



# ACCESSIBILITY. INTERACTION. ENGAGEMENT.

## Legislative Assembly Office 2017-18 Annual Report

2017-18 Annual Report  
of the Commonwealth  
Parliamentary  
Association,  
Alberta Branch and  
Interparliamentary  
Relations

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## Message from the Speaker

Our potential is limitless when we all work together towards a common purpose, motivated by clear objectives and guided by shared values. Since becoming Speaker in 2015 it has been my goal to guide the organization towards a more constructive, collaborative working environment where proactive and responsive service-oriented processes direct our day-to-day practices.

I believe that core to a positive organizational culture is a safe and respectful climate. We introduced a new respectful workplace policy. The introduction of this policy included training sessions with all staff to be clear about expected workplace behaviours.

An independent review of the core financial and business practices of the LAO resulted in the introduction of more contemporary, user-friendly, technologically enhanced financial reporting systems. Critical to these improvements was the implementation of a more clear outcome-focused strategic plan. Ensuring a balance between respecting our rich parliamentary traditions and modernizing our services to improve effectiveness, the plan institutes new processes for setting, achieving and evaluating corporate goals. In line with the plan the LAO will transition to a fiscal reporting period in its annual reports. This annual report comprises results from January 1, 2017, to

March 31, 2018. The extended reporting period will help us transition to a new reporting style focused on measurable results in the 2018-19 reporting year.

Through the planning exercise we reviewed the organizational structure of the LAO, a process which will be ongoing into 2018, and we refined our vision, mission and values to better reflect our growing commitment to public engagement and improved service to MLAs. In step with this 2017 saw the introduction of a pilot program called Thursdays To Be Discovered (TBD), which provides novel public programming that reinforces our long-standing educational mandate through informal and fun activities that appeal to a variety of age groups. Mr. Speaker's Outreach program travelled to the four corners of the province to visit dozens of schools and First Nations communities.

In 2017 our nation celebrated its sesquicentennial, prompting LAO branches to come together and create opportunities for Albertans to participate in the milestone celebrations. Assembly TV was launched in the spring of 2018, providing expanded gavel-to-gavel coverage of House and committee activities to households across Alberta. Maintaining television access ensures that the activities of Alberta's Legislative Assembly are available to a variety of audiences through as many mediums as possible, making certain that the LAO remains the primary source of information on the Legislative Assembly and its proceedings.

In our day-to-day operations we work hard to make the Legislative Assembly accessible to all



Albertans, we strive to provide a safe environment for Members and employees by encouraging respectful interactions and we endeavour to engage the public in educational and meaningful programming. We must ensure that these improvements continue. With the introduction of a new organizational structure and cultural changes, it is my hope that the Legislative Assembly Office of Alberta will continue to be among the leading Legislatures and parliamentary organizations across Canada.

The Honourable Robert E. Wanner,  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

ACCESSIBILITY.  
INTERACTION.  
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## Our Vision

To provide exemplary service to Members of the Legislative Assembly in keeping with the values and traditions of Alberta's parliamentary system.

## Our Mission

To provide nonpartisan support to the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly as they carry out their roles as elected representatives.

To uphold the traditions of the Legislative Assembly.

To increase public awareness and engagement in the work of the Legislative Assembly.

## Our Values

Employees of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) are proud to provide services to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the citizens of Alberta. We are guided in our work and conduct by a core set of principles that motivate us as individuals and cause us to work collaboratively to achieve our vision and mission.

### *Improvement*

Encouraging a commitment to the ongoing development of skills and services that enhance the operations of the LAO while respecting the traditions of the office.

### *Impartiality*

Acting in an impartial and objective manner at all times to support the unique and politically neutral role of the LAO.

### *Integrity*

Providing services in an accountable, responsive, ethical and dedicated manner.

### *Involvement*

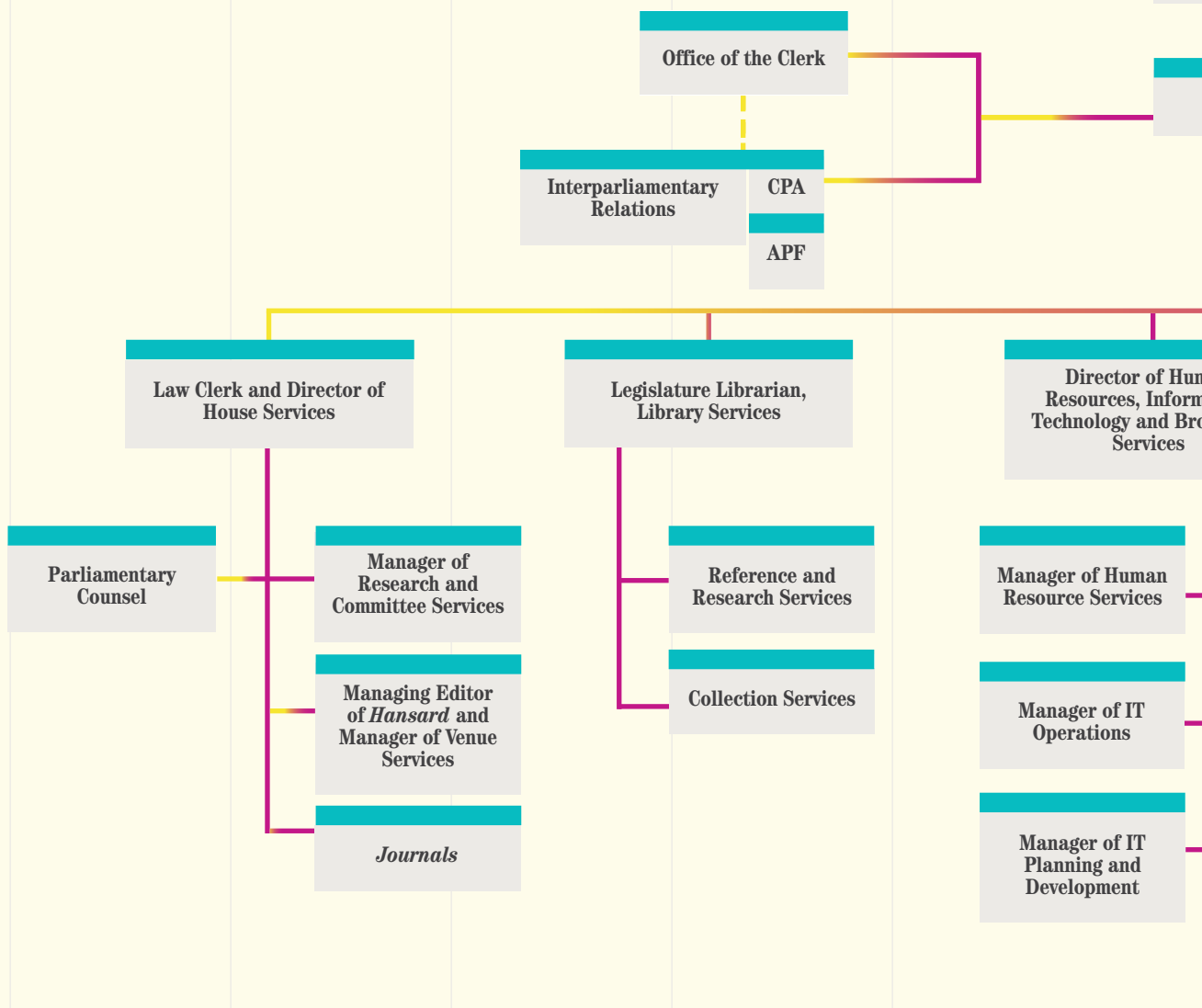
Promoting awareness and engagement in the democratic process.

# Our Story

Established in 1983, Alberta's Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) has roots that can be traced back to 14th-century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk.

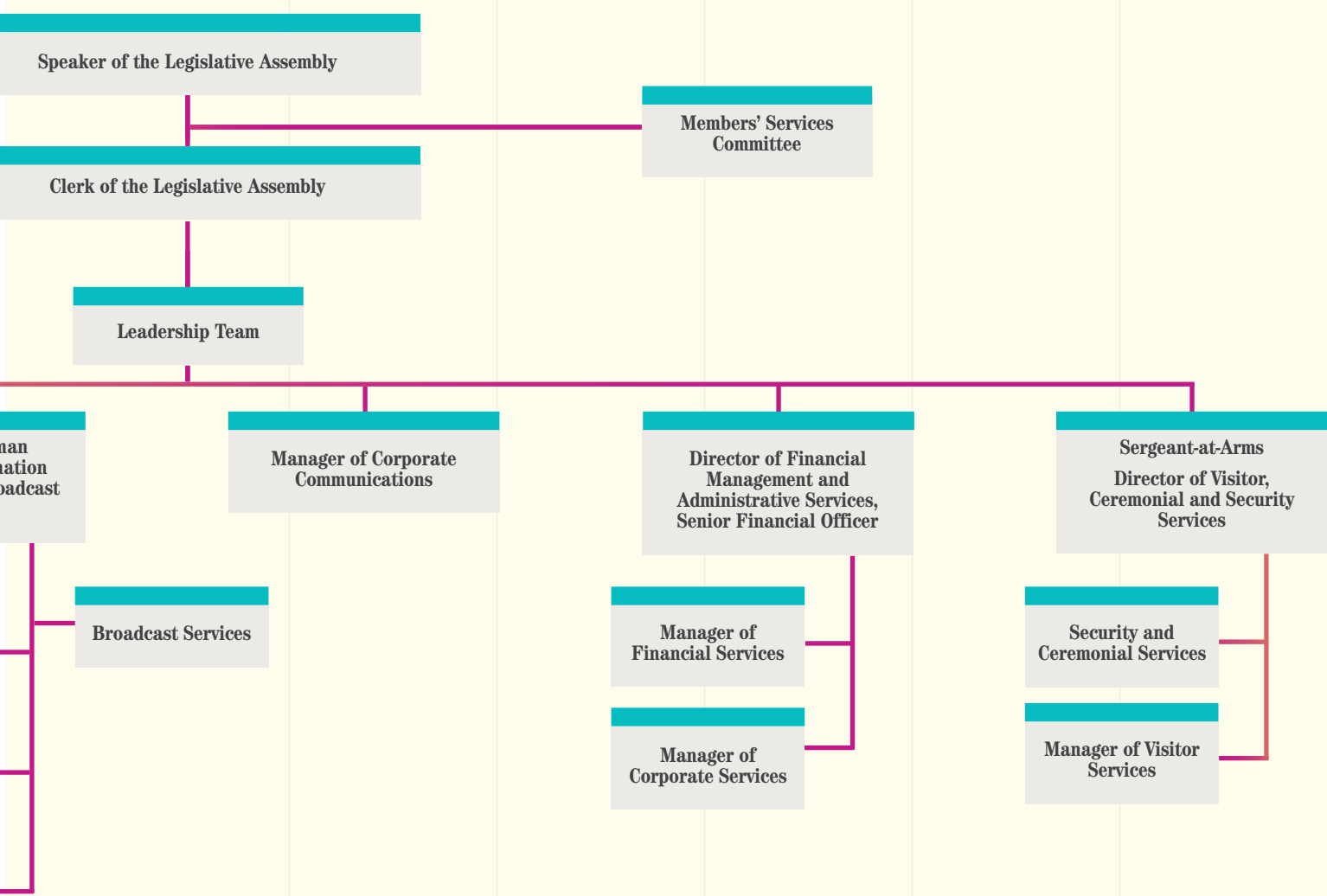
The LAO works hard to uphold and abide by parliamentary tradition while at the same time ensuring our operations are run in a nonpartisan manner and respond to the needs of the Members we serve.

The LAO is not a government department. The government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws, and the Legislative Assembly is responsible for establishing those laws. The LAO is a unique entity separate from government, dedicated and committed to provide all Members of the Legislative Assembly, regardless of party affiliation, with the support they need to represent and serve their constituents.





# Our Team



# Our Services

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK

The Clerk is the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) and has authority and responsibility equivalent to that of a deputy minister of a government department. Under the direction of the Speaker the Clerk has both procedural and managerial responsibilities and oversees the delivery of nonpartisan services to Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff.

