



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 7

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Thirty-First Legislature

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

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

Members' Statements

Mr. Shepherd, Hon. Member for Edmonton-City Centre, made a statement regarding Charter rights and the Government's decision to invoke the Notwithstanding Clause in the Back to School Act.

Ms Pitt, Hon. Member for Airdrie-East, made a statement regarding Bill 6, Education (Prioritizing Literacy and Numeracy) Amendment Act, 2025 (No. 2).

Hon. Ms Ganley, Hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, made a statement regarding a lack of Government support for public education.

Ms Lovely, Hon. Member for Camrose, made a statement regarding Government investments in physician education, recruitment, and retention.

Mr. Dach, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, made a statement regarding the Government's priorities.

Ms Hayter, Hon. Member for Calgary-Edgemont, made a statement regarding Bill 201, Employment Standards (Protecting Workers' Pay) Amendment Act, 2025.

Notices of Motions

Pursuant to Government Motion 4, agreed to on October 27, 2025, Hon. Mr. Williams, Deputy Government House Leader, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, advised the Assembly that there would be no evening sitting today.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Wright, Hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat:

The Bureau website article, undated, entitled “Fentanyl Pill Raid in Okanagan, Near Falkland Superlab, Linked to Additives Found in U.S.-Mexico Border Seizures”

Sessional Paper 75/2025

Mr. Dach, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung:

E-mail message dated September 19, 2025, from Derik Cundal, to Hon. Mr. Nixon, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services, expressing concern regarding Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped benefits

Sessional Paper 76/2025

Ms Renaud, Hon. Member for St. Albert:

5 pieces of correspondence expressing concern regarding Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped benefits

Sessional Paper 77/2025

Mr. Dyck, Hon. Member for Grande Prairie:

Letter dated October 15, 2025, from Hon. Mr. Ellis, Deputy Premier, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services, to MLA Boparai, Hon. Member for Calgary-Falconridge, regarding incidents of extortion in Alberta’s South Asian community

Sessional Paper 78/2025

Tablings to the Clerk

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Ms Schulz, Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, pursuant to the Alberta Land Stewardship Act, cA-26.8, s5(1):

Proposed amendments to the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan

Sessional Paper 79/2025

Clerk of the Assembly on behalf of Hon. Mr. McIver, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:

Letter dated November 3, 2025, from Hon. Mr. Guthrie, Hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane, to Hon. Mr. McIver, tendering his resignation from the Standing Committee on Private Bills

Sessional Paper 80/2025

Privilege – Obstructing a Member in Performance of Duty

Honourable Members, I would like to start my ruling on the proposed question of privilege by indicating to the Assembly that questions of privilege are very serious matters and should arise infrequently. In addition, because of their significance, questions of privilege should also be clearly articulated and presented to the Assembly in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 15.

In the case that the Assembly has before it, the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane raised a question of privilege during debate on Government Motion 11, during the afternoon of October 30, 2025. The gist of the question of privilege concerns Government Motion 11 and the proposed appointment of the Member to a committee of the Assembly.

As to the matter of whether the question of privilege was raised at the earliest opportunity, Standing Order 15(6) provides that the “Speaker may allow such debate as he or she thinks appropriate ... to determine whether ... the matter is being raised at the earliest opportunity ...”

Government Motion 11 was placed on the notice portion of the Order Paper on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. This means that the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane knew about the committee changes and, specifically, which committee he would be assigned to if Government Motion 11 passed last Wednesday morning. Yet the Member waited until Thursday afternoon during debate on the motion to raise his question of privilege.

I would suggest that the appropriate procedure would have been for the Member to submit by 11:30 a.m. Wednesday morning a memorandum to the Speaker clearly outlining his question of privilege and provide notice of it to the Assembly that afternoon. And for those watching at home, this procedure is provided in Standing Order 15(2), which I will now read to you:

A Member wishing to raise a question of privilege shall give written notice containing a brief statement of the question to the Speaker and, if practicable, to any person whose conduct may be called into question, at least 2 hours before the opening of the afternoon sitting and, before the Orders of the Day are called, shall call attention to the alleged breach of privilege and give a brief statement of the nature of the matter addressed in the complaint.

I would add that in raising the question of privilege when the Member did – in the midst of debate on Government Motion 11 – the Member mixed elements of debate on Government Motion 11 with his arguments in favour of his purported question of privilege. This situation could have been avoided had the Member followed the correct process, which is what I just outlined pursuant to Standing Order 15(2). As a result, I am not convinced that the matter was raised at the earliest opportunity, in accordance with Standing Order 15(6).

In any event, I did hear arguments, and I am prepared to rule. The facts of this question of privilege are that the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane claims that the Government “unilaterally appointed” him to the Standing Committee on Private Bills. Specifically, the Member stated on the record that “the Government House Leader informed me Tuesday night, without consultation, notice, or consent, that I was being placed on the Standing Committee on Private Bills.”

He further contends that the actions of the Government House Leader constitute an “abuse of power, an attempt to impose the will of cabinet upon an independent Member, and a clear effort to interfere with [his] duties and freedoms as a Member of this Legislative Assembly.” You can find the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane’s remarks on pages 130 through 132 of the October 30, 2025, edition of Alberta Hansard.

On Monday, November 3, 2025, the Deputy Government House Leader made submissions on the question of privilege on behalf of the Government House Leader, which I allowed in accordance with Standing Order 15(4). The Deputy Government House Leader noted a number of allegations and accusations that the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane made against the Government House Leader during the Spring Sitting of the Assembly.

I would like to deal with these points straightaway by indicating to the Assembly that these matters were raised during the Spring Sitting as a point of order and, therefore, they have been dealt with and concluded and are not issues for the Assembly to consider today.

