



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 108

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

First Session

Thirty-First Legislature

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

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

Members' Statements

Mr. Getson, Hon. Member for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland, made a statement regarding Emergency Preparedness Week.

MLA Calahoo Stonehouse, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford, made a statement regarding First Nations' opposition to Alberta separatism.

Mr. Bouchard, Hon. Member for Calgary-Lougheed, made a statement regarding the relationship between Alberta and the federal government.

Mr. Ip, Hon. Member for Edmonton-South West, made a statement regarding Asian Heritage Month.

Mr. van Dijken, Hon. Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, made a statement regarding recent Government investments in the agriculture sector.

Hon. Mr. Eggen, Hon. Member for Edmonton-North West, made a statement regarding the need for the Government to address Albertans' affordability concerns.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Ms Pancholi, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Whitemud:

Page 2081 of Alberta Hansard, dated November 22, 2018

Sessional Paper 1090/2023-25

Mr. Ellingson, Hon. Member for Calgary-Foothills:

Report dated April 17, 2025, entitled “Preliminary Analysis of Bill 50: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025,” prepared by Alberta Municipalities
Sessional Paper 1091/2023-25

Hon. Mr. Guthrie, Hon. Member for Airdrie-Cochrane:

Letter dated March 17, 2025, from Hon. Mr. Guthrie to Doug Wylie, Auditor General of Alberta, with attached handwritten notes, concerning allegations of political interference in Alberta Health Services’ procurement practices
Sessional Paper 1092/2023-25

Hon. Mr. Nixon, Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services:

Document, undated, entitled “Briefing Note: How the Alberta NDP failed to spend a penny on indexing AISH”
Sessional Paper 1093/2023-25

Dr. Elmeligi, Hon. Member for Banff-Kananaskis:

Letter dated May 5, 2025, from Ruiping Luo, Alberta Wilderness Association, and John E. Marriot, Exposed Wildlife Conservancy, to Hon. Mr. Loewen, Minister of Forestry and Parks, expressing concern regarding wildlife management, with attached document entitled “Additional Information and Questions Asked”
Sessional Paper 1094/2023-25

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

Toronto Star website article dated May 7, 2025, entitled “Opinion: Danielle Smith seems as confused about Alberta separation as the rest of us”
Sessional Paper 1095/2023-25

Mr. Stephan, Hon. Member for Red Deer-South:

Document, undated, entitled “ChatGPT,” regarding equalization contributions, relating to comments made by Mr. Stephan during Committee of the Whole consideration of Bill 39, Financial Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 (\$), on May 6, 2025
Sessional Paper 1096/2023-25

Speaker’s Statement – Resignation of the Speaker of the Assembly

Honourable Members, I have a statement which I would like to make. As you know, I’m a traditionalist, and I wanted the first address to be to the House – unfortunately, CBC had other ideas – but not in a social media post or a Friday afternoon press release but to the Members whom I serve. You deserve to be the first to hear from me.

Serving this Assembly has been one of the greatest honours of my lifetime. Standing alongside each of you and serving you has been a dream that I've lived out each day. But today that dream comes to an end, as my time in the chair will only last a few more minutes.

I believe that we are at a critical time in our province and in our country with respect to how we interact with the world and with the United States of America. How we do that interaction, I believe, is just as important as what we do to interact.

Recently, the Premier asked if I would serve as the Senior Representative to the United States of America based in Washington, D.C. I have accepted that offer and consider it a great honour to serve Albertans and Alberta in a new way. Serving as the 14th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta over the past almost six years has prepared me for such a time as this. Working as the Assembly's chief diplomat has equipped me to be ready for my next role serving Albertans in a new and meaningful way.

In just a few moments my time in the chair will come to a close. While I will not officially resign as Speaker until Monday evening at midnight to allow the House and its Members to prepare for a Speaker election, I have spoken with both House Leaders and recommended that a new Speaker election take place on Tuesday, May 13, at 10 a.m. The Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chair of Committees have accepted the additional responsibilities over the next couple of days and will assist the Assembly while Members prepare themselves for an election.

