



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 1

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Twenty-Fifth Legislature

Tuesday, April 10, 2001

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

While awaiting the arrival of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker spoke about the backgrounds of the 83 Members of the 25th Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor entered the Assembly and took her seat on the Throne.

Speaker's Address to the Lieutenant Governor

Then the Speaker said:

May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly have 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 duties to their Queen and Province, hereby claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from you the most favourable construction.

Statement by the Provincial Secretary

The Provincial Secretary, Hon. Mr. Hancock, then said:

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 the proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temperance, and prudence, she grants and upon all occasions will recognize and allow the Assembly's constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to Her Honour upon all suitable occasions and that all 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, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and fellow Albertans:

Fellow Albertans, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the First Session of the 25th Alberta Legislature. Once again I have the privilege of delivering the Speech from the Throne.

Today begins a new legislative session with a new group of legislators who have been chosen by Albertans to represent them in this Chamber. Some are returning Members; others are new. All have been given a solemn responsibility and a duty to honour the trust that has been placed upon them.

As the business of this Assembly is conducted, I urge all Members to respect the charge that has been placed upon them, to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the importance of their undertaking, and to remember that they are here in service to the people of this province.

It was only two months ago that I laid out the Government's vision for Alberta's future. It was a vision of low taxes, no provincial debt, a strong economy, new jobs for our young people, sound infrastructure, good health care and education systems, stable agricultural communities, safe streets, and reliable social programs.

During the course of the provincial election campaign, Albertans learned more about that vision and the Government's plan to achieve it. They talked about it with others, they thought about it, and on March 12 they endorsed it with their votes.

That plan still stands. I'm not going to repeat it today because Albertans already know what the plan is. It's the plan they voted for, and it's the plan the Government will now carry out, aided by a new configuration of ministries to address priority areas. Today this Assembly begins the work of making that vision a reality.

A Strong Economy

That work begins with maintaining and building on a strong economic base. This Government recognizes that a strong economy is not an end in itself. Rather it is a means to achieve the things that matter most to Albertans. A growing and diversified economy supports investments to make our health and education systems the best they can be. It creates good jobs that allow people to provide for their families. It sustains the arts and cultural communities that add so much to our quality of life.

A strong economy begins with a solid fiscal plan. The Government pledges that it will stay the course of its fiscal plan, a plan that has brought Alberta away from deficit and debt and into the security and prosperity the Province now enjoys. It's a plan to keep taxes the lowest in Canada, ensure that spending is responsible and affordable, and eliminate the debt. It's a plan that will give Alberta's children a gift we all hope to be able to bestow: a future with limitless possibilities.

A foundation of Alberta's economy will continue to be its modern transportation infrastructure. The Government will make strategic investments to improve the safety and efficiency of Alberta's roads and highways. This year an additional 35 kilometres of the north/south trade corridor will be twinned, bringing the total number of twinned kilometres to 860 of the 1,200 that will in time make up the corridor. When completed in 2007, the corridor will link Alberta to a continental trade and tourism route through the western United States and Mexico.

The Government will continue to provide business and investment programs, especially in conjunction with the 2001 World Championships in Athletics. These programs will focus on the strategic benefits of investing in Alberta and demonstrate the Province's diverse and world-class energy, petrochemical, forest and building products, agriculture and food, tourism, and information and communications technology sectors.

Alberta benefits tremendously from its participation in a free energy market. At the same time, the Government will take steps to ensure a reliable, ample, and affordable energy supply within the Province. Legislation will be introduced this session to put into law a commitment to help protect Albertans from high natural gas prices. This Bill will ensure that Alberta consumers have a competitive natural gas service that maintains the Alberta advantage.

The Government will work to reduce and stabilize electricity prices by streamlining the approval process to bring new generation projects on stream. The Government will continue to address electricity price concerns and other consumer issues with the advice of the newly created Government Advisory Council on Electricity.