The office of the Clerk is responsible for:

- providing advice, research and support to the Speaker and Members on procedural matters concerning the privileges, rules, usages and proceedings of the Assembly and co-ordinating procedural services for other officers of the Assembly
- preparing documents of the Assembly and ensuring the safekeeping of the Assembly's documents and records
- providing all necessary administrative and support services to the Assembly during its sittings and ensuring that essential services are provided to the Assembly Chamber
- presiding over the election of the Speaker at the opening of a new Legislature
- announcing the Assembly's orders of business and conducting its recorded votes or divisions during its sittings
- supervising the officers of the Assembly, including the Law Clerk and Director of House Services and the Sergeant-at-Arms

The Clerk also has the following managerial responsibilities as chief executive operating officer of the LAO:

- directing the operational services of the LAO

- authorizing all financial commitments entered into by the Assembly
- directing the preparation of the Assembly's annual estimates and advising the Members' Services Committee in their consideration and approval
- acting as liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments on matters related to the Assembly, the Chamber and the LAO
- serving as chair of the LAO leadership team

## COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Communications Services provides strategic planning, consulting and design expertise to the LAO's internal and external audiences. Communications Services' responsibilities include:

- supporting the organizational goals of the LAO and the mandates of all-party committees
- delivering professional writing, design and web services in the creation of promotional and educational materials
- co-ordinating social media and media relations and maintaining internal and external websites for the Legislative Assembly
- assisting with planning, execution and documentation in support of special events

## BROADCAST SERVICES

Broadcast Services oversees the accurate and high-quality broadcast production and distribution of the House and committee proceedings. Additional responsibilities of Broadcast Services include:

- managing the communication of information affecting the broadcast
- maintaining broadcast equipment

- providing professional video editing capabilities for pre- and postproduction work in support of the Legislative Assembly

## PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL

The office of Parliamentary Counsel comprises the Law Clerk and Director of House Services, who heads the branch, Parliamentary Counsel, legal counsel and staff. The branch provides legal advice to the Speaker, Members, committees and the LAO on a broad range of legal issues, including contract law, employment law and leasing. The office is also responsible for:

- defending and asserting the rights, privileges and immunities of Members and of the Assembly
- providing legal assistance to Members in the performance of their duties
- serving as counsel to the committees of the Assembly
- aiding Members with the drafting of private Members' Bills and amendments to all types of Bills as well as providing advice on private Bills
- serving as corporate counsel to the LAO in executing contracts and other legal agreements
- assisting Members with administering oaths and using their ex officio notarial powers
- approving petitions prior to their presentation in the Assembly
- preparing official copies of the Bills enacted by the Legislature

In addition, some members of the office serve as table officers, providing legal and procedural advice in the Assembly.

## INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS

Interparliamentary Relations is responsible for organizing Alberta's participation in various parliamentary associations and organizations and managing relations between the Assembly and other Canadian and international parliaments. Responsibilities include:

- co-ordinating the Legislative Assembly's participation in conferences, seminars and exchanges of a parliamentary nature in Canada and abroad
- organizing programs for incoming parliamentarians and legislators from around the world

## HOUSE SERVICES

House Services oversees Assembly and committee proceedings and is responsible for the provision of procedural advice to the Speaker and Members. In addition, the branch is responsible for the production of various Assembly and committee documents and records, including the official report of the debates of the Assembly and its committees, also known as *Alberta Hansard*, as well as the Order Paper, Votes and Proceedings and the *Journals*.

Other responsibilities include:

- ensuring that all administrative, financial, procedural and other support services are available for the effective operation of standing and special committees of the Assembly
- providing nonpartisan research and issue analysis as directed and in support of the mandates of the committees of the Assembly
- processing items to be placed on notice on the Order Paper, including Bills, Motions, Written Questions, Motions for Returns and Motions Other than Government Motions
- overseeing the booking of venue spaces in the Edmonton Federal Building

## HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Human Resource Services provides customized human resource management, compensation and consulting services to support the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. These services include:

- developing and implementing multidisciplinary human resource strategies to meet operational objectives
- providing leadership and advice on human resources-related issues such as organizational design and planning, recruitment, talent management and development, employee relations, health and wellness, disability management, Member remuneration and staff compensation and classification
- managing the integrated in-house payroll and human resources systems and ensuring an efficient transition of staff and MLAs at general elections, by-elections and cabinet shuffles

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) supports the Speaker, Members and the LAO by providing financial management and administrative services.

Financial services include budget preparation, processing of claims, expenses and allowances (Members, caucuses and branches), transaction compliance review and accounting, preparation of monthly reports for Members and branches, preparation of financial statements and co-ordination of the financial statement audit.

Administrative services include furniture, equipment and supplies pro-

curement, constituency office services (leasing, set-up, moves, et cetera) and property management co-ordination for LAO offices and caucuses.

FMAS is also responsible for:

- administering the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as it pertains to the LAO and providing advice and assistance in access and privacy matters for Members and the LAO
- managing the development and implementation of an information and records management program for the Legislative Assembly and providing advice and support on information records management issues to Members of the Assembly and staff
- providing risk management and insurance coverage, advice and claims co-ordination services to Members and LAO branches

## VISITOR, CEREMONIAL AND SECURITY SERVICES

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS) is responsible for providing a broad range of services to both Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public. In support of the LAO's mandate VCSS encourages the public to become involved in the parliamentary process through participation in tours of the building, educational programs and special events. As well, VCSS manages all security for the Legislature Chamber and constituency offices. The branch is also the principal adviser to the LAO on matters of ceremony, security and protocol.

In addition, VCSS advises MLAs, constituency staff and LAO employees on security matters, liaises with external intelligence, public safety and security organizations and is responsible for:





- managing security policy for the Legislature Building
- directing the LAO security access card program
- overseeing the Page program
- taking attendance of Members in the House
- providing the care and custody of the Mace
- co-ordinating the furniture and fittings of the Assembly
- directing the operation of the Legislative Assembly Visitor Centre
- offering services to the public, including guided tours, educational programs, special events and gallery bookings
- conceiving, planning and executing ceremonial events

## LIBRARY SERVICES

The Legislature Library serves as the parliamentary library for Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Library Services provides nonpartisan, confidential, timely and authoritative information services to Members and their staff and the staff of the LAO. The branch plays a key role in supporting well-informed decision-making by assembling collections of relevant knowledge in all available formats and increasing the accessibility of information. As resources allow, service is provided to the civil service and the general public. Library Services staff are responsible for:

- providing customized research support services to Members
- licensing research databases for use by Members and their staff
- acquiring, processing and making available specialized collections of legislative records, government publications, and public policy matters
- curating and disseminating historical information about the Legislative Assembly, its Members and constituencies

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Information Technology Services (ITS) provides all technology services to the Speaker, Members, caucuses, constituency offices and LAO branches. ITS focuses on introducing the latest in technology to best serve the needs of the stakeholders. Services include:

- acquiring, deploying and maintaining all hardware and software
- procuring, supporting and negotiating contracts for mobile devices
- co-ordinating and delivering IT training
- supporting all network infrastructure, including network servers, cabling and wireless facilities
- enforcing policies and guidelines to provide a secure IT environment
- providing consultation services to analyze business needs and deploy the best technology solution

- developing and deploying applications on multiple platforms, including desktop and web
- supporting enterprise applications with a focus on workflow and integration with business processes
- supporting audiovisual and multimedia applications, including streaming of House and committee proceedings and supporting audiovisual and multimedia technology throughout the LAO, including the Chamber and committee rooms. The technology focuses on recording all proceedings for *Hansard* transcription, audio and video conferencing to support remote participation in meetings, web streaming and archiving and presentation tools.





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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT





# Expanded Accessibility



Albertans go to the polls once every four years, as directed by the *Elections Act*. For some democracy begins and ends with an X on a ballot paper, but effective representation relies on consistent public participation in the legislative process. The discussions that take place inside the Chamber and around committee tables should reflect public opinion. Albertans have a vested interest in staying informed on decisions that will affect their day-to-day lives. The Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) facilitates this engagement by providing a variety of tools to help Albertans get involved. Through the LAO the public can access contact information for their provincially elected officials, the debates and decisions of the Legislative Assembly and educational resources to provide insight into how the legislative process works and where Albertans fit in the equation. Becoming informed on the issues being discussed by the Assembly couldn't be easier. Albertans can watch their MLAs seated in the public gallery of the historic Legislative Assembly Chamber, on a smart phone while in transit to and from the office and on a big screen from the comfort of their own homes. In fact, Alberta was the first jurisdiction in Canada to televise its proceedings.

For over 45 years the Legislative Assembly has broadcast on television in some form or other, from throne speeches to Lieutenant Governor installations to the daily Routine, including Oral Question Period (OQP), when the Legislative Assembly is in session.

As part of the LAO's strategic plan the Broadcast Services team began the process of applying to launch its own TV channel in the province of Alberta. In the fall of 2017 they registered the channel under the *CRTC Parliamentary and Provincial or Territorial Legislature Proceedings Exemption Order*. Alberta Assembly TV launched across the province in time for the opening of the Third Session of the 29th Legislature, on March 8, 2018. Our broadcast is a mandatory carry for all Alberta networks and is available to TELUS customers on channel 843, Shaw cable customers on channel 930 and Shaw BlueSky customers on channel 263.

With our own channel the LAO now broadcasts all hours of session and all committee meetings and rebroadcasts when time and personnel allow. There are no distribution costs, and with a reach of between 75 and 80 per cent of traditional broadcast viewers in Alberta our broadcasts are now more widely accessible than ever before.

The television broadcast supplements coverage that is available on the Legislative Assembly website through Assembly Online, which provides high-quality video and audio stream on Internet-enabled devices. All Chamber and committee proceedings are live streamed, and on-demand archives are available dating back to 2008.

With so many options staying informed about politics in Alberta has never been easier, and staying informed is the first step to becoming an engaged and active citizen.

When members of the public are informed on the issues being discussed by the Legislative Assembly, they are more likely to

share their opinions, which are paramount to the legislative process. Public consultation is oftentimes a large part of the Bill review process undertaken by committees of the Legislative Assembly. In 2017 the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future received almost 13,600 written submissions regarding its review of *Bill 201, Alberta Standard Time Act*. It was an unprecedented response. The committee also took the uncommon step of establishing a subcommittee to seek additional input through public meetings. Meetings were held in Edmonton, Calgary, Grande Prairie and Lethbridge, where they received 113 presentations.

The LAO's House Services branch supports committees of the Legislative Assembly and in so doing is continually refining its processes to better support Members and to facilitate public consultation. The extraordinary response to Bill 201 prompted House Services to work closely with Information Technology Services on the development of new methods for tracking and sorting submissions and also for making the information available to committee members in a manageable format.

Over the past decade committee activity has continued to increase, and 2017 saw a continuation of this trend with Members sitting for a record 249 hours in committee.

Democracy is an everlasting process, and the LAO is always exploring new ways through which to encourage and support public involvement.

"The proceedings that take place inside the Chamber and around committee tables happen because Albertans have elected us to represent them on issues of importance. It is our responsibility to ensure that they have many ways in which to participate in the legislative process."

Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta









# Respectful Interactions

What characterizes an ideal work environment? Answers to this question will differ based on personal perspective, but most people would agree that their ideal work environment is one that provides more than simply the necessary tools to succeed at assigned tasks. An ideal work environment would be one that encourages positive interactions and inclusivity, one that empowers employees and, most importantly, ensures everyone feels safe and respected.

The Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) is committed to providing a work environment where employees feel engaged and safe from disrespectful behaviour. Previously the LAO mirrored the government of Alberta's Respectful Workplace Policy, but in 2017 the Members Services Committee provided a set of recommendations on an LAO-specific Respectful Workplace Policy that better met the needs of our unique parliamentary environment.

The Respectful Workplace Policy includes a policy statement as well as a guide to understanding the policy, which focuses on the demonstration of respect as fundamental to our organization and the responsibility of every employee. It creates a baseline of expectations by providing employees with clear definitions, standards and processes.

In support of the policy Human Resource Services created and delivered a series of interactive in-person training sessions entitled "With All Due Respect." In addition to bringing awareness and understanding to the policy and processes, the sessions encouraged employees to consider what respect means to them and to discuss how it should be demonstrated in the workplace. Participants in the training sessions were encouraged to consider what a respectful workplace looks like, sounds like and feels like. Tying into our basic senses, the training attempts to make an otherwise elusive topic more tangible. This is an important aspect of the policy as no two people see things the same way. Perspectives are often drawn from personal experience, and they may be influenced by a number of outside factors.

The sessions provided a safe environment where employees could consider their own opinions and experiences while discussing different perspectives. Human Resource Services led 20 sessions between the spring of 2017 and the spring of 2018. The new policy helps employees find common understanding and paves the way for a more tolerant and respectful workplace.