Did you know that I am the eighth-longest serving Speaker of Alberta? For 2,177 days I've sat through 345 question periods, totaling 287 hours, or 12 full days, of question periods. I've presided over 2,195 hours of debate, or 91 full 24-hour periods, and a whopping 17.9 million words have been spilled on the floor of the Assembly.

Who has been there with me? My colleague the Deputy Speaker. For all of that time we have been on this rocket ride together. Elected in 2015, you have become a true lifetime friend, and I'm proud to have served this chair with you.

My appointment will take place in early June, and I will serve as a private Member of this Assembly until that time. I will speak directly to the constituents of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills in the coming days, but suffice to say, in the remaining days of Session as a private Member, I've got a few things to get off my chest.

Thank you to the constituents of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills who have supported me. Thank you to the moms and dads who make our province what it is. Thank you to the truck drivers and the farmers who make the world spin, and thank you to the volunteers and activists. Without you our collective success is impossible.

They say that you're only as good as the people that you surround yourself with, and I have had some of the greatest in my office. Thank you to Katja for being so incredible, for Andrew for working with me, for not just being a great colleague but an incredible friend.

Thank you to my long-serving chief of staff, who I owe much of my success to. Some days you were the gas pedal and some days you were the brakes, but you always knew which pedal to push on which days. I appreciate you. I'm sure that you will continue to do great things in the future, whatever comes next for you, but your service to our province has made a huge impact, not just on me but Members of the Assembly, and I am deeply grateful.

Thank you to Brenda in my Olds office for your thousands and thousands of hours of worries, your relentless support, and to all others who've supported me, including Ethan, Nathan, Alana, and many others.

Lastly, to my friends and family: you all know who you are, too many to note today. You've served alongside of me on this team that we've had together. In many ways my service has been your service. Your support has meant the world to me, and this would have been impossible without you. On rare occasions when politicians receive praise and limelight, you deserve all of the credit.

Honourable Members, our democracy is worth fighting for. It's worth standing up for. In my only words of caution this afternoon let me say this: sometimes when we don't like the results of an election here in Alberta, in our country, or around the world, we are inclined to say things like our democracy is broken. I worry that it has a chilling impact on our democracy and our people. Honourable Members, our democracy isn't broken. It's alive and well. It's more accessible and open to an overwhelming majority of Albertans today than it has been at any point in time in our history. If a new Canadian or a young Albertan shows up in Alberta today, it's possible that they can be here in these seats in virtually no time at all. There are tons of examples in this Chamber, that I can see today, that are proof positive that hard work and dedication breeds new hope and new opportunity, and those opportunities lead to a strong, robust, open, and transparent democracy. Our democracy is truly unique. It isn't about how much money you have or who you know, but it's about building teams of people to work together to accomplish a common goal that has gotten all of us to this point today.

Lastly, let me remind you of this: I have told thousands of young students across our province over the past decade that I have served that there is more in common between all of us than divides us and that every single morning my colleagues in the Government wake up and come to this place to hope to make Alberta the best place to live, work, and raise a family, and my colleagues in the Opposition come to this place every morning with the exact same goal. They wake up with a desire to make Alberta the best place to live, work, and raise a family. The only thing that sets us apart is that one team of people has deeply held passionate views on how to make that happen and the other team holds an entirely different set of values and views on how to make that happen. But together we share a common unity, a common sense of purpose to defend our democracy, to make Alberta the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you each for your support and trust and respect that you've placed in me as the Speaker, not just your Speaker, but the people's Speaker.

May God bless you. May God bless Alberta.

Now, for the very last time, Honourable Members, we are at Orders of the Day, Ordres du jour.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to revert to Ministerial Statements.

Ministerial Statements

Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, made a statement regarding Hon. Nathan Cooper, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, on his resignation.

Hon. Ms Gray, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, commented on the statement.

