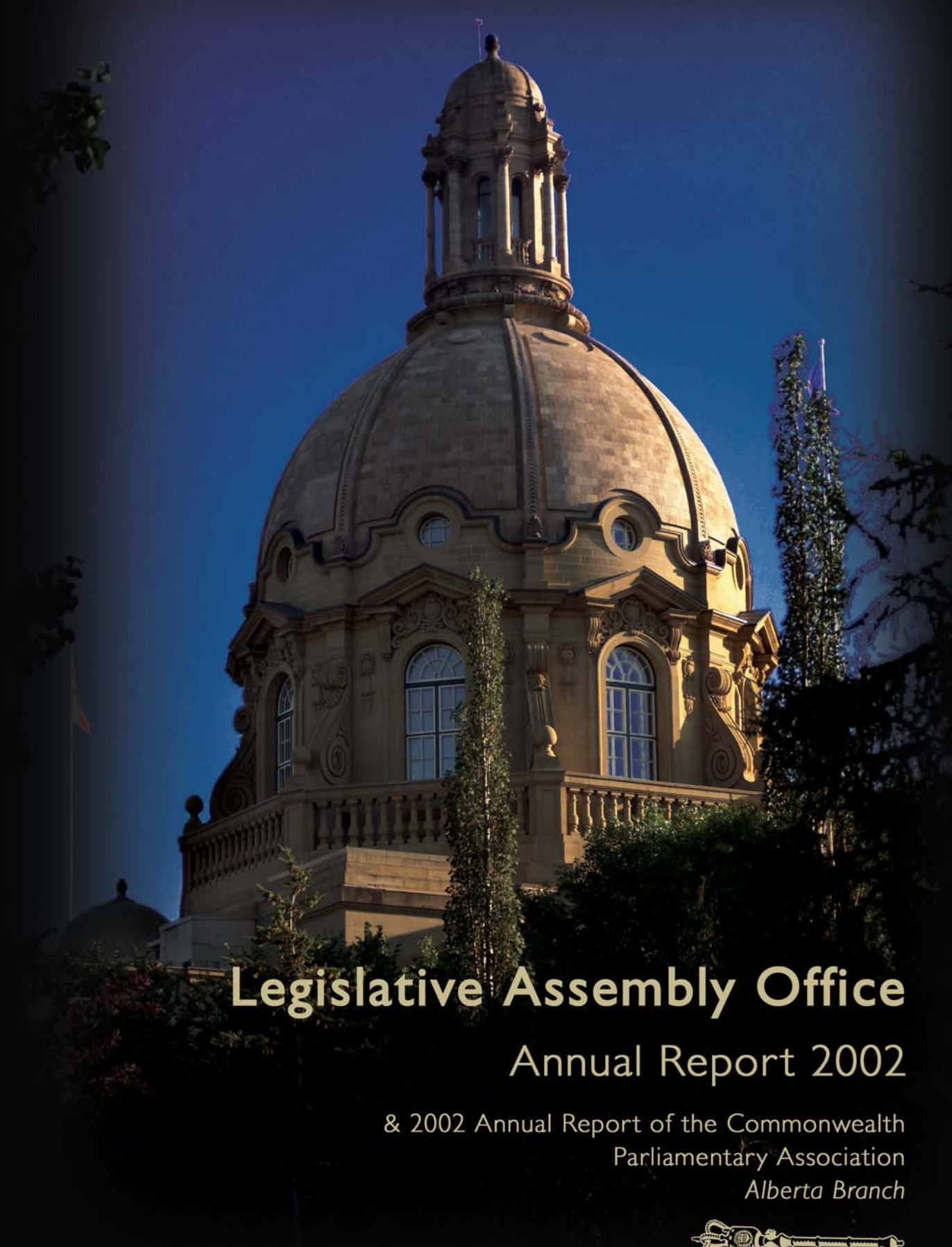




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# Legislative Assembly Office

## Annual Report 2002

& 2002 Annual Report of the Commonwealth  
Parliamentary Association  
*Alberta Branch*



Legislative Assembly of Alberta







Legislative Assembly of Alberta

November 1, 2003

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

As required by Standing Order 109, I am pleased to submit the 14th annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office for the calendar year ending December 31, 2002, and the financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002. This report describes the activities of the Legislative Assembly Office focusing on four key areas of responsibility in which support is provided to Members. Also presented are the audited financial statements for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the sixth annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

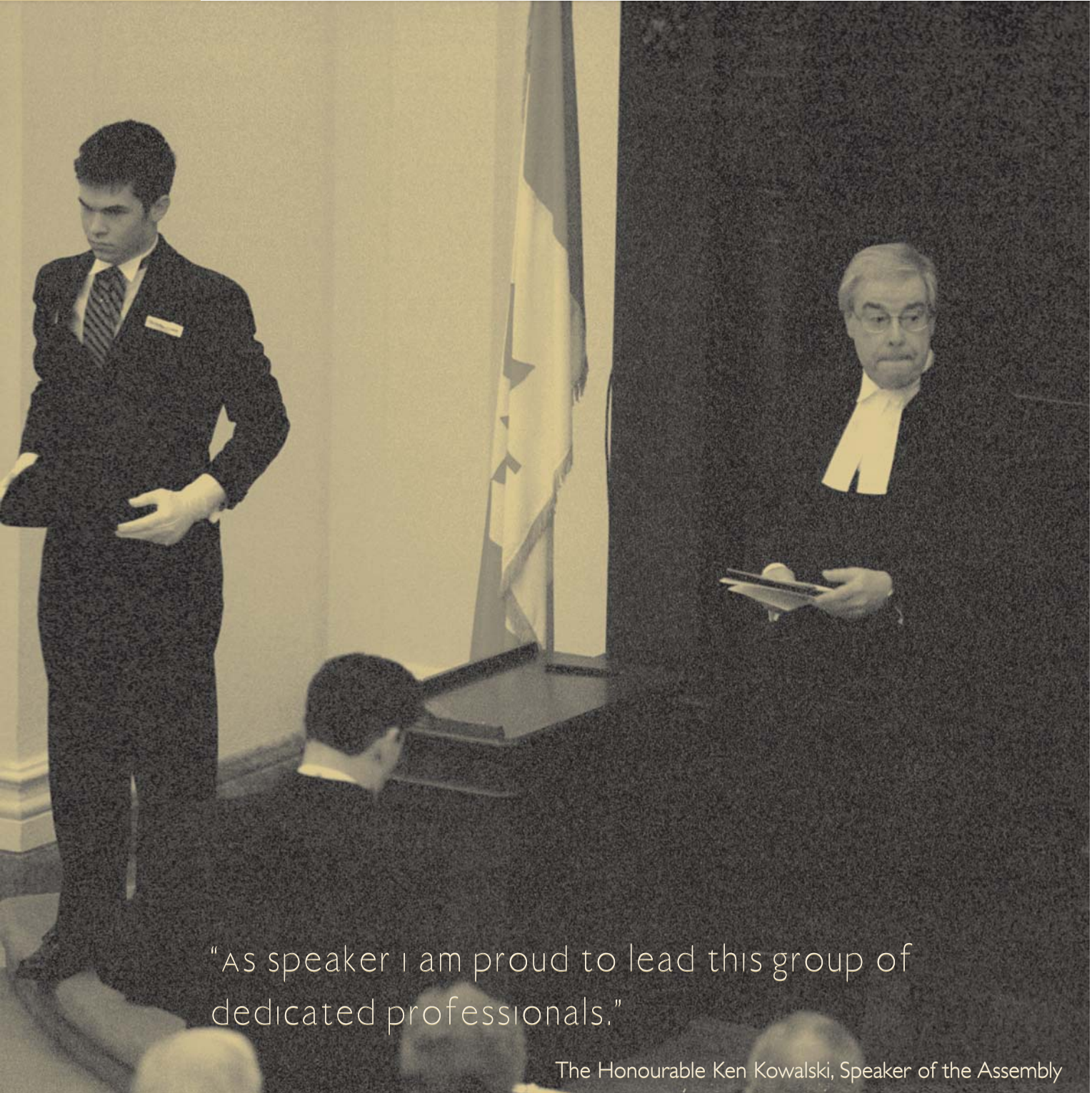
At the end of yet another successful year, the outstanding support that Legislative Assembly Office staff provide to the Assembly must be mentioned. Through hosting visiting parliamentarians and coordinating Assembly events, they serve the citizens of Alberta well. As Speaker I am proud to lead this group of dedicated professionals.