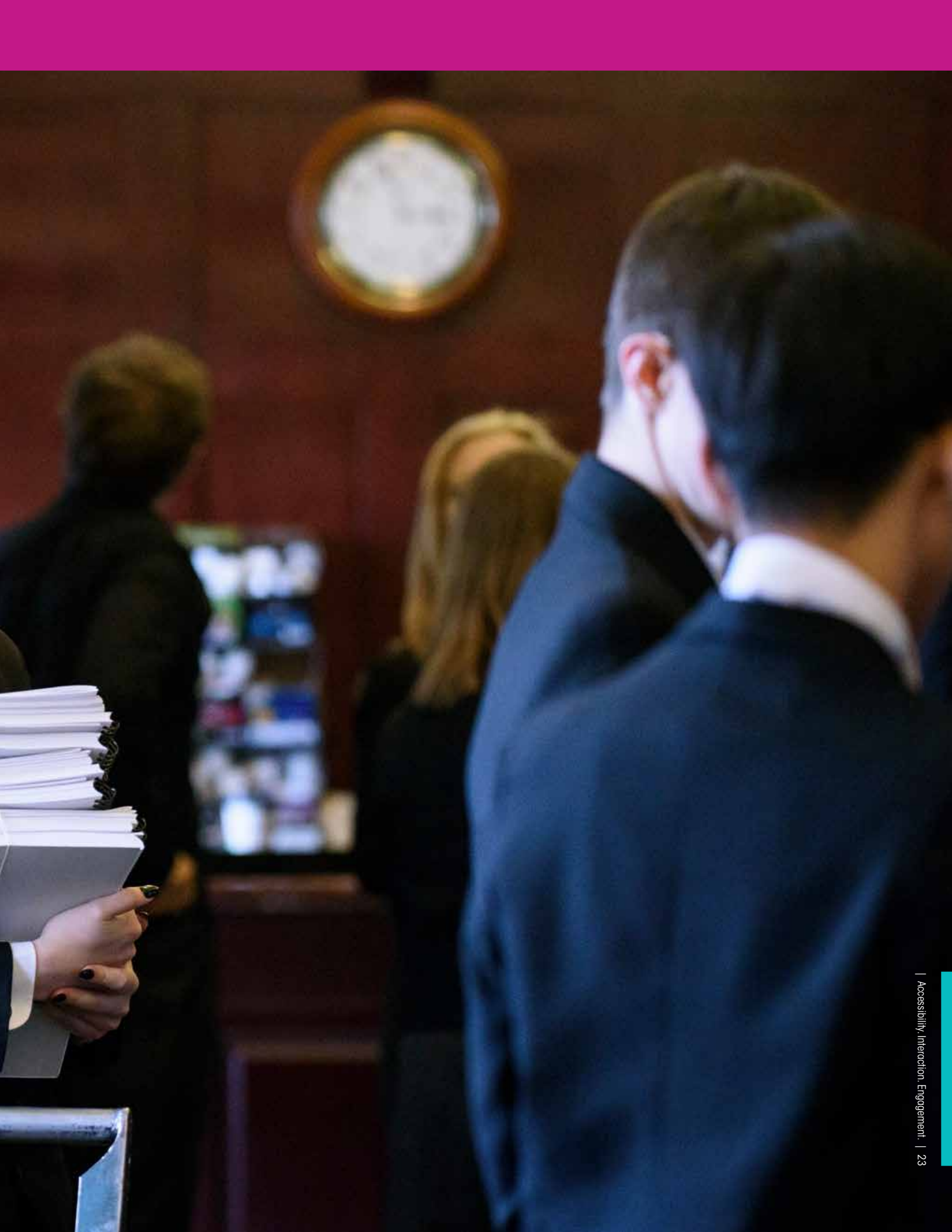




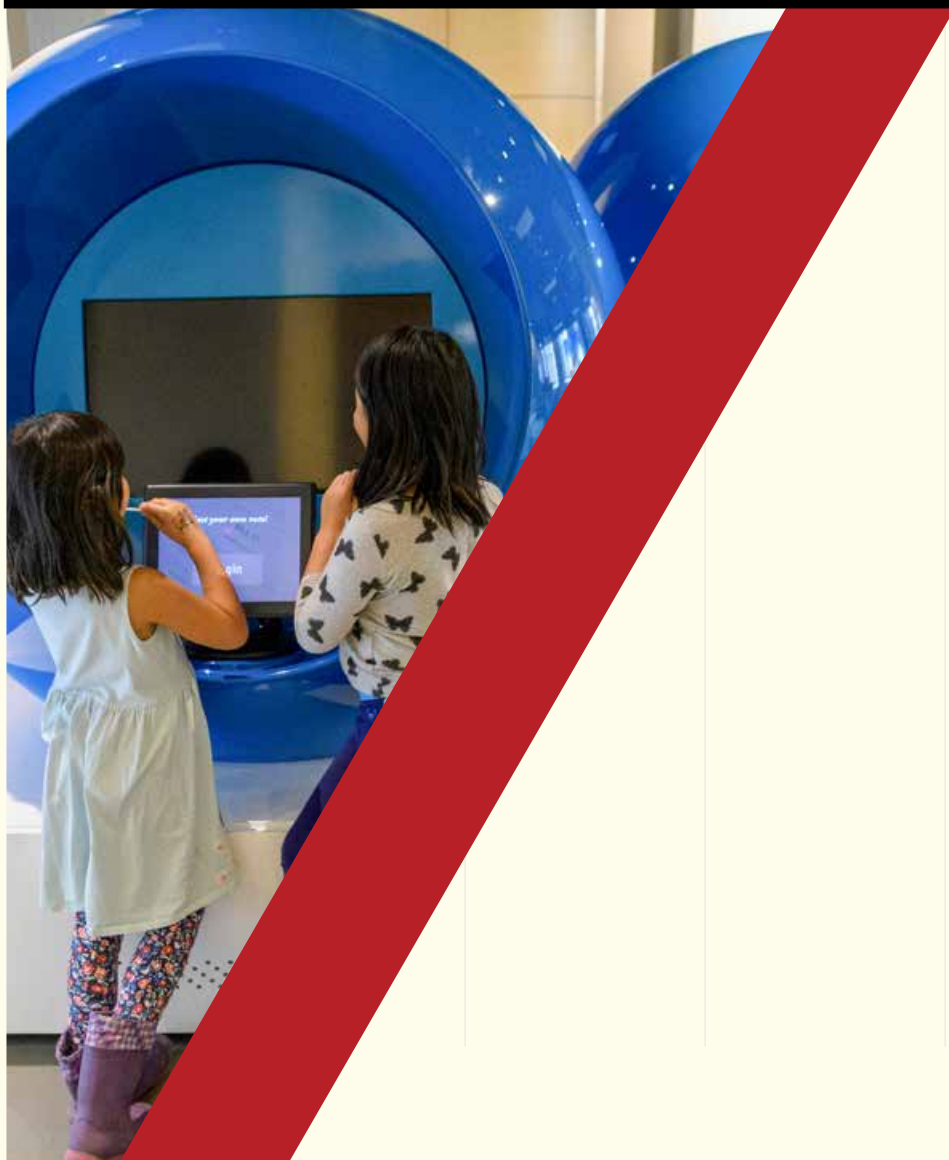
“The Legislative Assembly Office is committed to a work environment where employees feel engaged and safe from disrespectful behaviour. The demonstration of respect is the responsibility of every person within the LAO.”

*Cheryl Scarlett, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services.*





# Public Engagement





“Promoting education and involvement in the legislative system is one of the core values that guide our daily business activities.”

*Brian Hodgson, Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services.*

## Visitors increased by 46 per cent in 2017

Thousands of people visit the Alberta Legislature annually, and 362 days a year people of all ages and backgrounds ascend the front steps, enter the rotunda and, ultimately, stand in awe of the expansive dome, soaring marble columns and grand staircase. While here our guests are greeted by one of our friendly Heritage Interpreters and embark on an educational tour through the building and Alberta's parliamentary history. While they walk down the same hallways as historical figures generations before, visitors see important symbols of our parliamentary system. When in the public gallery our guests peer down onto the Chamber floor at the humble wooden desks, from which men and women have passed legislation that has shaped our province. Visitors walk away from a tour with tangible and memorable experiences of the democratic system in our province. But a free tour is just one of many adventures open to those who visit our site. Educational programs, historical films, thought-provoking exhibitions and annual events invite visitors to the grounds throughout the year.

In support of our public education mandate in 2017 our corporate mission was amended to increase public engagement as an organizational goal. While this strengthened commitment was demon-

strated on many occasions throughout the year, it was exemplified when branches came together to support the Canada 150 celebrations. Planning for Canada 150 was much more complex and required greater staff involvement than in previous years. Preparations and discussions began more than a year in advance, with staff from across the LAO helping out in countless ways. Visitor Services led the charge in finding talent and establishing partnerships with community groups, media sponsorship and government bodies. Communications Services handled all promotions, advertising and media relations, working closely with our partners at the city of Edmonton. From drafting contracts to providing security services, invoicing and volunteering on event day, it was all hands on deck for the LAO. A large number of staff also attended the July 1 festivities with friends and family. The milestone event was a great success.

The sesquicentennial milestone provided an opportunity for Canadians to celebrate our nation's shared values and diversity, our past accomplishments and best hopes for a prosperous and inclusive future. The largest celebration in the province, the full-day event at the Alberta Legislature showcased a culturally rich slate of performances from indigenous dance to martial arts to an eclectic mix of local bands and singer-songwriters. Roving historical characters, children's performers and kid-friendly activities rounded out the entertainment lineup. In addition to enjoying top-notch entertainment, visitors explored the Alberta Legislature open house and walked the Chamber floor, a change of protocol reserved for Canada Day. It is estimated that over 120,000 people attended the celebrations.

In addition to supporting annual events, the LAO also launched new programming to attract guests to the Legislative Assembly Visitor Centre. Thursdays To Be Discovered (TBD) brought visitors to our site every week with interactive and unique programming. Workshops, lectures, movie screenings, concerts, a fashion show, an escape-room challenge and a photography tour were all part of the Thursdays To Be Discovered (TBD) lineup in 2017. The program is free and runs every Thursday evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., delivering eclectic programming inspired by the history, majesty and culture of our site, with a dash of pop culture for good measure. Thursdays To Be Discovered (TBD) reinforces our long-standing educational mandate and provides opportunities to promote other programming initiatives. The fashion show, for instance, showcased Alberta-made clothing and accessories for sale in our Alberta Branded store, and the photography tour touched on highlights of the guided tour inside the building as well as the grand architecture outside.

Those who visit the grounds regularly but never get as far as stepping inside the building can also have a memorable experience. Visitors can now explore the Alberta Legislature Grounds with a mobile application called Agents of Discovery (AOD). On Family Day in 2017 we launched Discover the Alberta Legislature, a mission specific to the AOD app that invites visitors to uncover many fascinating points of interest on the grounds, from historical monuments to pieces of art honouring our culture and heritage. For instance, did you know that two markers on the south grounds pinpoint the previous location of the final Fort Edmonton fur trading post? This is just one of the

many interesting facts highlighted in the game, which encourages Albertans to experience the story of our province in a whole new way.

A corresponding avatar called Agent LAO (Legislative Assembly Owl) was created in the likeness of Alberta's emblem bird, the great horned owl, to assist gamers in completing their mission. AOD is a free mobile game that aims to get kids aged 6 to 14 moving and engaged in the world around them. Each mission challenges users to solve educational tasks and explore various public sites across North America. Once downloaded, the app works without Wi-Fi or a data connection. There are over 100 locations participating in the app across North America.

“Engaging the public in fun and educational programming inspired by our legislative process encourages active citizenship.”

*Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*







## Featured Events





The Legislative Assembly Office supports a variety of public events annually, including Family Day at the Legislature, Canada Day at the Legislature, Celebrate the Season and Fridays @ the Legislature. The listing below features unique or first-time events that were hosted by the Honourable Robert E. Wanner, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, in 2017.

### *Eating Disorders Awareness Ceremony*

Speaker Wanner hosted an eating disorders awareness ceremony in the Legislature Building rotunda on February 1, 2017. The event featured a performance by Roya Yazdanmehr, a vocalist, songwriter and mbira player from the Canadian Arctic. Remarks were delivered by Members of the Legislative Assembly as well.

### *Black History Month Celebration*

The Legislative Assembly hosted its first official event in recognition of Black History Month on February 2, 2017. This celebration was open to the public and featured musical performances by the Mbira Renaissance Band and Erin David with Keith Fix and a spoken word performance by Edmonton Poet Laureate Ahmed Knowmadic Ali.

### *Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner Farewell Event*

On May 2, 2017, the Legislative Assembly recognized the service of Peter Hourihan, Alberta's eighth Ombudsman and first Public Interest Commissioner, with a farewell event hosted by Speaker Wanner. Peter Hourihan was appointed Ombudsman on August 23, 2011, and Public Interest Commissioner on April 24, 2013, positions he held until April 16, 2017.

### *Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games Torch-lighting Ceremony*

Speaker Wanner hosted the Special Olympics Alberta and the Alberta Law Enforcement Torch Run for their torch-lighting ceremony on the front steps of the Legislature Building on May 16, 2017. The ceremony, which included a flame procession and lighting with an honour guard consisting of Special Olympics athletes and members of the Alberta Law Enforcement Torch Run, was the official start of the final leg that carried the flame to the 2017 Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games in Medicine Hat.

### *Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers Ceremony*

On May 29, 2017, Her Honour the Honourable Lois E. Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and Speaker Wanner hosted the sovereign's medal for volunteers awards ceremony in the Edmonton Federal Building's Capital View Room, where 45 deserving recipients were presented with this national honour. The sovereign's medal for volunteers, the highest award for volunteers presented in Canada, recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements.

### *Recognition of International Day of Older Persons*

On September 29, 2017, the Legislative Assembly honoured Alberta's seniors with a public ceremony in recognition of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons. The event was hosted by Debbie Jabbour, MLA, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, on behalf of Speaker Wanner and featured a musical performance by the Raging Grannies.

### *Lunar New Year Ceremony*

Speaker Wanner hosted the Legislative Assembly's first Lunar New Year ceremony on Friday, February 23, 2018. The event, held in the Legislature Building rotunda, included remarks by leaders and guests from the Chinese community and a traditional lion dance performance.