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

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

Bill 41 Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Loewen

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

The following Bill was read a Third time and passed:

Bill 41 Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Loewen

Committee of the Whole

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

(Assembly in Committee)

The following Bill was taken under consideration:

Bill 50 Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. McIver

MLA Arcand-Paul, Hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday, moved that the Bill be amended in section 1 as follows:

(a) in subsection (9) by adding the following after the proposed section 48.1:

Residency and voting for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

48.2(1) This section applies to every election that is held after September 1, 2025, in a local jurisdiction in the same area as the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

- (2) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, an individual is deemed to be a resident of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for the purposes of sections 21, 27 and 47 to 49 if the individual makes a statement in accordance with subsection (3).
 - (3) For the purposes of this section, a statement must be in writing and signed by the individual and state that the individual is a resident of land set apart as an Indian reserve, within the meaning of the Indian Act (Canada), for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation that is entirely within the boundaries of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
 - (4) A statement referred to in subsection (2) must be submitted with a nomination if
 - (a) an individual who is being nominated under section 27 is relying on the statement to establish the individual's qualifications in accordance with section 21, and
 - (b) an individual who signs a nomination in accordance with section 27(1)(b) is relying on the statement to establish the individual's residency of an Indian reserve referred to in subsection (3).
 - (5) Before opening a voting station in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, the presiding deputy at the voting station must post a notice respecting the entitlement of electors to make a statement referred to in subsection (2) within each voting compartment and at a conspicuous location within the voting station, and the presiding deputy must ensure that the notice remains posted there until the voting station closes.
 - (6) Before issuing a ballot to an elector, a deputy must offer the elector an opportunity to make a statement referred to in subsection (2).
 - (7) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, if an elected authority has made a resolution under section 77.1(2) and an application is made for a special ballot, the returning officer or deputy who receives the application must provide the applicant with the following:
 - (a) the forms referred to in section 77.1(3)(b);
 - (b) a form containing the statements referred to in subsection (3)(a), (b) and (c) for the elector to complete;
 - (c) sufficient instructional information on how to complete the form.
- (b) in subsection (13) by adding the following after the proposed section 53.03:

Proof of elector eligibility in Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

53.04(1) This section applies to an election held after September 1, 2025, in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

- (2) Notwithstanding section 53, a person who attends at a voting station in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo for the purpose of voting or submits an application for a special ballot under section 77.1(1.1) is permitted to vote if the person
- (a) makes a statement in accordance with section 48.2, and
 - (b) produces one piece of identification issued by a Canadian government, whether federal, provincial or local, or an agency of that government, that contains a photograph of the individual.
- (c) by striking out subsection (14) and substituting the following:
- (14) Section 69(5) is amended by striking out “section 53(1)(b) or (2) or 78” and substituting “section 48.1, 48.2, 53(1)(b) or (2), 53.03(2)(a), 53.04(2)(1) or 78”.

Sessional Paper 1097/2023-25

The question being put, the amendment was defeated. With Mr. van Dijken at the Table, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the amendment: 16

Arcand-Paul	Goehring	Kasawski
Calahoo Stonehouse	Gray	Miyashiro
Dach	Haji	Renaud
Eggen	Hoffman	Sabir
Ellingson	Ip	Schmidt
Elmeligi		

Against the amendment: 43

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

The following Bill was taken under consideration:

Bill 46 Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 – Hon. Mr. Glubish

Mr. Ip, Hon. Member for Edmonton-South West, moved that the Bill be amended by striking out section 1(3).

Sessional Paper 1100/2023-25

The question being put, the amendment was agreed to. With Mr. van Dijken at the Table, the names being called for were taken as follows:

For the amendment: 14

Arcand-Paul	Goehring	Miyashiro
Dach	Haji	Renaud
Eggen	Hoffman	Sabir
Ellingson	Ip	Schmidt
Elmeligi	Kasawski	

Against the amendment: 42

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

Adjournment

Pursuant to Standing Order 4(4), the Committee recessed at 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025 — 7:30 P.M.