I would like to thank those Members who so ably represented Alberta or presented papers at various interparliamentary conferences, and I thank all MLAs for supporting the work of the Legislative Assembly Office and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Ken Kowalski, MLA

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



“As speaker I am proud to lead this group of dedicated professionals.”

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker of the Assembly





Legislative Assembly of Alberta

November 1, 2003

To The Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

I am honoured to present to you the 14th annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office and the sixth annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Legislative Assembly Office report includes the audited financial statements regarding the operation of the Legislative Assembly Office for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. The Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association report outlines the various developmental opportunities afforded Members who attended interparliamentary conferences.

This Legislative Assembly Office report focuses on results-based reporting and includes highlights of events and conferences undertaken to further educate the public about the institution of parliament on behalf of Members, as well as support an exchange of information and ideas among parliamentarians.

I am privileged to work with Legislative Assembly Office staff, who bring a high level of commitment, flexibility and professionalism to the work they do.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. W.J. David McNeil

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



“A high level of commitment, flexibility and professionalism.”

David McNeil, Clerk of the Assembly

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"our vision is to be the best parliamentary support organization through a commitment to excellence; i am confident we achieve that."

Vivian Loosemore, Manager Public Information Branch



# An introduction

The Legislative Assembly Office: In Service to Alberta’s Parliament

The origins of Alberta’s Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) can be traced to 14th century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk. Today the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is the head of the LAO, and the Clerk is the Speaker's deputy. The *Legislative Assembly Act* of 1983 made the LAO's current name official.

The most common misconception about the LAO is that it is a branch of government and that its staff are government employees. However, in the parliamentary system, the government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws; the Legislative Assembly is the legislative branch, responsible for establishing those laws. The Legislative Assembly Office provides various types of support to the entire Assembly – both members of government and opposition parties.

Although the LAO is sometimes called the Speaker's department, it is not a government department. The Speaker does not belong to the cabinet and cannot be asked questions during Oral Question Period or participate in the Assembly's debates. However, the Speaker does have administrative authority and responsibility similar to that of a minister of a government department. The Clerk is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a deputy minister.

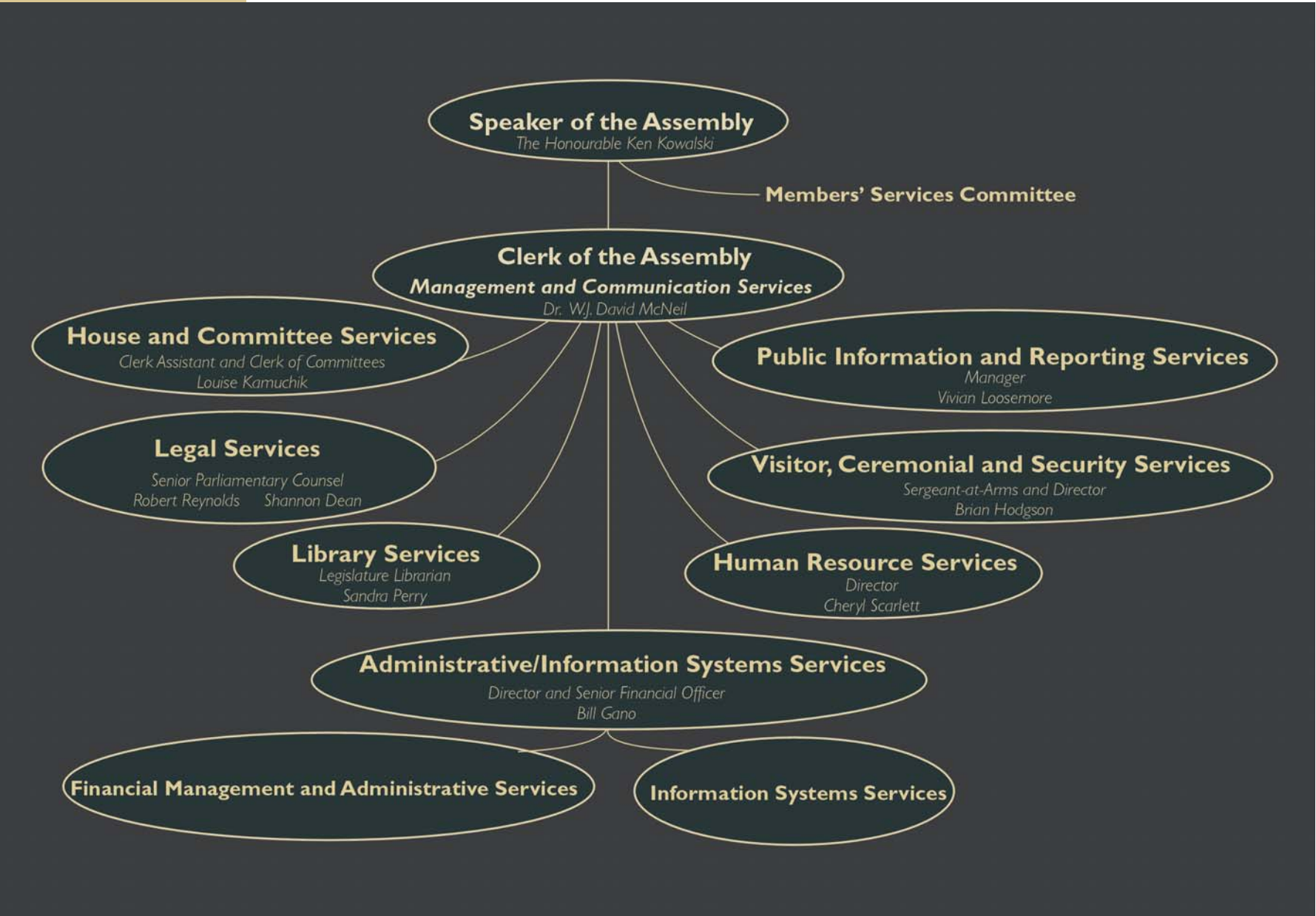
The Speaker has two distinct but related roles. In the Assembly, the Speaker maintains order and ensures that MLAs conduct their business according to the Standing Orders of the Assembly. Administratively, the Speaker is responsible for the Assembly's records and provides services to MLAs and the public.

