



**Legislative Assembly  
Province of Alberta**

## **VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

First Session

Thirty-First Legislature

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023**

This being the first Day of the First Session of the Thirty-first Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, for the despatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation of Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani, AOE, B.Sc., LLD (hon), Lieutenant Governor, dated the 9th day of June in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-three;

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly read the Proclamation as follows:

[GREAT SEAL]  
CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

SALMA LAKHANI,  
Lieutenant Governor.

CHARLES THE THIRD, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada, and His Other Realms and Territories, KING, 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 deemed expedient for certain causes and considerations to convene the Legislative Assembly of Our Province of Alberta for the First Session of the Thirty-first Legislature, WE DO WILL that you and each of you, and all others in this behalf interested, on Tuesday, the 20th day of June 2023, at the hour

Susanne Stushnoff  
Deputy Attorney General

of 1:30 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 SALMA LAKHANI, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of Alberta, this 9th day of June in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-three and in the First Year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND:

MICKEY AMERY,  
Provincial Secretary.

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The Members, having previously been duly sworn in by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and having subscribed to the Roll containing the Oath, took their seats.

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

### **Statement by the Provincial Secretary**

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

Honourable Members, I am commanded by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that she does not see fit to declare the causes of her summoning of the present Legislature of this Province until the Speaker of the Assembly shall have been chosen according to law.

She therefore is pleased to retire from this Assembly, to return at a subsequent hour on the next sitting day, to declare the causes of her calling of this Legislature.

Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor then retired from the Assembly.

### **Election of Speaker**

The Clerk advised the Assembly that nominations were open, and the following Members were nominated and allowed their names to stand for the position of Speaker:

Mr. Cooper, nominated by Hon. Mr. Horner;  
Hon. Ms Gray, nominated by Hon. Ms Ganley.

Receiving no additional nominations, the Clerk declared nominations closed.

Ballots were completed by the Members.

The Clerk, Table Officers, and Sergeant-at-Arms retired from the Chamber to count the ballots.

### **Election Results**

The Clerk then announced the following:

The results of the first ballot for the election of the Speaker are as follows: the number of ballots cast, 84; the number of spoiled ballots, 1; the number of votes required to achieve the 50 percent plus one majority, 43; the Member having received the majority of votes cast, Mr. Cooper. Mr. Cooper is hereby declared Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the 31st Legislature.

### **Speaker's Address to the Assembly**

The Speaker donned his robe. The Speaker thanked the Assembly for the honour conferred upon him with the following speech:

Honourable Members, as it is my first opportunity to do so, I wish to send my greatest and deepest thank yous to the outstanding constituents of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills for placing their trust back in me to make this afternoon an opportunity. I also wish to congratulate all Members of the Assembly. Whether it was your first election or your re-election, congratulations on being here today, and thank you – thank you so very much – from the bottom of my heart for placing your trust in me to serve as the Speaker of the 31st Legislature of the great province of Alberta.

Whether it's your first time as an MLA or perhaps you have faithfully served this institution, like the Leader of the Official Opposition, for 5,588 days or, perhaps in the case of the Hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, his fourth election and some 4,076 days, I am sure that they will tell you that coming into the Chamber for the very first time after an election is a very, very special occasion.

My hope for us is that your debates will be vigorous, thoughtful, and amicable. In all of Alberta's history only 984 people have ever been elected to serve in this Chamber. As we honour their legacy and service, let us be mindful that we now set the standard for those who come after us. May we not take this duty or calling lightly. Together we have an incredible opportunity and a responsibility.

Honourable Members, we are a reflection of this great province, all 87 of us. Forty of you were born here in Alberta, and a further 25 in other provinces in Canada. You have come from Brazil, Chile, Taiwan, Ukraine, Trinidad and Tobago, and Yemen, to name a few of the places around the world which you have come from, but you have chosen Alberta. You speak 19 languages. You are lawyers, entrepreneurs, teachers, and farmers, who all wake up every day with the exact same desire to make our province, the province we all share, an even better place than when we found it.

It is with a servant's heart that I seek to serve this Assembly, to uphold the high standards of those who have come before, to protect the rights and privileges of all Members of the Assembly, and to do my part to make Alberta a better place. As Speaker my authority comes from you, the Members. Collectively we chart our own course, a course with a better Alberta for all as the destination. We are all here to serve this most honest House and to make our friends, our families, our communities, and this great province proud. I encourage and entrust all of you to remember that in our haste to do good, we must never forget to be good for each other. May God bless you and may God bless Alberta.

The Speaker then took the Chair and the Sergeant-at-Arms placed the Mace on the Table. The Speaker delivered the prayer.

Father, on this day of a new beginning we ask for Your guidance in the responsibility we have undertaken and Your help in fulfilling our duties. As Members of this Legislative Assembly may we faithfully serve all Albertans and, in serving them, serve You. Amen.

### **Election of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees**

The Speaker advised the Assembly that nominations were open, and the following Member was nominated and allowed her name to stand for the position of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees:

Ms Pitt, nominated by Hon. Ms Smith.

Receiving no additional nominations, the Speaker declared Ms Pitt acclaimed Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly for the 31st Legislature.

## **Election of Deputy Chair of Committees**

The Speaker advised the Assembly that nominations were open, and the following Member was nominated and allowed his name to stand for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees:

Mr. van Dijken, nominated by Hon. Mr. Nixon.

Receiving no additional nominations, the Speaker declared Mr. van Dijken acclaimed Deputy Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly for the 31st Legislature.

## **Adjournment**

The Assembly adjourned at 2:17 p.m. until Monday, October 30, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

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Hon. Nathan M. Cooper,  
Speaker