Government Bills and Orders

Committee of the Whole

(Assembly in Committee)

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

The following Bills were reported:

- Bill 48 iGaming Alberta Act — Hon. Mr. Nally
Bill 51 Education Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Nicolaides
Bill 53 Compassionate Intervention Act — Hon. Mr. Williams

Progress was reported on the following Bills:

- Bill 46 Information and Privacy Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 – Hon. Mr. Glubish
Bill 47 Automobile Insurance Act — Hon. Mr. Horner
Bill 50 Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. McIver

Mr. Cyr, Acting Chair of Committees, tabled copies of all amendments considered by Committee of the Whole on this date for the official records of the Assembly.

Amendment to Bill 50 (A1) (Hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday) —
Defeated on division

Sessional Paper 1097/2023-25

Amendment to Bill 50 (A2) (Hon. Member for Sherwood Park) — Defeated
Sessional Paper 1098/2023-25

Amendment to Bill 50 (A3) (Hon. Member for Sherwood Park) — Defeated
Sessional Paper 1099/2023-25

Amendment to Bill 46 (A2) (Hon. Member for Edmonton-South West) —
Defeated on division

Sessional Paper 1100/2023-25

Amendment to Bill 46 (A3) (Hon. Member for Edmonton-South West) —
Defeated

Sessional Paper 1101/2023-25

Amendment to Bill 46 (A4) (Hon. Member for Edmonton-South West) —
Defeated

Sessional Paper 1102/2023-25

Amendment to Bill 53 (A3) (Hon. Member for Edmonton-West Henday) —
Defeated

Sessional Paper 1103/2023-25

Amendment to Bill 53 (A4) (Hon. Member for Calgary-Currie) — Defeated
Sessional Paper 1104/2023-25

Third Reading

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

Bill 37 Mental Health Services Protection Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Williams

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

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

Bill 38 Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Nally

A debate followed.

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

For the motion: 43

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

Against the motion: 15

Boparai	Gray	Renaud
Calahoo Stonehouse	Hayter	Schmidt
Deol	Hoyle	Shepherd
Ellingson	Irwin	Sigurdson (Edmonton-Riverview)
Eremenko	Metz	Wright (Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview)

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

Bill 48 iGaming Alberta Act — Hon. Mr. Nally

A debate followed.

The question being put, the motion was agreed to.

The following Bills were read a Third time and passed:

Bill 37 Mental Health Services Protection Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Williams

Bill 38 Red Tape Reduction Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Nally

Bill 48 iGaming Alberta Act — Hon. Mr. Nally

Second Reading

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

Bill 54 Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Amery

A debate followed.

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

For the motion: 43

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

Against the motion: 14

Boparai	Hayter	Schmidt
Calahoo Stonehouse	Hoyle	Shepherd
Deol	Irwin	Sigurdson (Edmonton-Riverview)
Ellingson	Metz	Wright (Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview)
Eremenko	Renaud	

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

Bill 55 Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Min. LaGrange

A debate followed.

Hon. Ms Sigurdson moved adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

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

Bill 54 Election Statutes Amendment Act, 2025 — Hon. Mr. Amery

Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to revert to Notices of Motions.

Notices of Motions

Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, gave oral notice of the following motions:

63. Be it resolved that, pursuant to Standing Order 4(1), the Assembly shall meet in the morning on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, for consideration of Government business, unless the Government House Leader notifies the Assembly that there shall be no morning sitting that day by providing notice under Notices of Motions in the Daily Routine or at any time prior to adjournment on a sitting day.
64. Be it resolved that when further consideration of Bill 55, Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, is resumed, not more than one hour shall be allotted to any further consideration of the Bill in Second Reading, at which time every question necessary for the disposal of the Bill at this stage shall be put forthwith.

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Schow, Government House Leader, the Assembly adjourned at 11:30 p.m. until Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Nathan M. Cooper,
Speaker