*Left: The Wife of Hinon by Tim Okamura, part of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Collection, as exhibited in The Dream We Form by Being Together.*



# Borealis Gallery Exhibitions

The Legislative Assembly featured a number of educational and thought-provoking exhibitions in the Borealis Gallery in 2017. The exhibitions were often supported by an array of public programming initiatives that provided additional context and invited public discussion and further engagement.

## *Alberta & the Great War*

Borealis Gallery – February 17 to May 22, 2017

*Alberta & the Great War* was an immersive, interactive exhibition that explored the impact of the conflict both abroad and at home by blending storytelling with hands-on experience. For this exhibition the Borealis Gallery was transformed to feature a re-creation of a trench, parlour and a public space from the Great War era, complete with artifacts and archival photos that complemented the hands-on experiences. Visitors were invited to journey through the exhibit with a re-created ID tag (“dog tag”) of an Albertan who served and learn about that person’s experiences in wartime. The exhibition was originally curated by the Provincial Archives of Alberta in 2014 to commemorate the centennial of the outbreak of the First World War.

## *The Dream We Form by Being Together*

Borealis Gallery – June 29 to October 1, 2017

As part of Canada 150 celebrations the Borealis Gallery featured *The Dream We Form by Being Together*, an exhibition that centred on the theme of reconciliation and emerged from the awareness that art can play a central role in the process. Drawing from indigenous practices and understandings, the show sought to rebalance colonial narratives within the much larger story of this place we now call Canada. The exhibit included 19 works by a variety of artists, including Dale Auger, Dick Averns, Jason Carter, James Davies, Chris Flodberg, Julian Forrest, O.N. Grandmaison, Terrance Houle, Eve Koch, George Littlechild, Dawn Marie Marchand, Pat Nokomis, Tim Okamura, Aaron Paquette, Mitchel Smith and Tim Van Horn.

## *Legion Halls*

Borealis Gallery – October 13, 2017, to January 2, 2018

Functioning as community centre and social hall, legions exist as a connection to the past and an important part of the Canadian fabric. This exhibition consisted of 25 images by Toronto photographer Tobi Asmoucha. Her photos have documented community life across the country and captured a glimpse of the role legion halls play in Canadian communities today. The images featured in *Legion Halls* depict everyday moments and events in legion branches across Canada. Printed in black and white, the images aim to capture the sense of timelessness and the connections between past and present experienced by Asmoucha in her legion visits.

## *A Call for Justice: Fighting for Japanese Canadian Redress (1977-1988)*

Borealis Gallery – January 15 to April 2, 2018

The internment and treatment of Japanese Canadians and Japanese nationals during the Second World War was a dark period in Canadian history. In 1988, following a 10-year struggle by the community, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney formally acknowledged the injustices Japanese Canadians suffered from 1942 to 1949. *A Call for Justice: Fighting for Japanese Canadian Redress (1977-1988)*, a travelling exhibition from the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, used photographs, artifacts, poetry, personal statements, art and video to commemorate the 10-year struggle to achieve an apology for and acknowledgement of the treatment of Japanese Canadians.

# Guest Exhibitions

In addition to the exhibitions featured in the Borealis Gallery, a selection of guest exhibitions were displayed in various locations on site.

## *Journey of a Lifetime*

Edmonton Federal Building pavilion – November 13 to 18, 2017

The railway united Canada as a nation, and no other railcar did more to settle the west than the colonist car. *Journey of a Lifetime*, a travelling exhibition presented by BMO Financial Group, shared the stories of the people, places and journeys involved in the largest wave of immigration in Canadian history. *Journey of a Lifetime* featured an interactive exhibition as well as an accompanying live theatre presentation at Fort Edmonton Park that evoked the colonist car experiences and re-created this incredible period for visitors.

## *The Canadian Jewish Experience: A Tribute to Canada 150*

South Legislature pedway – November 30 to December 18, 2017

*The Canadian Jewish Experience: A Tribute to Canada 150* explored the challenges, achievements and innumerable contributions of Jewish Canadians to modern Canada. The exhibit featured notable Jewish Canadians, from Leonard Cohen to Mordecai Richler, who have helped define our national identity and design our cultural mosaic. It also highlighted the vital role that Jewish Albertans have played in the development of our province through contributions in such fields as commerce, science, education, law, the arts and sports. This travelling exhibition, created in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation, comprises nine interpretive panels featuring photographs and stories that highlight many facets of the Jewish-Canadian journey, from immigration to human rights to pop culture. It was produced by the Canadian Jewish Experience, a volunteer initiative, and curated by Albertan Sandra Morton Weizman.







# Legislative Assembly Hosted Conferences

## *Alberta Association of Former MLAs Conference*

June 2, 2017

The Alberta Association of Former MLAs conference brought together former Members from all across the province as well as Members from other jurisdictions. Members of the Alberta Association of Former MLAs are advocates for the democratic system, helping to maintain the values, ethics and camaraderie of our parliamentary institution.

## *Alberta Museums Association and Western Museums Association Conference*

September 21, 2017

In September 2017 the Alberta Museums Association and Western Museums Association came together to explore the role of museums as leaders of change in society.



## Portrait Unveiling

### *Honourable Dave Hancock*

February 13, 2017

The Legislative Assembly recognized the service of Alberta's 15th Premier, the Honourable Dave Hancock, with an official portrait unveiling event hosted by Speaker Wanner. The portrait, painted by local artist Tom Menczel, joined the collection permanently displayed on the third floor of the Legislature Building. The Honourable Dave Hancock served as Premier of Alberta from March 23 to September 15, 2014.



# Swearing-in Ceremonies

## *Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner*

July 2, 2017

Marianne Ryan was sworn in as Alberta's ninth Ombudsman and second Public Interest Commissioner in a ceremony in the Alberta Legislature Building on July 2, 2017. She is the first woman to serve in either of these roles. The offices of the Ombudsman and the Public Interest Commissioner report to the Legislative Assembly and have the authority to perform a broad range of responsibilities, duties and functions prescribed in the *Ombudsman Act* and *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act*.











# Comparative Statistics

Alberta Branded Sales	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Public Sales	29,230.03	184,112.97	179,779	173,830
MLA Sales	64,335.89	160,974.17	266,226	185,176
Government of Alberta (GOA) Sales	7,991.33	28740.94	N/A	N/A
Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) Sales	1,738.51	14340.86	N/A	N/A

Computer and Network Equipment	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Workstations	295	304	336	335
Printers	230	228	233	284
Servers*	48	61	62	60
Laptops	337	424	419	390
Mobile Devices	379	363	410	350
Training Days	9	84	184	112
Printer Multifunction	134	134	127	131

\*Server figures reflect virtualization

Employee Compensation	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Contracts Processed	152	601	729	690
Total Commencements	51	249	232	437
Total Terminations	35	245	163	404
Payroll Transactions	3,397	14,412	14,011	13,439

Financial Services *	April 1, 2017 to March 31 2018	April 1, 2016 to March 31 2017	2016	2015
Invoices Coded and Data Entered	15,858	18,443	16,035	17,251
Payments Issued	11,234	12,163	10,115	11,471
Items Evaluated for Compliance	139	135	115	93

\* Financial statistics are based on the fiscal year ending March 31.

Note: from 2013 to 2016 GOA sales and LAO sales were included under MLA Sales.

House and Committee Proceedings	2018 Fourth Session January - March	2017	2016	2015
Sitting Days	10	77	62	43
Bills Introduced	5	50	49	42
Petitions Presented	3	15	4	9
Tablings	43	734	553	421
Session and Committee Hours	79	606	588.5	316
Committee Meetings	15	107	88	53

House and Committee Proceedings Documentation	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Hansard Pages	312	2,442	2,600	1,496
Journals Pages	N/A	N/A	N/A	269*

\*Reported figures include Journals Pages from Third Session of the 28th Legislature, which ran November 17, 2014, to March 26, 2015.

\*\*Reported figures include Journals Pages from the Second Session of the 28th Legislature, which ran March 3, 2014, to May 8, 2014.



Information and Records Management	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016*	2015
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – Constituency/ MLA/Caucus	9	24	115	100
Boxed Records for Storage – LAO	3	58	201	288
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – LAO	0	255	8	41

*Note: 2016 figures have been revised from what appeared in the 2016 annual report.*

Legislative Assembly Facebook Activity	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Total Page Likes (Since inception)	4,236	4,019	3,183	883
Page Posts	58	266	231	155
Average Daily Page Reach (The number of people who saw any content associated with the page)	4,140	4,353	6,669	494
Average Impressions per Post (The number of times a post is displayed)	3,400	2,272	6,997	866
Average Engagements per Post (Engagement refers to the number of clicks/likes/comments/shares per post.)	51	50	128	28

Legislative Assembly Twitter Activity	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Total Followers (Since inception)	3,750	3,641	3,338	2,627
Tweets Published	67	446	364	313
Mentions (Mentions refers to the number of tweets published containing the Legislative Assembly's Twitter handle, @LegAssemblyofAB.)	202	785	1,362	1,405
Average Impressions per Tweet (Impressions refer to the number of times a tweet has been seen.)	1,880	1,959	2,158	1,859
Average Engagements per Tweet (Engagement refers to the number of retweets/favourites per tweet.)	38	30	44	45

Legislative Assembly Website Activity	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Visits	565,875	2,667,067	927,237	1,318,805
Visitors	264,633	1,225,329	474,460	670,295
Average Hits per Day	6,287	7,307	2,533	3,596

Legislative Assembly YouTube Activity	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Channel Subscribers (Since inception)	23	29	40	69
Video Views	1,435	11,495	3,962	5,234
Videos Posted	3	33	125	68
Video Likes	6	12	13	36
Video Dislikes	4	2	8	0
Video Comments	5	5	2	5
Video Shares	8	59	35	27

Library Services	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Library Reference Transactions	503	1,956	2,280	2,324
Legislature Information Line Transactions	201	954	1,065	1,545
Views of Research Guides	9,506	20,958	12,824	10,725
Member Profile Visits	8,537	38,170	N/A	N/A
Alberta Electronic Government Document Repository (Cumulative Item Total)	17,329	16,848	15,156	13,996
Licensed Electronic Book Collection (Total Accessible)	55,299	54,168	44,909	40,450

Office Administration	January 1 to March 31 2018	2017	2016	2015
Constituency Offices, Moved	0	3	10	26
Constituency Offices, New	0	1	9	3
Constituency Offices, Closed	0	0	1	7
Leases Processed (New or renewals)	0	16	30	8
Contracts (not including employment contracts) (1)	50	217	154	-

(1) Processed by the FMAS branch; includes independent contractor agreements, venue rentals, equipment contracts, licenses, permits, and website contracts.

Supplies and Services Requests	January 1 to March 31, 2018	2017	2016	2015
Direct Purchase Orders Issued	10	40	76	50
MLA Purchase Orders Processed	790	3,150	5,200	6,700
Special Requests Processed	90	358	331	447
Property Management Requests Processed	75	222	221	276
Facilities Projects	4	21	17	10
Supplies Orders Processed – Online Ordering System (2)	130	565	372	351
Supplies Orders Processed – Manual (3)	4	17	2	100

(2) The office supplies ordering program was changed from provision directly by FMAS to constituency, caucus, and LAO branch offices ordering directly from Office Max/Grand & Toy through their web portal. This figure represents on-line orders only.

