarding an incident which occurred April 8, 2024, outside the Chamber, in which the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar allegedly intimidated and obstructed the Hon. Member for Camrose in the performance of her parliamentary duties.

The Speaker heard from Hon. Mr. Schow.

Apology by Member

Hon. Mr. Schmidt, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, made a statement apologizing for his conduct outside the Chamber on April 8, 2024.

Speaker's Statement – Civility in the Workplace

Honourable Members, the apology from the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, typically speaking with respect to points of privilege, concludes the matter, and the matter is considered dealt with. I think it is imperative to provide some additional remarks with respect to conduct of Members, especially with respect to their interactions with one another.

I have received information that confirms some of the behaviour of the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, and I do believe that his conduct was inappropriate. I value his apology, but I also want to reiterate that I believe it is important that Members feel safe and unimpeded to conduct their parliamentary business.

I also think it is very important to note that there is a significant difference between conduct inside this Assembly, in these four Chamber walls, in which there are a number of protections – whether we agree with the level of those protections at any given time with respect to the presence of Presiding Officers, Members of the Table, the Sergeant-at-Arms, or otherwise, interactions that take place inside this Chamber have some level of those protections, and it is very, very concerning to the Speaker that Members of the Assembly or, in this case, a Member of the Assembly felt significantly threatened outside of this Chamber. And while I appreciate that those two things can be similar, there is a significant and tangible difference between a Member feeling threatened or being threatened by a Member of this Assembly outside of the protections of the four walls of this Chamber, and so I am gravely concerned about the actions of the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar. I am particularly concerned and have expressed my concern that this incident took place outside of the Chamber.

This, unfortunately, is not the first offence of the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar. And while there have been other points of privilege raised in this Assembly about the conduct of Members, on each of those occasions the conduct took place inside the Assembly, where, as I just mentioned, there are other protections in place. This is certainly the most concerning point of privilege that has been raised during my Speakership. I am deeply concerned about the impacts that this interaction and this behaviour by the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar will have and could have on other Members and their ability to conduct their business.

I am going to have a personal conversation in a meeting with the Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar. I will accept his apology as it is presented, and I will communicate directly to the Hon. Government House Leader and the Leader of the Opposition on issues impacting Members, in particular with how Members interact outside this Chamber.

I consider this matter dealt with and concluded.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills and Orders

Second Reading

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

Bill 10 Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 (\$) — Hon. Mr. Horner

A debate followed.

Hon. MLA Ceci moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

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

Bill 11 Public Safety Statutes Amendment Act, 2024 — Hon. Mr. Ellis

A debate followed.

Debate adjourned, Mr. Haji speaking.

Adjournment

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(2), the Assembly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Nathan M. Cooper,
Speaker