The latter include financial administration, human resources, office automation assistance, public education, library services, legal services, House services, purchasing and communications services.

The LAO as a whole has the same procedural and administrative roles. This is a unique characteristic and is evident throughout the office, particularly during session, when the normal duties, work hours and office locations of many staff change significantly.

The LAO’s annual budget, as well as provisions for financial and human resource administration, are under the purview of the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. As an all-party committee of the Assembly, the Members' Services Committee regulates constituency office support and Members' pay, allowances, benefits and group insurance plans, all of which the LAO administers. Traditionally, the Speaker chairs the Members' Services Committee.

Each party of elected members, or caucus, is a branch of the Legislative Assembly Office. Although the Speaker technically has authority over the administration of each caucus office, for obvious reasons these branches operate with considerable autonomy. Therefore, the caucus branches are not part of this report; it only includes branches of the LAO under the Speaker's full control. However, since the caucuses receive financial, administrative and human resource services, as well as other support from other branches of the LAO, this report does comment on those services. In addition, the office's consolidated budget estimates and audited financial statements, which appear at the end of this report, include caucus finances.

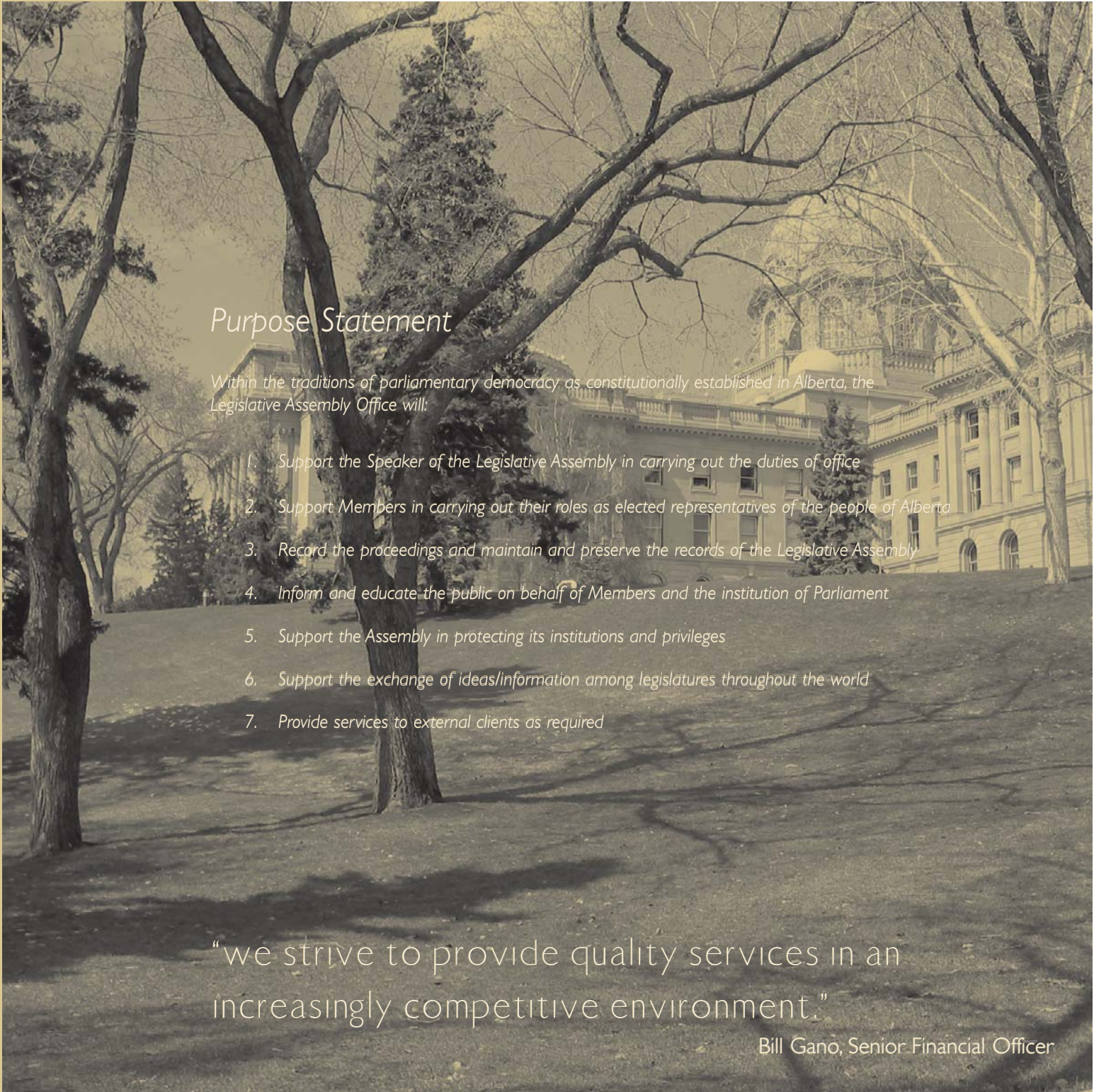


“cooperation among branches ensures that our organizational goals are achieved.”  
Rob Reynolds, Senior Parliamentary Counsel



# strategic goals

- Assist the Speaker in fulfilling the duties of office
- Assist Members in carrying out their roles as legislators within the parliamentary system and as representatives of their constituencies
- Meet and exceed the service expectations of the Members
- Respond to increased demands for technology-related services from Members, staff and the public
- Provide Members with professional development opportunities and foster interparliamentary cooperation through participation in national and international parliamentary forums and exchange programs
- Increase public awareness of the Legislative Assembly within Alberta's democratic parliamentary system through information and outreach programs
- Continue to foster understanding of the division of powers among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government
- Ensure that the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) provides quality services in an increasingly competitive environment
- Ensure the continued development of the effectiveness and efficiency of the LAO workforce through the fostering and recognition of leadership and teamwork
- Develop plans for special centennial events and projects



## Purpose Statement

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 in carrying out their roles as elected representatives of the people of Alberta
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. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges
6. Support the exchange of ideas/information among legislatures throughout the world
7. Provide services to external clients as required

“we strive to provide quality services in an increasingly competitive environment.”