(3) These supplies orders were processed from in-stock stationery inventory

#### Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

No disclosures under the *Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act* were received by or referred to the Legislative Assembly Office designated officer from April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018



Visitor Statistics	January 1 to March 31, 2018	2017	2016	2015
Attended Special Events	4,333	136,755	95,362	87,062
Participated in Programs	14,998	40,262	37,558	28,665
Observed Session	1,312	9,903	10,226*	4,881
Participated in Tours	11,128	47,406	46,223	44,340
Visitor Centre Attendance	11,117	70,040	61,761	79,311**
Overall Visitor Total	28,393	276,702	224,178***	244,259
<i>*Includes walk-in session visitors, who were not captured in the previous years. The total number without walk-in visitors would have been 7,918 as a comparison.</i>				
<i>**Represents only six months of attendance since the Visitor Centre's opening on July 1, 2015.</i>				
<i>***Does not include Visitor Centre bookings, visitors who observed session or visitors who participated in programs – these numbers are captured in the line total for "Participated in Tours".</i>				

Legislative Assembly Security Services (LASS)	January 1 to March 31, 2018	2017	2016	2015
Constituency Office Visits	8	46	43	34
Committee Meetings	17	90	88	81
Events	6	31	21	13



# Legislative Assembly Office Financial Statements

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2017 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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*Year Ended March 31, 2017* ■

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2018 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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*Year Ended March 31, 2018* ■







## 2017 Independent Auditor's Report

# To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

### Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Legislative Assembly Office, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2017, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor

considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office as at March 31, 2017, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher FCPA,  
FCA]

Auditor General

July 12, 2017

Edmonton, Alberta

# Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2017 (in thousands)

	2017	2016
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash	\$12,139	\$14,789
Accounts Receivable and Advances	227	1,312
Inventory for Resale	116	80
	12,482	16,181
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	3,304	4,559
Vacation Pay Liability	2,154	2,033
Members' Transition Allowance Liability (Note 6)	3,203	3,910
	8,661	10,502
<b>Net Financial Assets</b>	3,821	5,679
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	3,401	4,474
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$7,222	\$10,153
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	\$10,153	\$11,881
Net Cost of Operations	(64,798)	(61,139)
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	61,867	59,411
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	\$7,222	\$10,153
Contractual Obligations (Note 9)		

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2017 (in thousands)

	2017			2016
	Voted Budget	Authorized Supplementary	Authorized Budget	Actual
<b>Net Cost of Operations</b>	(\$67,465)	(\$1,451)	(\$68,918)	(\$61,139)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)				(1,019)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)				2,092
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues				61,867
<b>Decrease in Net Financial Assets</b>				(\$1,858)
<b>Net Financial Assets at Beginning of Year</b>				5,679
<b>Net Financial Assets at End of Year</b>				\$3,821

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2017 (in thousands)

	2017			2016
	Voted Budget	Authorized Supplementary	Authorized Budget	Actual
<b>Revenues</b>				
Gift Shop Sales, Services, and Fees	\$432	-	\$432	\$419
Other	-	-	-	130
	432	-	432	549
<b>Expenses</b>				
Voted:				
Government Members' Services	3,585	-	3,585	3,736
Official Opposition Services	2,824	-	2,824	2,891
PC Opposition Services	1,130	-	1,130	1,120
Liberal Opposition Services	329	-	329	316
AP Opposition Services	329	-	329	302
Parliamentary Services	8,965	-	8,965	7,513
Financial Management and Administrative Services	1,620	-	1,620	1,533
Human Resource Services	2,033	-	2,033	1,758
Independent Member – Mr. Anglin, MLA	-	-	-	11
Independent Member – Ms. Drever, MLA	-	-	-	57
Information Technology Services	4,704	-	4,704	4,577
Legislative Committees	1,072	-	1,072	426
Legislature Library	2,773	-	2,773	2,524
MLA Administration	34,018	-	34,018	32,250
Office of the Speaker	581	-	581	581
Vacant Member's Services	79	-	79	-
Visitor Services	3,130	-	3,130	3,030
Special Funding	725	-	725	725
Electoral Boundaries Commission	-	1,451	1,451	750
	67,897	1,451	69,348	64,032
<b>Valuation Adjustments:</b>				
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3)				(1,019)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 3)				2,092
Provision for (reduction in) vacation pay liability				122
Net consumption of inventory				(36)
Provision for premium adjustment deposit account				156
				1,315
	67,897	1,451	69,348	65,347
<b>Net Cost of Operations</b>	<b>(\$67,465)</b>	<b>(\$1,451)</b>	<b>(\$68,916)</b>	<b>(\$64,798)</b>
				421
				61,736
				(\$61,139)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.



# Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2017 (in thousands)

	2017	2016
<b>Operating Transactions</b>		
Net Cost of Operations	(\$64,798)	(\$61,139)
Non-cash Items:		
Amortization of Capital Assets	2,092	2,457
Increase in Vacation Pay Liability	122	164
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable and Advances	1,085	(227)
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	(36)	5
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(1,256)	505
Decrease in Transition Allowance Liability	(707)	(10,385)
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(63,498)	(68,620)
<b>Capital Transactions</b>		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(1,019)	(2,206)
<b>Financing Transactions</b>		
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	61,867	59,411
<b>Decrease in Cash</b>	<b>(2,650)</b>	<b>(11,415)</b>
<b>Cash at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>14,789</b>	<b>26,204</b>
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>	<b>\$12,139</b>	<b>\$14,789</b>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2017

### Note 1 Authority

The Legislative Assembly Office, (the Office,) is operated under the authority of the *Legislative Assembly Act*. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. General Revenues of the Province of Alberta fund both the cost of operations of the Office and the purchase of tangible capital assets.

### Note 2 Purpose

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will:

1. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
2. Support Members by providing services, advice, information and infrastructure required to carry out their roles as elected representatives.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain and preserve the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Provide a positive, productive, healthy and secure environment for Members and staff of the Assembly.

6. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
7. Support the exchange of ideas/information among Parliaments.
8. Build partnerships with external clients in support of the institution of Parliament.

### **Note 3** *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices*

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, which use accrual accounting. The Office has adopted PS3450 Financial Instruments. The adoption of this standard has no material impact on the financial statements of the Office, which is why there is no statement of remeasurement gains and losses.

Other pronouncements issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board that are not yet effective are not expected to have a material impact on future financial statements of the Office.

#### **a) Reporting Entity**

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible. The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund, (the Fund). The Fund is administrated by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. Net financing provided from General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

#### **b) Basis of Financial Reporting**

##### Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

##### Expenses

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Office has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the government's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets,
- pension costs, which are the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year, and
- valuation adjustments

##### Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance.

##### Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Tangible capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. An asset is deemed a capital item if its invoiced cost is \$5,000 (or greater) per item or if an assembly of connected components makes a whole asset (inclusive of labor, shipping, consulting, etc). The amortization periods are as follows:

Computer hardware and software	3 years
Other equipment	5 years
Furniture	10 years

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase tangible capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations, but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

The fair value of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

##### Liabilities

Liabilities include all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year end.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

#### Net Financial Assets

Net financial assets indicates financial resources available to finance future operations.

#### Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets of the Office are limited to tangible capital assets.

### **Note 4** *Tangible Capital Assets (in thousands)*

	Furniture	Computer hardware and software	Other equipment	2017 (Total)	2016 (Total)
Estimated Useful Life	10 years	3 years	5 years		
<b>Historical Cost</b>					
Beginning of Year	\$4,019	\$5,087	\$9,424	\$18,530	\$16,324
Additions	-	435	584	1,019	2,206
	\$4,019	\$5,522	\$10,008	\$19,549	\$18,530
<b>Accumulated Amortization</b>					
Beginning of Year	3,191	4,485	6,380	14,056	11,599
Amortization Expense	155	680	1,257	2,092	2,457
	3,346	5,165	7,637	16,148	14,056
Net Book Value at March 31, 2017	\$673	\$357	\$2,371	\$3,401	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2016	\$828	\$602	\$3,044		\$4,474

### **Note 5** *Expenses Incurred by Alberta Infrastructure (in thousands)*

The Office had the following transaction with Alberta Infrastructure for which no consideration was exchanged. The amount for this transaction is estimated based on the actual costs incurred by Alberta Infrastructure to provide the service. The estimated cost for the space is \$5,240 for 16,184 usable m<sup>2</sup> (2016 – \$3,921 for 12,351 usable m<sup>2</sup>).

### **Note 6** *Members' Transition Allowance Liability (in thousands)*

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSO 1992, c. M-1, as amended, Section 9).

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re-elected in the next election. Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9, the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months' salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989 with no restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under Section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

In the event of death of an active Member, a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at death is paid to the Member's estate.

	2017	2016
Liability at beginning of year	\$3,910	\$14,295
Total transition allowance payments	(707)	(10,385)
Liability at end of year	\$3,203	\$3,910



Changes were made to the allowance effective April 23, 2012. Members will no longer receive credit for service after April 22, 2012. However, any amounts owed to Members for prior service, up to April 22, 2012, will be paid in the future when they cease to be a Member.

## Note 7 *Defined Benefit Plans (in thousands)*

The Office participates in the following multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of \$3,011 for the year ended March 31, 2017 (2016 – \$2,559).

At December 31, 2016, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$402,033 (2015 – surplus of \$299,051) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of \$302,975 (2015 – deficiency of \$133,188). At December 31, 2016, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a deficiency of \$50,020 (2015 – deficiency of \$16,305).

The Office also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2017, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of \$101,515 (2016 – surplus of \$83,006) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of \$31,439 (2016 – surplus of \$29,246). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

## Note 8 *Budget (in thousands)*

	Expenses:
2016-2017 voted budget (a)	\$67,897
2016-2017 voted/authorized Supplementary (b)	\$1,451
2016-2017 Total voted/authorized:	\$69,348
2016-2017 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	(64,034)
2016-2017 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	\$5,314

a) 2016-2017 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates presented April 14, 2016

b) The Supplementary Supply Estimates presented Nov 30, 2016.

## Note 9 *Contractual Obligations (in thousands)*

Contractual obligations are obligations of the Office to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

The estimates for aggregate amounts payable in 2017-18 for unexpired contracts is as follows:

	2017-18	2016-17
Leased properties	\$2,517	\$2,495
Office equipment rentals	292	277
Consulting	70	250
	\$2,879	\$3,022

## Note 10 *Approval of Financial Statements*

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

# Schedule 1: Expenses – directly incurred detailed by object

Year ended march 31, 2017

	2017		2016
	Voted Budget (in thousands)	Actual	Actual
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	\$33,029	\$32,508	\$28,118
Supplies and services	18,478	15,943	17,623
Grants	7	-	1
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	16,383	15,581	15,574
Total voted expenses	\$67,897	\$64,032	\$61,316

# Schedule 2: Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Year ended March 31, 2017

	2017				2016
	Base Salary <sup>(1)</sup>	Other Cash Benefits <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Non-cash Benefits <sup>(3)</sup>	Total	Total
<b>Senior Official</b>					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly <sup>(4)</sup>	\$260,413	\$4,948	\$75,112	\$340,473	\$320,493
<b>Senior Management Team</b>					
Law Clerk and Director of House Services	218,959	-	60,356	279,314	264,534
Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations <sup>(5)</sup>	-	-	-	-	264,338
Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services	201,273	7,708	9,447	218,428	222,705
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Service and Senior Financial Officer	164,688	-	44,320	209,008	216,397
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial & Security Services and Sergeant-At-Arms	163,284	6,256	40,458	209,998	206,941
Legislature Librarian	133,836	-	35,446	169,282	170,738

(1) Base salary is comprised of pensionable base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include vacation payouts and lump sum payments.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition fees.

(4) Other non-cash benefits include \$5,472 in 2016-17 (\$7,874 for 2015-16) for vehicle rental, fuel and maintenance.

(5) Incumbent promoted to Clerk of the Legislative Assembly as of April 4, 2016.

## 2018 Independent Auditor's Report

# To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

### Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Legislative Assembly Office, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2018, and the statements of operations, change in net financial assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor

considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office as at March 31, 2018, and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, its changes in net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by W. Doug Wylie FCPA,  
FCMA, ICD.D]  
Auditor General

July 11, 2018  
Edmonton, Alberta



# Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2018 (in thousands)

	2018	2017
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
Cash	\$12,511	\$12,139
Accounts Receivable and Advances	191	227
Inventory for Resale	142	116
	12,844	12,482
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	2,977	3,304
Vacation Pay Liability	2,243	2,154
Members' Transition Allowance Liability (Note 6)	2,209	3,203
	7,429	8,661
<b>Net Financial Assets</b>	5,415	3,821
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	2,259	3,401
<b>Net Assets</b>	\$7,674	\$7,222
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	\$7,222	\$10,153
Net Cost of Operations	(62,341)	(64,798)
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	62,793	61,867
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	\$7,674	\$7,222
Contractual Obligations (Note 9)		

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Change in Net Financial Assets

Year Ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands)

	2018		2017
	Budget	Actual	Actual
<b>Net Cost of Operations</b>	(\$68,033)	(\$62,341)	(\$64,798)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	(\$1,050)	(385)	(1,019)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets (Note 4)	\$2,458	1,527	2,092
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues		62,793	61,867
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Financial Assets</b>		\$1,594	(\$1,858)
<b>Net Financial Assets at Beginning of Year</b>		3,821	5,678
<b>Net Financial Assets at End of Year</b>		\$5,415	\$3,821

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands)

	2018		2017
	Budget	Actual	Actual
<b>Revenues</b>			
Gift Shop Sales, Services, and Fees	\$624	\$686	\$419
Other		230	130
	624	916	549
<b>Expenses</b>			
Voted:			
Government Members' Services	3,585	3,719	3,736
Official Opposition Services	2,824	884	2,891
PC Opposition Services	1,130	353	1,120
Liberal Opposition Services	329	337	316
AP Opposition Services	329	353	302
Parliamentary Services	9,012	7,255	7,513
Financial Management and Administrative Services	1,698	1,273	1,533
Human Resource Services	2,066	1,794	1,758
Independent Member - Mr. Fildebrandt		92	
New PC - Mr. Starke		89	
UCP Opposition Services		2,492	
Independent Member - Mr. Fraser MLA		38	
Information Technology Services	4,704	4,344	4,577
Legislative Committees	1,013	444	426
Legislature Library	2,745	2,510	2,524
MLA Administration	34,009	31,735	32,250
Office of the Speaker	572	417	581
Visitor Services	3,268	2,991	3,030
Special Funding	725	697	725
Electoral Boundaries Commission	648	234	750
	68,657	62,051	64,032
<b>Valuation Adjustments:</b>			
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3)		(385)	(1,019)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 3)		1,527	2,092
Provision for (reduction in) vacation pay liability		89	122
Net consumption of inventory		(26)	(36)
Provision for premium adjustment deposit account		1	156
		1,206	1,315
	68,657	63,257	65,347
<b>Net Cost of Operations</b>	<b>(\$68,033)</b>	<b>(\$62,341)</b>	<b>(\$64,798)</b>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

# Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2018 (in thousands)

	2018	2017
<b>Operating Transactions</b>		
Net Cost of Operations	(\$62,341)	(\$64,798)
Non-cash Items:		
Amortization of Capital Assets	1,527	2,092
Increase in Vacation Pay Liability	89	122
Decrease in Accounts Receivable and Advances	36	1,085
Increase in Inventory	(26)	(36)
Decrease in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	(327)	(1,256)
Decrease in Transition Allowance Liability	(994)	(707)
Cash Applied to Operating Transactions	(62,036)	(63,498)
<b>Capital Transactions</b>		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(385)	(1,019)
<b>Financing Transactions</b>		
Net Financing Provided from General Revenues	62,793	61,867
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>(2,650)</b>
<b>Cash at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>12,139</b>	<b>14,789</b>
<b>Cash at End of Year</b>	<b>\$12,511</b>	<b>\$12,139</b>

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2018

### Note 1 Authority

The Legislative Assembly Office, the (Office,) is operated under the authority of the *Legislative Assembly Act*. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. General Revenues of the Province of Alberta fund both the cost of operations of the Office and the purchase of tangible capital assets.