Stable Agricultural Communities

Maintaining the viability of farms and rural communities continues to be a priority for this Government. Recent events like outbreaks of disease and severe weather serve as reminders that safe, affordable food production cannot be taken for granted. Efforts to develop a long-term strategy for the health, sustainability, and growth of Alberta's agriculture industry will be accelerated based on the insights of Ag Summit 2000. Key among those efforts will be the introduction of a new policy dealing with intensive livestock operations and a renewal of efforts to provide Alberta farmers with marketing choice for their wheat and barley. The Government stands by its commitment to support Alberta farmers in times of need.

A Clean Environment

Albertans recognize that a high quality of life also depends on a healthy environment. Our province is blessed with clear air, clean water, and a breathtaking landscape that supports a rich abundance of plants and wildlife. The Government of Alberta will strengthen its reputation as a leader in environmental issues with a number of new initiatives to enhance environmental stewardship and ensure that economic growth is responsible and sustainable.

A Responsive Health Care System

As important as a clean environment in maintaining human health is a responsive health care system. Albertans are strongly committed to the publicly funded health care system, and the Government of Alberta shares this commitment. The Government's priorities for health care in the next year will focus on access to health services, illness prevention, and effective regional governance. The Government will provide Albertans with a stronger voice in health system management. This fall Albertans will elect two-thirds of the board members of the 17 regional health authorities.

A Lifelong Learning System

Like health care, education continues to be a top priority of this Government. Albertans need and deserve a lifelong learning system that provides the best possible start in the early grades, an accessible post-secondary system, and opportunities for job training and retraining throughout one's career.

The Government will increase funding to school boards to help improve student learning. Boards may use these dollars to reduce class sizes, enhance literacy programs, or introduce other initiatives so that learning, particularly at the earliest grade levels, can be enhanced. There will also be more dollars for teacher salaries to ensure that Alberta can continue to attract and retain Canada's best teachers. Work will continue on the Government's \$1 billion, three-year commitment to build new schools and modernize existing ones so our students have a safe, healthy environment in which to learn.

Supports for post-secondary students will be augmented. The number of Heritage scholarships will be increased to meet the demand, athletic scholarships will be boosted, the Jason Lang scholarship will be expanded to students in their third and fourth years, and a new scholarship will be introduced for graduate students. Automatic student loan forgiveness and a more user-focused student finance system will also be introduced to make the post-secondary learning system more affordable.

Safe, Strong Communities

Another priority of the Government will be to make Alberta communities as safe, strong, and self-reliant as they can be. The fight against crime remains a top priority for this Government. This year community groups will receive more than \$550,000 in grants for crime prevention initiatives. The Victims of Crime Act will be amended to better support and serve victims of crime by ensuring equitable award decisions and simplifying the appeal process.

Albertans value a caring society where children, seniors, and others who are vulnerable receive the support they need. The Government is committed to providing this support, beginning with giving children a strong start in life, particularly those that are most at risk. This year a new pilot program will be implemented in which mobile community teams respond to crisis situations involving children, youth, and families in government care or at risk of coming into care. Another new program will be introduced to provide mentoring to youth leaving child welfare to ease their transition to adulthood.

Support for low-income Albertans will continue to be provided. The Government will review income support programs to determine whether they continue to meet clients' needs.

Arts and culture play a vital role in sustaining the high quality of life Albertans enjoy. Recognizing this, the Government will extend the Alberta film development grant program to encourage the continued development of film arts in the Province.

A Pledge

The Government's plan for Alberta's future reflects the values of Albertans themselves, values of community and family, hard work and caring for others, creativity, confidence and innovation, and excellence in all endeavours. These are the values that have guided Albertans throughout the Province's history, and they are the values that will continue to guide this Government. These values will shape Alberta's future, beginning with a Future Summit being held this fall where Albertans will help chart a course for the Province's debt-free future. The summit will give all Albertans a voice in crafting the vision that will carry this province forward into the future.

The Government will ask the Alberta Economic Development Authority to work with the Ministers of Economic Development, Finance, and Revenue to plan and facilitate this event. The Community Development Minister will also be part of the leadership team in recognition of the fact that the opportunities created by freedom from debt are not only about simple economics. Rather they are about quality of life. They are about the kind of province we want to live in and the kind of province we want for our children and grandchildren.