Bill Gano, Senior Financial Officer



# Legislative Assembly office services

## Office of the Clerk

Is responsible for the processing of the daily business of the House and provides management and communications support to all branches of the LAO. The Clerk acts as a liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments and assists in coordinating Member participation in interparliamentary activities.

## Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS)

Provides full accounting services such as budget preparation and monitoring, payment processing and financial reporting, as well as administrative services including equipment and supplies procurement, telecommunications management, constituency office lease and credit card administration.

## Information Systems Services (ISS)

Handles all technological issues including installation and support of software and hardware, remote access and network infrastructure. ISS also assists with records management and handles responsibilities under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the LAO.

## Human Resource Services (HRS)

Provides support to Members and staff in all matters of human resource management. This includes contract administration, pay and benefits management, recruitment and job classification, employee relations, training and development and all issues related to occupational health and safety.

## Legal Services—Parliamentary Counsel

Provides legal advice on a wide range of matters including parliamentary procedure. They draft Private Members' Public Bills and Private Bills. Both Senior Parliamentary Counsel serve as Table Officers in the House and advise the Speaker on points of order and questions of privilege.

## Library Services

Offers information, news, reference and research services to the Members and their staff using current library and information technology. As well, Library Services provides training in the use of the electronic services that are delivered to the Members' desktops.

## Public Information and Reporting Services—Public Information Branch (PIB)

Is responsible for the recording and publication of print and electronic versions of *Alberta Hansard*, the official report of proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees. PIB also administers a subscription service to *Alberta Hansard*, *Votes and Proceedings* and bills and distributes sessional publications as well as operating a public information service and providing editing and proofreading services.

## Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS)

Plans and executes ceremonial and special events, as well as the coordination of school and public outreach programs, tours of the facilities and the production of several educational and orientation materials. Maintaining security in the Chamber and precincts, providing security-related advice to constituency offices and managing the Alberta Legislative Assembly Page Program are also the responsibility of VCSS.

## House and Committee Services (HCS)

Along with providing advice on parliamentary procedures, producing the *Votes and Proceedings*, *Order Paper*, *Journals* and assisting in maintaining House records, such as bills and motions, HCS provides all the arrangements for the Assembly's Standing, Special Standing and Select Special Committee meetings. As well, HCS assists with expenses, budgets, historical records and transcripts relating to committees.



"we're always looking for new ways to provide more efficient services to the members."

Louise Kamuchik, Clerk Assistant



## results

## Key Responsibility Areas

### Comparative Statistics

The structure of this annual report highlights the accomplishments of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO). All branch information has been integrated to emphasize how the branches work together to achieve common goals and support the mandate of the LAO.

*The Mission of the LAO is to provide the best advice and a full range of quality services to Members as parliamentarians and support the preservation of the Assembly's history and maintain its accessibility to the public. Performance of the Assembly must therefore be measured according to how well the LAO performs these tasks.*

The Legislative Assembly Office has organized its results into four key responsibility areas (KRAs):

- 1 Provision of timely, professional, impartial, accurate information and advice to Members
- 2 Provision of services, equipment, supplies and facilities on a timely basis
- 3 Provision of an effective workplace to support Members
- 4 Provision of support to maintain and develop the parliamentary system in Alberta





# key responsibility area i

*provision of timely, professional, impartial, accurate information and advice to members*

## Service and Support

All branches of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) assisted Members in day-to-day operations relevant to their area. Branches continue to enhance levels of service and support to all Members through the Assembly’s Web site as well as the internal *Our House* site. Also, LAO Managers coordinated an orientation on LAO Services for Doug Griffiths, MLA for Wainwright, elected in the By-election held on April 8, 2002.

House and Committee Services (HCS) provided procedural advice and guidance to the Speaker, all Members and staff to assist Members in carrying out their duties of office as elected representatives and to ensure the effective operation of the Legislative Assembly. They prepared daily scripts for the Speaker during session as well as scripts for all participants taking part in ceremonial functions.

HCS provided procedural and organizational support to the Chairs of the Assembly’s Standing Committees and the Special Standing Committee, as well as three Select Special Committees: the Auditor General and Information and Privacy Commissioner Search Committee; the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Review Committee; and the Ethics Commissioner and Ombudsman Search Committee.

Working with Administrative Services and Information Systems Services (ISS) staff, HCS helped organize the start up of the new Committee rooms in the Legislature Annex. They provided support to MLAs and their staff with booking Committee rooms and provided orientation to the new committee room facilitator.

Plans were set for ISS to implement a digital audio system in the Chamber. As well, The Legislative Assembly Reservation System (LARS), an application that allows for scheduling of Chamber public and Member guest seating, was upgraded and is currently being expanded to allow Chamber security to access up-to-the-minute information and provide comprehensive statistics.

Human Resource Services (HRS) provided strategic advice to Members on a variety of topics that included sensitive employee relations issues, labour regulation, recruitment strategies, compensation, contract administration, performance management and problem resolution.

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) provided advice on Members’ allowances, expenses and financial reporting. Staff worked with HRS to provide ergonomic advice and assistance, especially with regards to office furniture.

The Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) or the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms personally visited 34 constituency offices in the province to give advice on constituency office safety as well as personal safety to the staff in those offices. The office of the SAA gave advice via telephone, e-mail and in person to Members and staff on numerous constituency office security matters.

Parliamentary Counsel assisted the Speaker in preserving and asserting the rights and privileges of the Assembly. They provided support and advice to the Speaker and other presiding officers on questions of parliamentary law and privilege; served as Table Officers and were present at all sittings of the Assembly. Parliamentary Counsel also provided legal and procedural advice to the Speaker, Members and Committees of the Assembly; were present at Committee meetings as required and directly assisted in the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Private Bills.

The Library continued to improve electronic access to information to the Members by increasing the number of services available at the desktop. A Legislative alert service and several new full-text databases and an archive of electronic government documents through the Library’s catalogue were added. The book collection grew by 7 per cent and information requests from Members increased by more than 50 per cent.

## Assembly and LAO Documents

Staff of Public Information Branch (PIB) continued to meet the branch’s stated goals regarding the production of House and Committee transcripts and the cumulative index as well as delivery of sessional publications.

HRS once again produced the annual personalized Members’ Benefit Statements and developed and produced benefit and entitlement information for Members, as well as ad hoc reporting as required.

At the Library’s 4th Annual Spring Tea and Open House, the Speaker announced the new Wilsonline Omnifile Full Text Database Service that is available on the Members’ desktops. Demonstrations of e-books and a series of mini-bibliographies were made available to interested attendees. A series of lengthy bibliographies on topics of current interest were again prepared immediately prior to the spring and fall sessions.

Library staff continued to develop and enhance the Access database of MLA biographical information. They also completed microfilming the Amisk, Lougheed, Mannville and Vilna newspapers. The older editions of 51 newspapers were donated to their respective communities.