### Note 2 Purpose

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will:

1. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
2. Support Members by providing services, advice, information and infrastructure required to carry out their roles as elected representatives.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain and preserve the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Provide a positive, productive, healthy and secure environment for Members and staff of the Assembly.
6. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.



7. Support the exchange of ideas/information among Parliaments.
8. Build partnerships with external clients in support of the institution of Parliament.

## **Note 3** *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices*

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, which use accrual accounting. The Office has adopted PS3450 Financial Instruments. The adoption of this standard has no material impact on the financial statements of the Office, which is why there is no statement of remeasurement gains and losses.

The Office has prospectively adopted the following standards from April 1, 2017: PS 2200 Related Party Disclosures, PS 3420 Inter-Entity Transactions, PS 3210 Assets, PS 3320 Contingent Assets and PS 3380 Contractual Rights which are reflected in Note 4.

Other pronouncements issued by the Public Sector Accounting Board that are not yet effective are not expected to have a material impact on future financial statements of the Office.

### **a) Reporting Entity**

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund, (the Fund). The Fund is administrated by the President of Treasury Board, Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. Net financing provided from General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

### **b) Basis of Financial Reporting**

#### Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

#### Expenses

##### Directly incurred

Directly incurred expenses are those costs the Office has primary responsibility and accountability for, as reflected in the Office's budget documents.

In addition to program operating expenses such as salaries, supplies, etc., directly incurred expenses also include:

- amortization of tangible capital assets,
- pension costs, which are the cost of employer contributions for current service of employees during the year, and
- valuation adjustments

##### Incurring by Others

Services contributed by other related entities in support of the Office's operations are not recognized but disclosed in Note 5.

#### Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance.

#### Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Tangible capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. An asset is deemed a capital item if its invoiced cost is \$5,000 (or greater) per item or if an assembly of connected components makes a whole asset (inclusive of labor, shipping, consulting, etc). The amortization periods are as follows:

Computer hardware and software	3 years
Other equipment	5 years
Furniture	10 years

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase tangible capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations, but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

The fair value of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

### Liabilities

Liabilities are present obligations of the Office to external organizations and individuals arising from past transactions or events, the settlement of which is expected to result in the future sacrifice of economic benefits. They are recognized when there is an appropriate basis of measurement and management can reasonably estimate the amounts.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

### Net Financial Assets

Net financial assets indicates financial resources available to finance future operations.

### Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed, or developed assets that do not normally provide resources to discharge existing liabilities, but instead:

- a) are normally employed to deliver the Office's services;
- b) may be consumed in the normal course of operations; and
- c) are not for sale in the normal course of operations.

Non-financial assets of the Office are limited to tangible capital assets.

## **Note 4** *Tangible Capital Assets (in thousands)*

	Furniture	Computer hardware and software	Other equipment	2018 (Total)	2017 (Total)
Estimated Useful Life	10 years	3 years	5 years		
Historical Cost Beginning of Year	\$4,019	\$5,522	\$10,009	\$19,550	\$18,530
Additions	37	160	188	384	1,019
	\$4,055	\$5,682	\$10,197	\$19,934	\$19,549
Accumulated Amortization Beginning of Year	3,347	5,164	7,638	16,148	14,056
Amortization Expense	137	266	1,124	1,527	2,092
	3,484	5,430	8,761	17,675	16,148
Net Book Value at March 31, 2018	\$572	\$252	\$1,436	\$2,259	
Net Book Value at March 31, 2017	\$673	\$357	\$2,371		\$3,401

## **Note 5** *Expenses Incurred by Alberta Infrastructure (in thousands)*

The Office had the following transaction with Alberta Infrastructure for which no consideration was exchanged. The amount for this transaction is estimated based on the actual costs incurred by Alberta Infrastructure to provide the service. The estimated cost for the space is \$5,554 for 16,784 usable m<sup>2</sup> (2017 - \$5,240 for 16,184 usable m<sup>2</sup>).

## **Note 6** *Members' Transition Allowance Liability (in thousands)*

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSO 1992, c. M-1, as amended, Section 9).

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re-elected in the next election. Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9, the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months' salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989 with no restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under Section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

In the event of death of an active Member, a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at death is paid to the Member's estate.

	2018	2017
Liability at beginning of year	\$3,203	\$3,910
Total transition allowance payments	(994)	(707)
Liability at end of year	\$2,209	\$3,203

Changes were made to the allowance effective April 23, 2012. Members will no longer receive credit for service after April 22, 2012. However, any amounts owed to Members for prior service, up to April 22, 2012, will be paid in the future when they cease to be a Member.

## Note 7 Defined Benefit Plans (in thousands)

The Office participates in the following multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of \$2,886 for the year ended March 31, 2018 (2017 - \$3,011).

At December 31, 2017, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$866,006 (2016 - surplus of \$402,033) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$1,275,843 (2016 - surplus of \$302,975). At December 31, 2017, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a deficiency of \$54,984 (2016 - deficiency of \$50,020).

The Office also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2018, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of \$111,983 (2017 - Surplus of \$101,515) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of \$29,805 (2017 - surplus of \$31,439). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

## Note 8 2017-2018 Total Voted/Authorized (a) (in thousands)

	Expenses:
2017-2018 voted budget (a)	\$68,657
2017-2018 voted/authorized supplementary	\$-
2017-2018 Total voted/authorized:	\$68,657
2017-2018 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	(62,051)
2017-2018 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	\$6,606

(a) 2017-2018 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates presented March 16, 2017

## Note 9 Contractual Obligations (in thousands)

Contractual obligations are obligations of the Office to others that will become liabilities in the future when the terms of those contracts or agreements are met.

The estimates for aggregate amounts payable in 2017-18 for unexpired contracts is as follows:

	2018	2017
Leased properties	\$2,448	\$2,517
Office equipment rentals	279	292
	\$2,727	\$2,809

## Note 10 Comparative Figures

Certain 2017 figures have been reclassified to conform to the 2018 presentation.

## Note 11 Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.



# Schedule 1: Expenses – directly incurred detailed by object

Year ended march 31, 2018

	2018		2017
	Voted Budget	Actual (in thousands)	Actual
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	\$35,842	\$32,029	\$32,508
Supplies and services	16,386	14,630	15,943
Grants	7	2	-
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	16,422	15,390	15,581
Total voted expenses	\$68,657	\$62,051	\$64,032

# Schedule 2: Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Year ended March 31, 2018

	2018				2017
	Base Salary <sup>(1)</sup>	Other Cash Benefits <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Non-cash Benefits <sup>(3)</sup>	Total	Total
<b>Senior Official</b>					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly <sup>(4)</sup>	\$258,276	\$4,948	\$70,416	\$333,640	\$340,473
<b>Senior Management Team</b>					
Law Clerk and Director of House Services	220,224	-	57,736	277,960	282,779
Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services	213,252	8,171	12,347	233,770	221,893
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Service and Senior Financial Officer	134,922	10,986	48,361	194,269	212,473
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial & Security Services and Sergeant-At-Arms	163,284	-	35,067	198,351	209,998
Legislature Librarian	133,836	-	31,183	165,019	172,747

(1) Base salary is comprised of pensionable base pay.

(2) Other cash benefits include vacation payouts and lump sum payments.

(3) Other non-cash benefits include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships, tuition fees and fair market value of parking.

(4) Other non-cash benefits include \$7,124 in 2017-18 (\$5,472 for 2016-17) for vehicle rental, fuel and maintenance.

# Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Alberta Branch

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# President's Report

We live in a global world, where parliamentary conferences increasingly provide the ideal platform for legislators to participate in a coming together of diverse perspectives and experiences. Free from political party divisions, representatives from multiple jurisdictions across Canada and around the world gather to exchange ideas and to identify benchmarks, good practices and new policy options that we can take back with us to our respective jurisdictions and then choose to adopt or adapt as appropriate.

Over the course of the 2017/18 reporting period Members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly attended nine parliamentary conferences. I was happy to personally attend a number of these. Each conference I attended provided relevant business programs and opportunities to network, interact and hear first-hand from our counterparts in other jurisdictions about the many unique economic and social circumstances they face. We also discussed issues of common concern and were able to collaborate on solutions to shared challenges.

Topics highlighted through conference discussions in 2017 varied greatly. We discussed everything from timely global issues such as trade and immigration challenges currently being faced by many nations throughout Europe and North America to parliamentary issues as old as time such as civility in the Chamber.

As Members we not only keep an ear to the ground in our respective constituencies but must also stay apprised of current issues dominating the global conversation. Learning from the experiences and knowledge of parliamentarians in other jurisdictions is a primary way in which we gain a wider perspective, which is always valuable when looking for solutions to common societal challenges.

Honourable Robert E. Wanner  
President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

# Bursaries

Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from the Alberta Girls' Parliament and the TUXIS Parliament of Alberta to increase interest in the parliamentary process among Alberta's youth.

## RECIPIENTS

### Alberta Girls' Parliament

Charlotte Carr – Calgary-Shaw  
Emma Gallop – Calgary-Fort

### TUXIS Parliament of Alberta

Bryce Selzler – Strathcona-Sherwood Park



# Members of the 29th Legislative Assembly



**Leela Sharon Aheer**  
Chestermere-Rocky View  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition (from 10/30/2017)



**Hon. Shaye Anderson**  
Leduc-Beaumont  
NDP  
Minister of Municipal Affairs (from 01/19/2017)



**Wayne Anderson**  
Highwood  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Erin D. Babcock**  
Stony Plain  
NDP



**Drew Barnes**  
Cypress-Medicine Hat  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Hon. Deron Bilous**  
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview  
NDP  
Minister of Economic Development and Trade



**Hon. Oneil Carlier**  
Whitecourt-St. Anne  
NDP  
Deputy Government House Leader (to 11/26/2017)  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry



**Jonathon Carson**  
Edmonton-Meadowlark  
NDP



**Hon. Joe Ceci**  
Calgary-Fort  
NDP  
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board



**Greg Clark**  
Calgary-Elbow  
AP  
Opposition House Leader (from 03/08/2018)



**Michael R.D. Connolly**  
Calgary-Hawkwood  
NDP



**Craig Coolahan**  
Calgary-Klein  
NDP



**Nathan Cooper**  
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Official Opposition House Leader (to 07/23/2017)  
Interim Leader of the Official Opposition (from 07/24/2017 to 10/30/2017)



**Estefania Cortes-Vargas**  
Strathcona-Sherwood Park  
NDP  
Government Whip



**Scott J. Cyr**  
Bonnyville-Cold Lake  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Lorne Dach**  
Edmonton-McClung  
NDP



**Thomas Dang**  
Edmonton-South West  
NDP



**Deborah Drever**  
Calgary-Bow  
NDP



**Wayne Drysdale**  
Grande Prairie-Wapiti  
PC (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
PC Opposition Whip (to 07/23/2017)



**Hon. David Eggen**  
Edmonton-Calder  
NDP  
Minister of Education



**Mike Ellis**  
Calgary-West  
PC (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Official Opposition Whip (from 09/13/2017 to 10/29/2017)



**Hon. Richard Feehan**  
Edmonton-Rutherford  
NDP  
Minister of Indigenous Relations  
Deputy Government House Leader (from 11/27/2017)



**Derek Gerhard**  
Fildebrandt  
Strathmore-Brooks  
NDP  
UCP (from 07/24/2017 to 08/15/2017)  
Independent (from 08/16/2017)



**Maria M. Fitzpatrick**  
Lethbridge-East  
NDP



## ALBERTA BRANCH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION



**Rick Fraser**  
Calgary-South East  
PC (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017 to 09/20/2017)  
Ind (from 09/21/2017 to 01/08/2018)  
AP (from 01/09/2018)



**Hon. Kathleen T. Ganley**  
Calgary-Buffalo  
NDP  
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General  
Deputy Government House Leader (from 11/27/2017)



**Prab Gill**  
Calgary-Greenway  
PC (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Official Opposition Deputy Whip (from 07/25/2017)