It is to our children and grandchildren that the Government pledges to honour the trust that has been placed in it by Albertans. It will stay the course of debt reduction, fiscal accountability, and continued tax reform. It vows to build an Alberta that provides opportunities for all citizens to share in the Province's prosperity and optimism, opportunities that will become limitless once the Province becomes free of debt. This goal, once only a tiny pinpoint of light far in the distance, is now firmly in view thanks to the sacrifice and hard work of all Albertans.

It promises to maintain a strong economy and stable agricultural communities, foster science and research, keep our environment clean, support excellent health and education systems that meet all Albertans' needs, and help build caring, safe, strong communities.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and God bless you all. God bless Alberta. God bless Canada. God save the Queen.

Government Bills and Orders

Ordered, That the Honourable Mr. Klein have leave to introduce a Bill entitled "Natural Gas Price Protection Act." Hon. Mr. Klein accordingly presented the Bill and the same was received and read a First time.

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 1/2001

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 twelfth day of March, 2001, which states that an election was conducted in the following electoral divisions and the said report further shows that the following Members were duly elected:

Airdrie-Rocky View	Carol Haley
Athabasca-Wabasca	Mike Cardinal
Banff-Cochrane	Janis Tarchuk
Barrhead-Westlock	Ken Kowalski
Bonnyville-Cold Lake	Denis Ducharme
Calgary-Bow	Alana DeLong
Calgary-Buffalo	Harvey Cenaiko
Calgary-Cross	Yvonne Fritz
Calgary-Currie	Jon Lord
Calgary-East	Moe Amery
Calgary-Egmont	Denis Herard
Calgary-Elbow	Ralph Klein
Calgary-Fish Creek	Heather Forsyth
Calgary-Foothills	Pat Nelson
Calgary-Fort	Wayne Cao
Calgary-Glenmore	Ron Stevens
Calgary-Lougheed	Marlene Graham
Calgary-McCall	Shiraz Shariff
Calgary-Montrose	Hung Pham
Calgary-Mountain View	Mark Hlady
Calgary-North Hill	Richard Magnus
Calgary-North West	Greg Melchin
Calgary-Nose Creek	Gary Mar
Calgary-Shaw	Cindy Ady
Calgary-Varsity	Murray Smith
Calgary-West	Karen Kryczka
Cardston-Taber-Warner	Broyce Jacobs
Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan	Rob Lougheed
Cypress-Medicine Hat	Lorne Taylor
Drayton Valley-Calmar	Tony Abbott
Drumheller-Chinook	Shirley McClellan
Dunvegan	Hector Goudreau
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview	Julius Yankowsky
Edmonton-Calder	Brent Rathgeber

Edmonton-Castle Downs	Thomas Lukaszuk
Edmonton-Centre	Laurie Blakeman
Edmonton-Ellerslie	Debby Carlson
Edmonton-Glengarry	Bill Bonner
Edmonton-Glenora	Drew Hutton
Edmonton-Gold Bar	Hugh MacDonald
Edmonton-Highlands	Brian Mason
Edmonton-Manning	Tony Vandermeer
Edmonton-McClung	Mark Norris
Edmonton-Meadowlark	Bob Maskell
Edmonton-Mill Creek	Gene Zwozdesky
Edmonton-Mill Woods	Don Massey
Edmonton-Norwood	Gary Masyk
Edmonton-Riverview	Kevin Taft
Edmonton-Rutherford	Ian McClelland
Edmonton-Strathcona	Raj Pannu
Edmonton-Whitemud	David Hancock
Fort McMurray	Guy Boutilier
Grande Prairie-Smoky	Mel Knight
Grande Prairie-Wapiti	Gordon Graydon
Highwood	Don Tannas
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake	Luke Ouellette
Lac La Biche-St. Paul	Ray Danyluk
Lacombe-Stettler	Judy Gordon
Leduc	Albert Klapstein
Lesser Slave Lake	Pearl Calahasen
Lethbridge-East	Ken Nicol
Lethbridge-West	Clint Dunford
Little Bow	Barry McFarland
Livingstone-Macleod	David Coutts
Medicine Hat	Rob Renner
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	Richard Marz
Peace River	Gary Friedel
Ponoka-Rimbey	Halvar Jonson