FMAS provided monthly and ad hoc financial reports and information to Members regarding their Members’ Services Allowance, temporary residence and travel allowances, and MLA postage. They produced annual MLA expense reports in support of the *Report of Selected payments to members and Former Members of the Legislative Assembly and Persons Directly Associated with Members of the Legislative Assembly* tabled by the Minister of Finance. As well they provided hard-copy and on-line fiscal year-end materials (calendars, policy and procedure guide, checklists) for Members’ reference, and produced the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 Legislative Assembly Office Financial Statements.

Parliamentary Counsel reviewed a wide range of documents for presentation in the Assembly, including amendments, Private Members’ motions, motions for returns, written questions and petitions.

HCS continued to produce *Votes and Proceedings*, *Order Paper* and *Journals*.





# key responsibility area 2

provision of services, equipment, supplies and facilities on a timely basis

## Electronic Age

The committee rooms in the Legislature Annex were completed and with the rooms came a wealth of technology to enhance meetings. Information Systems Services (ISS) worked to equip each room with multi-media capabilities including: projection system, CD/DVD/VHS, Phillips Sound System, audio and video conferencing. June saw the successful implementation of digital recording from the committee rooms in the Legislature Annex. Two PIB staff and two ISS staff participated in a train-the-trainer session. The clear sound quality and the ease of calling up a sound bite at the computer rather than dealing with numerous cassettes every day has increased efficiency and expedited the production process.

The fall of 2002 also saw the application of digital recording to traveling committees. Both rounds of Electoral Boundaries Commission hearings conducted throughout the province and a Heritage Savings Trust Fund Committee meeting held in Olds were recorded on a laptop, and the audio was subsequently downloaded to the *Hansard* server for transcription. As well, planning commenced for the introduction of digital recording from the Chamber, the implementation of which should see the demise of the six-deck recording rack and two dozen or so transcribing units currently used and should introduce further efficiencies to *Hansard* production processes.

The financial system, Microsoft Great Plains, was converted to a different database platform that will provide more custom development opportunities. One such customized function was the addition of auto-invoicing.

Library Services continued to develop and update the Library's Intranet to provide easy access to internal and external information services providing one-stop information shopping for Members. A new addition to the website this year was the Legislative Alert service which encompasses several analytical newsletters on the parliamentary scene. Alberta Daily News (ADN) and the Weekly Trivia item proved to be the most popular of the Library's Web services in 2002. The Library began the creation of an Alberta Electronic Government Documents Archive, making electronic versions of government documents available through its catalogue, thus ensuring improved accessibility and enduring availability of these documents. Work continued on the digitization of Alberta's Scrapbook *Hansard*, a compilation of newspaper clippings, which preceded the official *Alberta Hansard*, which was not established until 1972.

The Legislature Library's holdings are now searchable as part of (The Alberta Library)TAL Online. TAL Online comprises the holdings of most libraries in Alberta, permitting library staff to quickly determine locations for materials not available in their own collections and greatly facilitating Interlibrary Loan for their clients.

HRS moved further towards employee self-service through the joint efforts of HRS and ISS to provide online access to constituency contracts and amendments for Members and their staff. The HRS Intranet site was expanded to provide direct access to benefit information and forms. The branch maintained and upgraded the Legislative Assembly Payroll System to provide accurate processing and reporting of earnings, deductions and taxable benefits that meet with federal and provincial regulations and align with the unique needs of the Legislative Assembly.

FMAS participated in the successful development and implementation of the on-line supplies ordering system for all constituency offices and LAO branches (with ISS). They also pursued investigations into different electronic commerce opportunities such as on-line ordering of overprinted stationery, continuing into 2003.

## ALADDIN (Alberta Legislative Assembly Data Distribution and Information Network)

Since September 2001, the Manager of Planning and Development for ISS and the Procedural Clerk have been working to develop an integrated information system allowing users to create a number of documents based on one set of data. Initially, they met with colleagues from Ottawa to discuss their experiences with the PRISM project, the model ALADDIN is based on, and to determine how to coordinate this initiative within the LAO. A committee consisting of five LAO staff was formed and a draft business plan to define ALADDIN, as well as set goals and objectives, was established. These ideas were presented to the Information Technology Management Committee.

The Bills and Journals Clerk provided information on the production of House documents and records and how this information is shared with other areas such as *Hansard*. PIB staff continued to provide input to the information management ALADDIN project.

The ISS Manager of Planning and Development and staff have begun the analysis stage of creating a comprehensive names database as a building block and base for the ALADDIN project.

The ALADDIN project began reviewing the workflow and the way in which information is gathered in some of the branches. Further development will focus on streamlining processes and eliminating duplication.

## Support Services

House and Committee Services supported Members attending the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, in September. They also supported Members attending the Council Of Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) Conference in Ottawa from September 29 to October 2. One of the Assembly's two Committee Clerks also attended this conference.

The Legislative Assembly Gift Shop continued to provide an efficient gift shop service to the Members, and Visitor Services assisted with site preparations for functions that were hosted in the Interpretive Centre.

Visitor Services supported the Quebec-Alberta student exchange program as well as the STEP program by hiring two tour guides. Public Service Orientation tours increased from two tours in 2001 to 40 tours in 2002 with a total of 503 public service employees participating.

Human Resource Services (HRS) continued to administer the pay and flexible benefit plans supporting a varied workforce consisting of Members, constituency, caucus and LAO staff. HRS provided orientation for 36 new salaried and 74 wage employees, and consulted with 26 terminating salaried employees and processed 67 wage terminations. HRS also worked closely with six employees on leave regarding their pay and benefit entitlements. Support of constituency and caucus staff remained critical to the operations of the Assembly, and HRS responded to requests regarding a range of HR services that included career counseling and health and wellness issues.

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) provided accounting and financial services, as well as a number of administrative services, for Members, including the purchase, delivery, and installation of upgraded furniture packages for 30 constituency offices during fiscal 2002-2003 (included consultation and post-installation evaluation and problem resolution with constituency office staff and Members.





FMAS coordinated the transfer of services provided by Telus to those provided by Bell West for the LAO. They also implemented the migration of responsibility and budget for telephone lines, services, and equipment for all LAO telecommunications previously managed and paid for by AB Infrastructure and Alberta Corporate Service Centre (ACSC). This included LAO branches, caucus offices and Members' Legislature/Annex offices.

FMAS also designed and produced reports from electronic data, including calling card reports, out-of-country toll reports and formatting of Telus bills for telecommunications services. As well, FMAS reviewed the financial operations of the Legislative Assembly Gift Shop with staff; which included inventory management, banking and cash handling, recording of sales, and accounts receivable; also assisted with set-up of new retail sales system (Retail Pro).

Information Systems Services (ISS) provided support to the Ethics Commissioner/ Information and Privacy Commissioner Web sites.

The 9th Floor office areas were reconfigured to better accommodate the staff. New furniture in the Sergeant-at-Arms and Parliamentary offices was installed and there were intercom upgrades for all managers.

Parliamentary Counsel provided high quality legal drafting services in the preparation of Private Members' Public Bills (16 in 2002), Private Bills (one in 2002).