**Nicole Goehring**  
Edmonton-Castle Downs  
NDP



**Richard Gotfried**  
Calgary-Fish Creek  
PC (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Official Opposition House Leader (from 07/25/2017 to 10/29/2017)



**Hon. Christina Gray**  
Edmonton-Mill Woods  
NDP  
Minister of Labour  
Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal



**David B. Hanson**  
Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Official Opposition Deputy House Leader (to 07/23/2017)



**Bruce Hinkley**  
Wetaskiwin-Camrose  
NDP



**Hon. Sarah Hoffman**  
Edmonton-Glenora  
NDP  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Health



**Trevor A.R. Horne**  
Spruce Grove-St. Albert  
NDP



**Grant R. Hunter**  
Cardston-Taber-Warner  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Deborah C. Jabbour**  
Peace River  
NDP  
Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees



**Hon. Sandra Jansen**  
Calgary-North West  
NDP  
Minister of Infrastructure (from 10/17/2017)



**Brian Michael Jean, QC**  
Fort McMurray-Conklin  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017 to 03/06/2018)  
Leader of the Official Opposition (to 7/23/2017)  
Member to 03/06/2018



**Anam Kazim**  
Calgary-Glenmore  
NDP



**Hon. Jason Kenney, PC**  
Calgary-Lougheed  
UCP  
Leader of the Official Opposition (from 01/04/2018)  
Member from 12/14/2017



**Jamie Kleinsteuber**  
Calgary-Northern Hills  
NDP



**Hon. Danielle Larivee**  
Lesser Slave Lake  
NDP  
Minister of Children's Services (from 01/19/2017)  
Deputy Government House Leader (from 11/27/2017)  
Minister of Municipal Affairs (to 01/18/2017)



**Jessica Littlewood**  
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville  
NDP  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Trade for Small Business (from 10/17/2017)



**Todd Loewen**  
Grande Prairie-Smoky  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Rod Loyola**  
Edmonton-Elleslie  
NDP



**Robyn Luff**  
Calgary-East  
NDP



**Don MacIntyre**  
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Member to 02/05/2018



**Brian Malkinson**  
Calgary-Currie  
NDP

# Members of the 29th Legislative Assembly



**Hon. Brian Mason**  
Edmonton-  
Highlands-Norwood  
NDP  
Government House Leader  
Minister of Transportation  
Minister of Infrastructure (to  
10/16/2017)



**Hon. Margaret  
McCuaig-Boyd**  
Dunvegan-Central  
Peace-Notley  
NDP  
Minister of Energy



**Ric McIver**  
Calgary-Hays  
PC (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Leader of PC Opposition  
(from 03/18/2017 to  
07/23/2017)  
Official Opposition Whip  
(from 10/30/2017)



**Annie McKittrick**  
Sherwood Park  
NDP  
Parliamentary Secretary to  
the Minister of Education  
(from 10/17/2017)



**Hon. Stephanie V.  
McLean**  
Calgary-Varsity  
NDP  
Minister of Service Alberta  
Minister of Status of  
Women



**Karen M.  
McPherson**  
Calgary-Mackay-  
Nose Hill  
NDP (to 10/03/2017)  
Ind (from 10/04/2017 to  
10/29/2017)  
AP (from 10/30/2017)



**Barb Miller**  
Red Deer-South  
NDP



**Hon. Ricardo  
Miranda**  
Calgary-Cross  
NDP  
Minister of Culture and  
Tourism



**Christian E.  
Nielsen**  
Edmonton-Decore  
NDP



**Jason Nixon**  
Rimbey-Rocky  
Mountain  
House-Sundre  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Leader of the Official Oppo-  
sition (from 10/30/2017 to  
01/03/2018)  
Official Opposition House  
Leader (from 10/30/2017)  
Official Opposition Whip  
(to 07/23/2017 and from  
07/25/2017 to 09/12/2017)



**Hon. Rachel  
Notley**  
Edmonton-Strathcona  
NDP  
Premier  
President of Executive  
Council



**Ronald Orr**  
Lacombe-Ponoka  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Prasad Panda**  
Calgary-Foothills  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Hon. Brandy  
Payne**  
Calgary-Acadia  
NDP  
Associate Minister of Health



**Hon. Shannon  
Phillips**  
Lethbridge-West  
NDP  
Minister of Environment  
and Parks  
Minister Responsible for the  
Climate Change Office



**Colin Piquette**  
Athabasca-Sturgeon-  
Redwater  
NDP



**Angela D. Pitt**  
Airdrie  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)  
Official Opposition Deputy  
House Leader (from  
10/30/2017)  
Official Opposition Deputy  
Whip (to 07/23/2017)



**Marie F. Renaud**  
St. Albert  
NDP



**Dave Rodney**  
Calgary-Lougheed  
PC (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017  
to 10/31/2017)  
Member to 10/31/2017  
PC Opposition House  
Leader (to 07/23/2017)



**Eric Rosendahl**  
West Yellowhead  
NDP



**Hon. Irfan Sabir**  
Calgary-McCall  
NDP  
Minister of Community  
and Social Services (from  
01/19/2017)  
Minister of Human Services  
(to 01/18/2017)



**Hon. Marlin  
Schmidt**  
Edmonton-Gold Bar  
NDP  
Minister of Advanced  
Education



**David A.  
Schneider**  
Little Bow  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Kim Schreiner**  
Red Deer-North  
NDP

## ALBERTA BRANCH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION



**David Shepherd**  
Edmonton-Centre  
NDP



**Hon. Lori Sigurdson**  
Edmonton-Riverview  
NDP  
Minister of Seniors and Housing



**Mark W. Smith**  
Drayton Valley-Devon  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Richard Starke**  
Vermilion-Lloydminster  
PC



**Pat Stier**  
Livingstone-Macleod  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Rick Strankman**  
Drumheller-Stettler  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Graham D. Sucha**  
Calgary-Shaw  
NDP



**David Swann**  
Calgary-Mountain View  
AL



**Heather Sweet**  
Edmonton-Manning  
NDP  
Deputy Chair of Committees



**Wes Taylor**  
Battle River-Wainwright  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**A. Robert Turner**  
Edmonton-Whitemud  
NDP



**Glenn van Dijken**  
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)



**Hon. Robert E. Wanner**  
Medicine Hat  
NDP  
Speaker



**Cameron Westhead**  
Banff-Cochrane  
NDP  
Deputy Government Whip



**Denise Woollard**  
Edmonton-Mill Creek  
NDP



**Tany Yao**  
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo  
W (to 07/23/2017)  
UCP (from 07/24/2017)







# Conferences

## PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Toronto, Ontario  
January 26 to 29, 2017

### Delegates

- Honourable Robert Wanner, Speaker, MLA, Medicine Hat
- Heather Sweet, Deputy Chair of Committees, MLA, Edmonton-Manning

## COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
July 16 to 22, 2017

### Delegates

- Honourable Robert Wanner, Speaker, MLA, Medicine Hat
- Debbie Jabbour, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, MLA, Peace River
- Annie McKittrick, MLA, Sherwood Park
- Erin Babcock, MLA, Stony Plain
- Richard Gotfried, MLA, Calgary-Fish Creek

### Agenda

- Heckling and Civility in the Chamber: Panel Presentations
- Overcoming Obstacles in Male-dominated Professions
- Talkin' bout My Generation: Millennial Edition
- Moving Forward on Indigenous Prosperity

- Mental Health in Politics: It's Time to Talk
- Polling in the Age of Trump: Challenges and Lessons Learned
- How Tweet It Is!: The Art of Effective Social Media and Political Communications
- Adjusting to "Civilian" Life after Politics

### Delegate Report

Submitted by Erin Babcock

The agenda provided a wide variety of interesting topics that dealt with timely issues in the life of a parliamentarian.

The evenings and outings allowed delegates to experience Winnipeg and life in Manitoba.

I appreciated the efforts by conference organizers to provide interpretation for francophone delegates and to include a diversity of voices on the panels.

The panel presentations were lively, and panellists provided helpful perspectives on the subjects. I found that the panel on heckling and civility in the Chamber provided a Canada-wide review that was helpful.

The topic of mental health is not often discussed when it affects politicians, and I appreciated the open discussion and the emphasis on how to stay healthy while in politics.

At the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) conference, which preceded the CPA conference, there were discussions regarding the World Health Organization's goal of women making up 30 per cent of those elected in Legislatures globally and the challenges faced by women in different jurisdictions that become barriers to achieving that goal.

During the CPA conference there were sessions discussing social media: how

to use it effectively, how to deal with anonymous trolls, which platforms are the most useful and which platforms are not worth using.

Another session dealt with the mental and emotional concerns when a member loses his/her seat in the Legislature, either because he/she chooses to step down or because he/she unexpectedly loses a seat. There were many other valuable sessions offered and time for legislators from across our country to share best practices and enjoy each other's company. There was also a small amount of free time in which I went to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which is a must-see attraction for anyone stopping in Winnipeg.

## ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (APF) AMERICA REGION CONFERENCE

Fredericton, New Brunswick  
July 30 to August 4, 2017

### Delegate

- Michael Connolly, MLA, Calgary-Hawkwood

### Agenda

- Welcome reception by the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, Jocelyn Roy-Vienneau
- Meeting of APF delegation presidents and vice-presidents to discuss budgets, future meetings and expansion of the APF in the Americas
- Presentations by sections on the declining francophone population in their respective regions

- Depart Fredericton towards Cocagne and Bouctouche
- Presentations from remaining sections
- Activity at le Pays de la Sagouine
- Depart Bouctouche for Miramichi
- Meeting with Miramichi MLA, mayor and council
- Depart Miramichi for Tracadie-Sheila
- Meeting with local council and mayor of Le Goulet
- Meeting with Shippagan mayor and tour of the New Brunswick Aquarium
- Visit to historical Village Acadien
- Visit with council, mayor, MLA of Caraquet and tour of town

## Delegate Report

Submitted by Michael Connolly

The conference program covered issues relating to the largely declining francophone population in Canada. Alberta is one of the few provinces in Canada where the francophone population is growing, so the Alberta perspective was certainly interesting and welcome.

Because of the funding model of the APF the conference was swayed heavily by the federal delegation and those from New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia. While most delegations, including the aforementioned regions as well as Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, gave presentations at the conference regarding the francophone population in their regions, PEI did not.

With Alberta being one of the provinces in Canada where the francophone population is growing, I would once again advise that Alberta take a stronger position in the APF.

The APF is one of the largest interparliamentary organizations in the world and focuses on promoting democracy, the state of law, human rights and the promotion of francophone culture, the francophone economy and the French language. The 2018 conference will be held in Quebec City in early July.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES (NCSL) LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

Boston, Massachusetts  
August 5 to 9, 2017

### Delegates

- Heather Sweet, Deputy Chair of Committees, MLA, Edmonton-Manning
- Deborah Drever, MLA, Calgary-Bow
- Colin Piquette, MLA, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater
- Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie
- Ric McIver, MLA, Calgary-Hays

### Agenda

- NCSL task force on energy supply tour: EnerNoc demand response control centre
- Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) strategic planning work group
- LSCC standing committees work group
- LSCC staff section officers work group
- NAPACSL annual meeting
- LSCC programs and professional development subcommittee meeting
- LSCC information technology, social media, e-learning and outreach subcommittee meeting
- LSCC legislative institution subcommittee meeting
- NCSL task force on energy supply
- Full LSCC meeting
- NCSL task force on immigration and the states
- Executive committee work group on standing committees
- NCSL task force on state and local taxation
- Member outreach and communications subcommittee meeting
- Budget, finance and rules committee meeting

- NCSL task force on innovations in state health systems
- Full executive committee meeting
- NCSL legislator nominating committee meet the candidates reception
- Medicaid: Challenges and Opportunities (preconference)
- NCSL Task Force on Agriculture
- Energy policy summit

### Delegate Report

Submitted by Ric McIver

The summit included legislators from around the world, with most delegates from the U.S.A.

Topics discussed that had the most interest for Alberta included marijuana laws and the opportunities and challenges experienced by states who have legalized it. Energy policy and the environment were also discussed.

The topic of immigration and how it challenges and enriches provinces and states was discussed. Information technology was talked about, including threats to privacy as well as opportunities to serve the public better by using technology as a tool and indeed how the public can in some cases serve themselves as government enables technology to be used beyond the public employees' desktops.

Health care innovation was explored in some of the meetings. It is not only in Alberta that health care commands a large percentage of the government budget. Innovation goes beyond just funding and extends to new technology, with an emphasis on wellness and wellness care.

The conference delegates talked about taxation and the challenges of how tax dollars are split between federal, provincial (or state) and municipal governments.

We were given a chance to ride in a hydrogen-powered car and learned that the testing of hydrogen vehicles is now



occurring. Both Toyota and Honda have hydrogen models in the test stages, with hundreds of hydrogen vehicles on the road today.

We also sat in the state Legislature for a mock session, where Deborah Drever got to move a motion which was debated in the House.

In short, we found more commonality than differences between our work and that of state legislators in the U.S.A.