Red Deer-North	Mary Anne Jablonski
Red Deer-South	Victor Doerksen
Redwater	Dave Broda
Rocky Mountain House	Ty Lund
St. Albert	Mary O'Neill
Sherwood Park	Iris Evans
Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert	Doug Horner
Stony Plain	Stan Woloshyn
Strathmore-Brooks	Lyle Oberg
Vegreville-Viking	Ed Stelmach
Vermilion-Lloydminster	Lloyd Snelgrove
Wainwright	Robert (Butch) Fischer
West Yellowhead	Ivan Strang
Wetaskiwin-Camrose	LeRoy Johnson
Whitecourt-St. Anne	George VanderBurg

Government Motions

Moved by Hon. Mr. Klein:

It was resolved that the Speech of Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this Assembly be taken into consideration Wednesday, April 11, 2001.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Zwozdesky:

It was resolved that the Votes and Proceedings of this Assembly be printed, after first having been perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person, but such as he shall appoint, do presume to print the same.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Hancock:

It was resolved that the Select Standing Committees for the present Session of the Legislative Assembly be appointed for the following purposes:

- (1) The Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund,
- (2) Law and Regulations,
- (3) Legislative Offices,
- (4) Private Bills,
- (5) Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing,
- (6) Public Accounts, and
- (7) Public Affairs

and, in addition thereto, there be appointed for the duration of the present Legislature, a Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

Hon. Mr. Hancock requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 49(1) and (3).

Hon. Mr. Hancock requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to waive Standing Order 38(1)(a).

Hon. Mr. Hancock moved that the following Members be appointed to the Assembly's seven Select Standing and one Special Standing Committees:

ALBERTA HERITAGE SAVINGS TRUST FUND (9 Members)

Hutton (Chair)	Carlson	Lougheed
Magnus (Deputy Chair)	Fischer	Marz
Bonner	Knight	VanderBurg

LAW AND REGULATIONS (21 Members)

Friedel (Chair)	DeLong	Mason
Herard (Deputy Chair)	Gordon	Masyk
Abbott	Horner	Rathgeber
Ady	Klapstein	Renner
Bonner	Lukaszuk	Snelgrove
Cenaiko	MacDonald	Vandermeer
Danyluk	Maskell	Yankowsky

LEGISLATIVE OFFICES (9 Members)

Tarchuk (Chair)	Friedel	Hlady
Ducharme (Deputy Chair)	Fritz	O'Neill
Blakeman	Graham	Tannas

PRIVATE BILLS (21 Members)

Graham (Chair)	Lord	Pannu
Kryczka (Deputy Chair)	Magnus	Pham
Bonner	Maskell	Rathgeber
Goudreau	Massey	Snelgrove
Graydon	McClelland	VanderBurg
Jacobs	McFarland	Vandermeer
Johnson	Ouellette	Yankowsky

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS, STANDING ORDERS AND PRINTING
(21 Members)

Klapstein (Chair)	Fischer	Lougheed
Johnson (Deputy Chair)	Fritz	Lukaszuk
Abbott	Graydon	MacDonald
Amery	Hlady	Masyk
Cao	Jacobs	McClelland
Carlson	Knight	Pannu
Danyluk	Lord	Zwozdesky

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (17 Members)

MacDonald (Chair)	Cenaiko	Marz
Shariff (Deputy Chair)	DeLong	Mason
Ady	Goudreau	Ouellette
Blakeman	Hutton	Taft
Broda	Jablonski	Tarchuk
Cao	Lukaszuk	

PUBLIC AFFAIRS (All Members)

Strang (Chair)	Pham (Deputy Chair)
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MEMBERS' SERVICES (11 Members)

Kowalski (Chair)
Haley (Deputy Chair)
Bonner
Broda

Ducharme
Horner
Jablonski
Mason

Massey
McFarland
Woloshyn

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

Sessional Paper 2/2001

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 3:48 p.m. until Wednesday, April 11, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Tuesday, April 10, 2001