Parliamentary Counsel provided expertise in the preparation of amendments to the Standing Orders of the Assembly and Members' Services Committee Orders; and supported the provision of services and facilities through the review of a wide array of contracts/ agreements - licensing, leases, employment and fee for service contracts and other service arrangements.

They also prepared an annual list of required tablings and circulated it to all Members and Senior Officials throughout Government.

Security Issues

The Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) continued to serve on the Security Coordination Committee to discuss and coordinate security issues related to the Legislature Building and surrounding areas.

The office of the SAA continued to coordinate the maintenance of all alarm systems in the 83 Constituency offices. The SAA provided security for Members and the almost 8,200 spectators that were seated in the galleries during session.

Business Resumption Planning

Management met with the staff of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Emergency Management, Alberta Branch, to commence the involved task of identifying essential business services that would need to be put in place within 24 hours, 72 hours, two weeks or as soon as practical in the event the Legislature Building was rendered inoperable as a result of disaster. The SAA continued to chair the Legislature Business Resumption Planning Committee and began gathering and compiling information from all branches to produce a Legislative Assembly Business Resumption Guide.

A new UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) was installed to accommodate critical equipment in the event of a power failure.

Information Support

The Library continued to provide the *New Books in the Library (NBIL)*, *Selected Periodicals in the Library (SPAL)*, *Webwatch*, *Ministers and Critics*, and *Canadian Legislation* alerting and updating services to the Members and their staff.

Library Services responded to all information and reference requests within a 48-hour period; the majority of these were completed within 24 hours. Ninety-four per cent of requests for material were met through the Library's in-house print and electronic resources.



# key responsibility area 3

*provision of an effective workplace to support members*

## Training and Courses

Human Resource Services (HRS) coordinated first aid training for 32 staff working within the Legislature precincts, as well as courses or seminars for 18 staff that supported the continual learning and professional development of employees. Course topics ranged from writing skills to managing stress.

All Legislative Assembly Security Staff (LASS) were trained in the use of Batons and were re-trained in self defense and arrest and control techniques, and VCSS staff were trained in first aid and CPR.

Four people successfully completed the four-week *Hansard* input editor-training program in January/February.

Library staff participated in several training programs, including sessions on Project Management, Infomart, Quicklaw and Amicus. In addition, Library staff provided training to the Members, their staff and LAO staff in searching subscription databases and using and evaluating Internet resources. This included an orientation to the Library and its electronic services for constituency staff attending the November Constituency Seminar.

## New staff

Recruitment and retention of an effective workforce remained a high priority for HRS. HRS staff screened over 940 applications and interviewed 123 staff for 17 competitions for salaried and sessional staff, as well as coordinating the STEP program. Three new Pages were chosen from 25 students interviewed during the annual Page recruitment drive, which is coordinated by the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms and HRS.

HRS hired an HR Consultant in November. A competition for an HR assistant was initiated in the fall as a result of the retirement of a staff member in December.

A new administrative assistant was welcomed to PIB following the June retirement of a staff member who had served the LAO for 25 years.

To provide more flexibility in scheduling, two sessional input editors were trained as copy editors/proofreaders for the fall session in the *Hansard* section of the branch and a sessional assistant was hired in the Information section, combining the administrative support and messenger functions.

The Legislative Library hired a number of staff to cover the positions of those who were on leave, or left to pursue other opportunities. This affected the positions of Government Documents Librarian, Serials Librarian, Digital Services Technician and Library Clerk.

## Organizational Changes

HRS continued to develop and assess employment policies affecting all employees of the LAO as key to retention of employees expert in the operations of the Assembly.

HRS updated the LAO job classification system to support the Assembly’s emphasis on measuring performance. This involved working closely with management and staff of three branches to develop new job descriptions that focus on results rather than tasks as an effective tool to assist employees in reaching the goals and objectives of the LAO. Plans to continue the project for the remaining branches will result in the development of new job descriptions for a total of approximately 80 salaried staff by December 2003.

The Employee Support and Recovery Assistance program administered by HRS provided support to eight employees absent on extended illness. This program ensures communication is maintained between the absent employee, the LAO, and the medical and insurance providers, and coordinates successful return to work plans once the employee is assessed as medically able to do so.

Prudent Occupational Health and Safety practices ensured WCB claims were at an absolute minimum for the year; one employee remained off work for one day as a result of a back strain. Ergonomic training was provided to all new LAO staff, and HRS conducted numerous workstation assessments and worked closely with FMAS on recommending equipment solutions that were effective, both in cost and function, in minimizing the risk of repetitive strain injuries.

## Organizational Activities

The LAO Recognition Dinner, hosted by the Speaker, was held on November 28, 2002 to recognize the significant contributions of LAO and constituency staff to the operations of the Legislative Assembly.

The LAO hosted 77 constituency employees attending the annual Constituency Information Sessions held in the spring in Calgary and Edmonton. In addition to operational information provided by staff from FMAS, ISS and HRS, constituency staff also participated in a training session on Dealing with Difficult People. The fall session drew the same groups of constituency employees from across Alberta for information on House Operations, Library Services, Visitor Programs and Security Issues.

Staff participated in the 2002 United Way campaign which raised \$11, 421.00.

## Professional Development

The Legislature Librarian also served on the The Alberta Library (TAL)’s Governance Standing Committee. Library staff attended conferences of the following organizations: Library Association of Alberta (LAA) Alberta Association of Library Technicians (AALT), Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada (APLIC) and the Parliamentary Librarians’ Branch of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA).

The Head of Visitor Services attended the 2002 Visitor Services Conference in Regina and Visitor Services staff attended a familiarization tour of two Edmonton tourist sites.

The Assembly Pages were involved in a Professional Development program which consisted of 10 seminars involving speakers with some linkage to parliamentary democracy and a speech competition.





# key responsibility area 4

provision of support to maintain and develop the parliamentary system in alberta

## Student Outreach Programs

In September 2002, Mr. Speaker’s Alberta Youth Parliament was cancelled due to ongoing difficulties in recruiting sufficient student and teacher participants. The program is to be replaced by Mr. Speaker’s MLA for a Day, scheduled to begin in the spring of 2003. This new program will bring one high school student from each constituency to the Legislature Building for a day. Students will shadow their MLA and others involved in the parliamentary process. This direct experience was designed to develop their interest and their understanding of parliamentary democracy.

Staff throughout the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) continued to provide enthusiastic support to the School-at-the-Legislature program. The program had 18 classes with a total of 464 students in attendance for 2002.

## Community Outreach Programs

The Fourth edition of *The Citizen’s Guide to the Alberta Legislature* was developed and printed.

The Head of Visitor Services served on the Canadian Capital Cities Organization (CCCO) Board of Directors and attended the CCCO conference in Fredericton. This Organization promotes tourism in the Capital Cities in Canada. The Head of Visitor Services also continued good relations with various tourism agencies in Alberta and Canada by attending other conferences and local meetings.