The Deputy Government House Leader notes that the substance of the question of privilege is the Member for Airdrie Cochrane’s submission that the Government House Leader’s appointing him to a committee he did not want to be a member of, which is the Standing Committee on Private Bills, interfered with the Member’s ability to perform his duties. The Deputy Government House Leader also argues that the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane is under the misguided impression that it is Cabinet, and not the Legislative Assembly, that appoints Members to committees, and that to serve on committees is to serve the Assembly as well, which is a principal responsibility of all Members. Members can find these comments on pages 152 to 154 of Alberta Hansard for November 3, 2025.

On the facts of the matter, I will start by pointing out that determining the membership of all committees of the Assembly happens as the result of the passage of a Government Motion. This was the case in this instance, with Government Motion 11. This type of motion is debatable and amendable, and of course, Members vote on it. Therefore, I would agree that the membership of these committees of the Assembly are decisions of the Assembly, and not of Cabinet or of any caucus.

The Member for Airdrie-Cochrane did in fact have an opportunity to debate and vote on the Government Motion. Indeed, at the outset of his comments last Thursday afternoon, he implored “Members of this House, including the UCP caucus, to vote against this motion once hearing [his] full remarks.” These remarks can be found on page 130 of the Alberta Hansard for October 30, 2025.

Furthermore, the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane also had the opportunity to amend the motion, which, if passed, could have seen him be appointed to a different committee. To paraphrase the Deputy Government House Leader: had the Member raised his concerns by amendment to Government Motion 11, we would not find ourselves in the current situation. Although I can’t in an unlimited way agree with that, we certainly would have had a vote on it before we found ourselves in this situation. In short, the Member did not avail himself of the procedural tools at his disposal to achieve the results he desired.

Honourable Members, I would also like to discuss the way that committee membership is proposed in the first place, in a Government Motion that is put on notice. The longstanding practice of this Assembly is that each independent Member is entitled to sit on at least one committee of the Assembly. Indeed, had the Member been denied a committee assignment, then that may have led to a more credible privilege argument.

On April 13, 2010, former Speaker Ken Kowalski ruled that “there’s always been a tradition [at the Assembly] that every Member must be able to participate in at least one ... committee.” You can find these comments on pages 729 to 730 of the Alberta Hansard of April 13, 2010.

The process to develop a draft committee membership motion is for the Government House Leader to work with the Opposition, including the independents, to determine to which committee the Members will be appointed.

In his arguments on the question of privilege, the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane acknowledges that the Government House Leader did discuss the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane’s pending appointment to the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

Now, I do not know exactly what was said during that conversation, but I am sure that if the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane had objected to the proposal to appoint him to the Private Bills Committee, he could have indicated this at that time and even lobbied for a different committee assignment.

Honourable Members, the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane purports that he was obstructed in the performance of his duties as a Member by being appointed to a committee to which he did not wish to be appointed.

Briefly, Honourable Members, the category of privilege the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane uses to support his question of privilege is the freedom of a Member to do his or her duties without obstruction or intimidation.

As defined by Joseph Maingot in *Parliamentary Immunity in Canada*, Third Edition, “Members are entitled to go about their parliamentary business undisturbed ... Any form of intimidation ... of a person for or on account of his behaviour during a proceeding in parliament could amount to a contempt”. This excerpt can be found on page 212 of *Parliamentary Immunity in Canada*.

After listening to the arguments from all sides and in reviewing the parliamentary law, I conclude that the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane was not impeded in his duties by being appointed to a committee to which he did not want to be appointed. Accordingly, I do not find there to be a prima facie case of breach of privilege.

Indeed, I know that there are many of us today, within this Chamber, who have found themselves in the situation of being appointed to a committee that was not their first choice. Not all Members are pleased with their committee assignments.

And I would note for the Assembly that the Member for Airdrie-Cochrane has written to me pursuant to Standing Order 56(3) to indicate that he has resigned from the Standing Committee on Private Bills, a resignation that took effect upon my tabling of the letter of resignation earlier this day.

The matter is therefore dealt with and concluded.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Consideration of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor's Speech

(Day 4)

Moved by Mrs. Sawyer and seconded by Mr. Dyck:

That an humble address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, AOE, B.Sc., LLD (hon), the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Debate continued on the amendment introduced by Mr. Nenshi, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, on October 28, 2025, that the motion be amended by adding the following after "at the opening of the present Session":

“, and to inform Your Honour that the Legislative Assembly affirms that Alberta and the rest of Canada are stronger together, and denounces provincial separatism as extreme, divisive and economically destructive.”

Sessional Paper 21/2025

Mr. Gurtej Brar moved adjournment of the debate on the amendment, which was agreed to.

Government Bills and Orders

Committee of the Whole

According to Order, the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of the Whole and the Speaker left the Chair.

(Assembly in Committee)

And after some time spent therein, the Acting Speaker assumed the Chair.

The following Bill was reported:

Bill 1 International Agreements Act — Hon. Ms Smith

Mrs. Johnson, Acting Chair of Committees, tabled copies of an amendment considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

Amendment to Bill 1 (A1) (Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford) —
Defeated

Sessional Paper 81/2025

Second Reading

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

Bill 3 Private Vocational Training Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. McDougall

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 4 Public Safety and Emergency Services Statutes Amendment Act, 2025
(No. 2) — Hon. Mr. Amery on behalf of Hon. Mr. Ellis

A debate followed.

Debate adjourned, Hon. Ms Hoffman speaking.

Adjournment

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(2), the Assembly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ric McIver,
Speaker