## COMMONWEALTH WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS (CWP) REGIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Whitehorse, Yukon  
September 18 to 21, 2017

### *Delegate*

- Debbie Jabbour, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, MLA, Peace River

### *Agenda*

- Presentation on Daughters of the Vote, state of women in politics
- Discussion in Chamber with MLAs who will share their experiences of what it is like to run for and work in political office
- Discussion with Daughters of the Vote, MLAs and other CWP attendees on systemic change for gender-sensitive parliaments
- Business session one: women in First Nations government
- Glass-blowing demonstration, Lumel Studios
- Blanket exercise, Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre
- Explore the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre
- Business session 2: brainstorming/strategic workshop on barriers to access, challenges facing women in politics

## *Delegate Report*

Submitted by Debbie Jabbour

CWP outreach sessions work collaboratively with women parliamentarians across Canada to encourage and support more women's involvement in political and leadership roles within each province and community.

This outreach was an excellent opportunity to network with other CWP steering committee members and to continue to further our goals. Our delegation comprised 13 women parliamentarians from across Canada. We were welcomed by Chief Doris Bill of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and met with women leaders, including Hon. Ione Christensen, Commissioner of the Yukon, at the opening of an archive in honour of 50 years of women in the Legislative Assembly. At the Yukon Legislative Assembly Chamber we met with Daughters of the Vote and had round-table discussions to share experiences on life in politics. Later we travelled to Haines Junction to meet with rural students who were engaged in studying nontraditional women's occupations at the Da Kp Cultural Centre. The final day we met with female First Nations leaders to learn about their unique experiences. We stopped by Lumel Studios to try our hand at glass blowing, then joined in the blanket exercise, a powerful session which incorporated the Yukon First Nation experience. The day ended with a strategic workshop/brainstorming session on the topic of barriers to access and challenges facing women in politics.

## COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA) CANADIAN REGIONAL SEMINAR

Charlottetown, Prince  
Edward Island  
October 10 to 13, 2017

### *Delegates*

- Marie Renaud, MLA, St. Albert
- Drew Barnes, MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat
- Richard Starke, MLA, Vermilion-Lloydminster

### *Agenda*

- Welcome reception
- The rise of partisanship and how it paralyses parliament
- Advantages and disadvantages of pipelines in the context of climate change
- Sustainable arctic communities
- Women in politics
- TCI/PEI twinning initiative and update on the state of TCI post hurricanes Irma and Maria
- Minority government: election, transition, opportunities and challenges
- Reception and dinner at Government House, hosted by Lieutenant Governor Frank Lewis and Mrs. Dorothy Lewis

## *Delegate Report*

Submitted by Richard Starke

Thirty-one delegates representing eight provinces, the Northwest Territories and the Senate of Canada met at this seminar. Topics discussed included partisanship in parliament, pipelines, sustainable arctic communities, women in politics, minority government and the twinning initiative with Turks and Caicos, including an update on hurricane recovery.

The discussions were broad ranging and very interesting and were not confined to the business sessions. Of particular interest to Alberta delegates was the presentation by two Quebec MNAs on the advantages and disadvantages of pipelines in the context of climate change. The presentation was especially timely given the decision regarding the Energy East pipeline. After sharing their perspective, the views of the MNAs were vigorously opposed by delegates from New Brunswick and Alberta. This discussion continued in private for the remainder of the conference. It was especially interesting given that one of the MNAs represented the community of Lac Mégantic, the site of the 2013 rail disaster that claimed 47 lives.

Another interesting presentation was made by the British Columbia delegation on the sequence of events following their general election in May 2017, which resulted in a minority government. The perspectives of the Deputy Clerk, the new Speaker and Members of the NDP and Green parties were presented.

The session also saw the formation of the Speakers of Canada Association, a forum for the Speakers of Canada's 15 parliaments and Legislative Assemblies to meet, share insights and provide mutual assistance.

## WESTMINSTER SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

London, United Kingdom  
November 13 to 17, 2017

### Delegates

- Maria Fitzpatrick, MLA, Lethbridge-East
- Prasad Panda, MLA, Calgary-Foothills

## Agenda

- The Westminster System: A Comparative Discussion
- Effective Parliaments and our Roles and Responsibilities
- 21st-century Parliaments
- Pressures on a Parliamentarian
- Standards and Ethics
- The Role of a Speaker and How to Engage with a Speaker
- Backbench Influence
- Overview of the Legislative Process
- Overview of the Legislative Process: Interactive Exercises
- Holding the Prime Minister to Account: Briefing on Prime Minister's Questions, Followed by Video Streaming
- Behaviour and Etiquette in Parliament
- Committees
- Committee hearing exercise on sustainable development goals (SDG) 8.7
- Responsive Parliaments: Dealing with Political Change
- Representative Parliaments: Promoting Inclusion and Encouraging Diversity
- Evidence-based Policy-making and Informed Decision-making for Parliamentarians
- Keynote address with the Leader of the House of Commons Rt. Hon. Andrea Leadsom, MP
- Chamber Debate: Religious Tolerance, Freedom of Religion and Security
- Essential Skills Master Class: How to Deal with the Media (training workshop)
- Essential Skills Master Class: Social Media
- Engaging with Civil Society: Panel Discussion with Charities and NGOs
- Group Exercise and Feedback Session: Round-table Discussions

## Delegate Report

Submitted by Maria Fitzpatrick

I was truly honoured to participate in this seminar as a representative of the

Legislative Assembly of Alberta. I found it to be incredibly informative. It caused me to think about how Bills are presented, how to engage with the Speaker and the rest of the Assembly and to do so in a meaningful manner. All of the speakers provided such insight into different areas of parliament such as the lecture by Lord Lisvane (crossbencher), House of Lords. He provided an excellent comparison of the Westminster system and other models such as the presidential system.

Another amazing speaker was the Speaker of the House of Commons, UK, Rt. Hon. John Bercow. He spoke about how to engage with the Speaker and keep things under control in a parliament with 650 members in a Chamber built for 450 members. We were then very fortunate to see him in action during the QP with the Prime Minister on Wednesday at noon. He can be seen online and is certainly worth viewing. The topic of not only the day but apparently many, many months during QP, of course, was different aspects of Brexit.

Each part of the seminar was interesting and provided wonderful insight into the politics and abilities of the Westminster system under which the government of Alberta works. I saw this conference as extremely useful training for any new MLA.

## PRESIDING OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Quebec City, Quebec  
January 25 to 28, 2018

### Delegates

- Honourable Robert Wanner, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, MLA, Medicine Hat
- Debbie Jabbour, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, MLA, Peace River

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Quebec City, Quebec  
March 15 to 18, 2018

### *Delegate*

- Graham Sucha, MLA, Calgary-Shaw

### *Agenda*

- Opening keynote address: Bill Graham, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
- Legislators round-table
- Thirty Years of Trade in North America: Looking Back and Ahead
- Negotiating Trade Agreements: Behind the Scenes
- Negotiating a New North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): Issues, National Interests and Sensitive Sectors
- NAFTA round-table and discussion
- The Role of Legislators in International Trade
- The Future of Free Trade Agreements: Challenges and Opportunities
- Farewell keynote address: Bill Richardson, former Governor of New Mexico

### *Delegate Report*

Submitted by Graham Sucha

Primarily the conference was made up of guest speakers from different backgrounds and jurisdictions, ranging from trade negotiators to labour organizers to members from different state and federal levels.

Keynote speakers included former federal Foreign Affairs minister Bill Graham and former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson.

Due to the timing of the conference NAFTA and the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs took up a significant amount of the discussion overall. Typically, the consensus from speakers was that state

and provincial politicians can carry a significant amount of lobbying power to express the benefits and opportunities of NAFTA for their federal counterparts and negotiators. There was a significant amount of misunderstanding by U.S. lawmakers and a minor amount of tension around Canada's supply management on products like milk and poultry. While some did not like it, some state senators expressed a desire to enact it in their jurisdictions. I did offer the opportunity to discuss with Alberta stakeholders should they want to explore it further. There was also consensus on the idea that a key reason why NAFTA should be reviewed is that it was drafted before the rise of the popularity of the Internet. One deviating point, which I felt was valid and should not be dismissed, was from Celeste Drake from the American Federation of Labour, who outlined that the export of U.S. jobs to jurisdictions that do not have firm labour laws has led to a significant amount of U.S. workers being disgruntled about NAFTA. There was an opportunity to network over meals, and I was able to exchange a significant number of contacts.





## Interparliamentary Relations

The Legislative Assembly of Alberta maintains relations with other parliaments and representatives of foreign countries. In 2017 the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, Deputy Chair of Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office welcomed the following visitors.



**March 16, 2017**

**His Excellency Mizanur Rahman**  
*High Commissioner for Bangladesh*

**April 6, 2017**

**Ms. Galit Baram**  
*Consul General of Israel*

**May 24, 2017**

**Mrs. Cecilia Villanueva Bracho**  
*Consul of Mexico for Alberta*

**September 25, 2017**

**Mr. Emmanuel Anyimadu**  
*Clerk to the Parliament of Ghana*

**October 23, 2017**

**His Excellency Henk van der Zwan**  
*Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands*

**October 31, 2017**

**His Excellency John Lepi Lanyasunya**  
*High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya*

**November 7, 2017**

**His Excellency Jim Kelly**  
*Ambassador of Ireland*

**November 29, 2017**

**His Excellency Dr. Stefan Pehringer**  
*Ambassador of Austria*

**November 30, 2017**

**Mrs. Abhilasha Joshi**  
*Consul General of India*

**December 6, 2017**

**His Excellency Abdulhamid Alfaiakawi**  
*Ambassador of the State of Kuwait*

**February 23, 2018**

**Ms. Lu Xu**  
*Consul General of the People's Republic of China*







# In Memoriam

The Legislative Assembly of Alberta mourned the passing of a number of former Members in 2017.

## LEONARD (LEN) BRACKO, MLA, ST. ALBERT

Len Bracko served one term in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Member for St. Albert. First elected on June 15, 1993, he served until March 10, 1997. During that time he was critic for both the Municipal Affairs and economic development portfolios. He also served on several standing committees of the Legislative Assembly, including Private Bills, Public Accounts and Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing.

Prior to his service with the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Bracko served on the St. Albert city council from 1989 to 1992 and again from 2001 to 2013.

A teacher by profession, he worked in junior and senior high schools, beginning in 1967.

## BRUCE COLLINGWOOD, MLA, SHERWOOD PARK

Bruce Collingwood served one term in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Member for Sherwood Park. First elected on June 15, 1993, he served until March 10, 1997. During that time he was critic for the environmental protection portfolio and whip from September of 1996 to February of 1997.

He held a bachelor of science degree in zoology, and he worked as a teacher for a decade before obtaining a law degree and specializing in corporate finance and commercial law.

## E. LEROY FJORDBOTTEN, MLA, MACLEOD

LeRoy Fjordbotten served four terms in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Member for Macleod. First elected on March 14, 1979, he served until June 14, 1993. During his 14 years of service he held various ministerial portfolios, including agriculture, tourism and forestry, lands and wildlife. One of his enduring contributions came in 1981, when he introduced a bill to regulate the dairy industry in Alberta. He also served on numerous committees of the Legislative Assembly, including the Select Standing Committee on Public Affairs throughout most of his tenure.

He was a member of the Flying Farmers of Alberta, which combined his love for the land and his skills as a pilot.

## DR. ALBERT E. (BERT) HOHOL, MLA, EDMONTON-BELMONT

Bert Hohol served two terms in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Member for Edmonton-Belmont. First elected on August 30, 1971, he served until March 13, 1979. Over the course of his tenure Dr. Hohol held several ministerial portfolios, including labour, manpower and labour and advanced education and manpower. In his last portfolio he advocated for the creation and ongoing support of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta.

He also sat on a number of committees during his service, including the Select Committee to Receive Representations and Recommendations as to the Operations of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Select Standing Committee on Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education.

Other employment included serving as the associate superintendent for educational administration for the Edmonton public school board in 1969.

He earned his master of education in 1954 from the University of Alberta and his PhD from the University of Oregon in 1967.

## LEONARD (LEN) W. MITZEL, MLA, CYPRESS-MEDICINE HAT

Len Mitzel served two terms in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat from 2004 to 2012. During his second term he was Deputy Chair of Committees from 2008 to 2011 and parliamentary assistant for Transportation from 2011 to 2012. He also served on many standing committees of the Legislative Assembly, including Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing.

His first foray into holding public office was as a councillor, and then he served as reeve for the county of Forty Mile.

Following his return to private life he remained an active voice for southeastern Alberta, promoting business and tourism, developing water usage strategies and mentoring participation in local government.

## BOHDAN (BUD) ZIP, MLA, CALGARY- MOUNTAIN VIEW

Bud Zip served one term in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta as the Member for Calgary-Mountain View. First elected on November 2, 1982, he served until May 7, 1986. During his tenure he sat on various standing committees of the Legislative Assembly, including Public Accounts and the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act.

Mr. Zip was active in Alberta's Ukrainian community, serving as treasurer and president of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox congregation and president of the Calgary Ukrainian Canadian Committee.

He was born in Saskatchewan, and he completed his master of arts in economics at the University of Toronto in 1951.