A series of exhibits in the Pedway showcased the Music Festivals of Alberta, Alberta Craft Council, Heilongjiang Photo Exhibit, STOP - Striving To Overcome Poverty display, Canadian Governors General 50th Anniversary and “Writing in Stone” mural. In May the pedway was the host site of the Edmonton Heritage Fair for 221 students and 159 projects.

The Interpretive Centre developed two new exhibits explaining the role and history of the Speaker of the Assembly and Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.

Close to 39,000 visitors went on tour, 65,600 people attended the special events and 30,000 people just came to look around or shop in the gift shop. This provided a total of nearly 144,000 visitors to the Legislature and Interpretive Centre. Sales in the Legislative Assembly Gift Shop increased by more than 2.5 per cent.

Visitor Services and the communications unit began the development of a fact sheet highlighting the Famous 5, and worked with the Community Development Department in a joint effort to produce a new brochure outlining the Emblems of Alberta.

The Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) and staff served on the Province’s Queen’s Golden Jubilee Committee which involved planning for the Jubilee Garden Levee and assisting with other celebrations in the province.

The SAA continues to be on the City of Edmonton “Edmonton Salutes” Committee. Edmonton Salutes promotes and recognizes our local military community’s contributions, both at home and abroad, toward world peace, security and stability. It further reinforces the message that military personnel and their families

are valued members of the Capital Region. As well, the SAA spoke to five community service organizations at meetings external to the Legislative Assembly Office.

A parliamentary outreach and marketing team was formed from amongst the Visitor Services staff to research, examine and develop new outreach programs and review existing ones.

The SAA office in conjunction with the Speaker’s office coordinated and facilitated the use of the Chamber and the precincts for four model parliaments.

## Interparliamentary Relations

The Clerk organized a visit to the Parliaments of Westminster, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland for seven Alberta Parliamentarians.

The Table Officers attended the Clerk’s Professional Development Seminar in Ontario.

Parliamentary Counsel attended the Joint Annual Meeting of Parliamentary Counsel and Legislative Counsel held in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

The Procedural Clerk attended a Parliamentary Cooperation Seminar at the Senate and House of Commons of Canada from September 23 to October 2.

The Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) produced a fourth Sergeant-at-Arms newsletter, which was distributed to all SAAs in the country and to others in the Commonwealth, as well as Legislature libraries.

Senior Parliamentary Counsel attached to Westminster from October 16 to November 7.

Two PIB staff members took part in the annual Hansard Association of Canada Conference in Ottawa in August, sharing processes and information with Hansard jurisdictions from cross Canada and Great Britain.

The SAA attended the SAA conference held in Quebec City, Quebec and was detached to the House of Commons, Sergeant-at-Arms Department from October 16 to November 1 to study administrative practices and procedures of the Parliament of Westminster.

In September of 2002 the Legislature Librarian began to serve the first year of her two-year term as President of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians in Canada (APLIC), presiding over the APLIC Conference in Quebec City and delivering a paper on the history of the Legislature Library in Alberta. In addition, the Legislature Librarian attended the Parliamentary Libraries and Research Branch of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference which had sessions at both Westminster and the Scottish Parliament. Library Services continued to gather information from print and electronic sources, and through a series of interviews with Alberta’s surviving Speakers, to produce a book on the Speakers of Alberta.

Visitor Services assisted in the Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations, condolence book signing for Princess Margaret, the Queen Mother and one-year anniversary of September 11th.

The Legislative Assembly of Alberta continues to be an associate member of the Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie (APF), the Francophone equivalent to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The Clerk Assistant continued to serve as the secretary to the Alberta Section of the APF and also attended the Regional Meeting in September.



A representative from each of FMAS, HRS and ISS attended the 2nd annual Canadian Association of Parliamentary Administration held in Victoria.

The LAO provided input to the BC Legislature as they transferred their payroll and financial systems.

HRS and the Procedural Clerk assisted with recruitment for the House of Commons Page Program by conducting final interviews on behalf of the House of Commons.

Parliamentary Counsel participated as the Alberta correspondents for two parliamentary publications: *Canadian Parliamentary Review* and the *Table Review*. They also fulfilled requests for speaking engagements and participated in the Association of Parliamentary Counsel in Canada and the Association of Clerks at the Table.

Parliamentary Counsel monitored legal actions affecting the Legislative Assembly and also provided legal services to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Ceremonial Events

LAO staff supported, and Table Officers took part in several ceremonial events held in the Legislative Assembly Rotunda, which included La semaine de la francophonie, the Poppy Presentation, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, and the celebration of the Muslim Festival of Eid-UI-Adha. Table Officers were also in attendance at the swearing-in ceremonies for Alberta’s new Auditor General and the new Information and Privacy Commissioner.

HCS comparative statistics

	2002 Second Session 25th Legislature	2001 First Session 25th Legislature	2001 Fifth Session 24th Legislature
Day Sittings (Hours) Spring Fall	37 (206) 10 (50)	25 (91) 11 (41)	1 (1) 0
Evening Sittings (Hours) Spring Fall	26 (67) 6 (14)	17 (61) 8 (13)	0 0
Government Bills Introduced Received Royal Assent	39 37	31 31	0 0
Private Bills Introduced Received Royal Assent	1 1	4 4	0 0
Private Members' Public Bills Introduced Received Royal Assent	16 4	16 3	0 0
Government Motions Debated Agreed to Withdrawn	34 31 0	22 21 0	0 0 0
Private Members' Motions Placed on Order Paper Accepted Rejected Withdrawn	54 6 4 0	52 6 2 0	0 0 0 0





HCS comparative statistics *continued*

	2002 Second Session 25th Legislature	2001 First Session 25th Legislature	2001 Fifth Session 24th Legislature
Written Questions			
Placed on Order Paper	9	7	0
Accepted	6	2	0
Rejected	3	4	0
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Motions for Returns			
Placed on Order Paper	9	18	0
Accepted	5	2	0
Rejected	4	15	0
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Committee of Supply (Days)			
Main Estimates	16	15	0
Lottery Fund	N/A	1	0
Supplementary	2	2	0
Tablings	755	613	0
Petitions (Excluding Private Bills)			
Presented	62	42	0
Read and Received	N/A	23	0
Recognitions	154	110	0
Members' Statements	100	71	0
Ministerial Statements	13	5	0
Pages Published			
Journals	540	473	18
Votes and Proceedings	354	312	17
Order Paper	352	411	0

HCS comparative statistics *continued*

Committee Name	Number of Meetings
Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund	4
Standing Committee on Legislative Offices	2
Special Standing Committee on Members' Services	0
Standing Committee on Private Bills	2
Standing Committee on Public Accounts	11
Select Special Auditor General and Information and Privacy Commissioner Search Committee	8
Select Special Ethics Commissioner and Ombudsman Search Committee	1
Select Special Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Review Committee	16



ISS comparative statistics

	2002	2001	2000	1999
Equipment In Place				
Constituency Work Stations	138	109	106	117
Constituency Printers	132	120	124	115
LAN Work Stations	229	188	173	171
LAN Laser Printers	50	45	45	56
Printers (Not Networked)	101	n/a	n/a	n/a
Servers	17	16	18	20
Scanners	41	22	18	4
Laptop Computers	158	143	98	98
Equipment Replaced				
Obsolete Work Stations	81	190	45	60
Obsolete Laser Printers	19	20	16	13
Obsolete Laptop Computers	9	30	0	6
Training				
Training Days <sup>(1)</sup>	75	118	34	86
Regular Training	57	n/a	n/a	n/a
ISS Staff Technical Training	18	n/a	n/a	n/a
Help Desk Calls				
Help Calls Logged	1,857	1,610	1,500	1,969

(1) Regular vs. technical training statistics only available for 2002.

PIB comparative statistics

	2002	2001
Public Information and Subscriptions		
Public Information Calls	6,559	7,960
Congratulatory Scrolls	2,586	2,500
Paid Subscriptions		
Daily Hansard	118	203
Hansard Bound Volumes	33	48
Bills, Votes	245	310
Journals	245	310
Complimentary Issues		
Daily Hansard	335	329
Hansard Bound Volumes	101	101
Bills, Votes	425	457
Order Paper	379	384
Hansard Index and Online Inquiries	39	43
Web site Inquiries	51	54
Assembly Statistics		
Hansard Pages	1,724	1,372
Standing and Special Committees		
Meetings Reported	37	24
Meeting Hours	79	33
Transcript Pages	626	250
Electoral Boundaries Commission		
Meetings Reported	19	-
Meeting Hours	57	-
Transcript Pages	408	-
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Regional Conference		
Meetings Reported	-	4
Meeting Hours	-	12
Transcript Pages	-	198
Canadian Association of Parliamentary Support Services Conference		
Meetings Reported	-	2
Meeting Hours	-	7
Transcript Pages	-	112
Total Hansard, Committee and Miscellaneous Transcript Pages	2,758	1,932
Speech Reprints Issued	145	N/A
Users of Hansard Display in Interpretive Centre		
Number of Quizzes Taken	665	N/A
Number of Transcriptions Done	650	N/A





FMA's comparative statistics

	2002	2001	2000
Administrative			
Constituency Offices, Moved	3	20	3
Constituency Offices, New	0	0	0
Constituency Offices, Closed	0	0	0
Leases Processed (New or Renewals)	18	46	14
Telecommunications Services Installed or Moved	30	71	4
Telecommunications Services Requests	219	406	117
Direct Purchase Orders Issued	115	120	126
MLA Purchase Orders Processed	5,600	5,400	6,650
Other Requests Processed	3,016	2,670	2,575
Special Requests Processed	280	320	275
Supplies Orders Processed			
Online Ordering System	679	n/a	n/a
Manual	229	n/a	n/a
Financial*			
Invoices Coded and Data Entered	16,003	18,142	19,281
Payments Issued	10,504	10,834	n/a

\* Note: Financial statistics are now based on the fiscal year. 2002 represents April 1, 2001, to March 31, 2002.

VCSS comparative statistics

	2002	2001	2000
Visitors to Legislature and Interpretive Centre			
Visitors on Tour	38,936	41,273	44,900
Special Events	65,602	50,573	39,806
Casual	30,022	32,496	36,346
Total Visitors	143,963	130,772	132,952
Tours and Programs			
Regular Tours	2,623	2,846	2,945
VIP Tours	18	10	241
Educational Programs	344	492	42
Public Service Orientation Tours	40	2	4
Gallery Seats Reserved	6,674	5,572	10,415
Volunteer Hours	84	273	457
Gift Shop Sales	\$99,473	\$97,015	\$88,646
MLA Sales	\$251,757	\$220,466	\$231,883



library comparative statistics

	2002	2001	2000
Total Number of Volumes in the Collection	358,273	334,407	316,165
Items Borrowed for use Outside the Library	4,484	4,567	4,374
Items Used On-site	6,021	3,472	3,314
Number of Sessional Papers Added to the Collection	755	613	1,355
Number of Requests Requiring Less than 15 Minutes to Complete	3,490	4,284	4,639
Number of Requests Requiring 15 Minutes to One Hour to Complete	834	663	803
Number of Requests Requiring More Than One Hour to Complete	151	102	110
MLA/LAO Usage of the Library's Internet Site	19,974	12,457	6,814
Number of Times the Online Catalogue was Accessed Remotely	144,568 <sup>(1)</sup>	8,019	4,025
Number of Inter-library Requests from Members and Staff	123	275	520

<sup>(1)</sup> The 2002 figure includes the number of searches of the Legislature Library's holdings accessed through The Alberta Library catalogue.

estimates chart

	2002–2003	2001–2002
Human Resource Expenses		
Earnings—Management	\$1,104,000	\$1,123,000
Earnings—Non-management	6,359,500	5,696,000
Employer Contributions	1,278,700	1,113,000
Allowances and Supplementary Benefits	187,500	221,000
Subtotal	8,929,700	8,153,000
Operational Expenses		
Travel	1,970,000	1,586,000
Advertising	176,000	122,000
Insurance	147,500	78,000
Postage and Freight	153,600	152,000
Office Equipment Rental/Purchase	929,100	950,000
Telecommunications	802,600	611,000
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	71,000	59,000
Other Labour and Services	1,364,000	901,000
Data Processing Equipment and Services	804,000	778,000
Hosting	142,000	304,000
Other Administration/Supplies	841,500	801,000
Rentals	4,000	3,000
Subtotal	7,405,300	6,345,000
Grants	3,000	4,000
Payments to Members of the Legislative Assembly	8,661,000	7,595,000
Members' Services Allowances		
Constituency Office Allowances	4,206,000	3,851,000
Communication Allowances	1,192,000	1,136,000
Promotion Allowances	\$333,000	304,000
Subtotal	5,731,000	5,291,000
Revenues		
Fees and Permits	1 000	0
Other Revenue	169,000	167,000
Subtotal	(170,000)	(167,000)
Fiscal Pressure Contingency	0	350,000
Election Contingency	0	0
Transition Allowance	4,200,000	2,100,000
Subtotal	4,200,000	2,450,000
Total	\$34,760,000	\$29,671,000





# financial statements

As at March 31, 2002

- Auditor's Report
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Changes in Net Liabilities
- Statement of Operations
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Schedule 1 – Expenses Detailed by Object
- Schedule 2 – Salary and Benefits Disclosure



"organizing and participating in office functions builds a strong sense of team."

Cheryl Scarlett, Director Human Resource Services

Clockwise: Staff Recognition Dinner and Christmas Party, dress up for the Halloween Luncheon, the Fall Constituency Information Session and the grand opening of the 4th floor committee rooms. Centre: Library Spring Tea.



AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office at March 31, 2002 and the statements of operations, cash flows and changes in net liabilities for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Office's management. 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 plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office as at March 31, 2002 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Edmonton, Alberta  
August 2, 2002

Fred Dunn, CA  
Auditor General

statement of financial position

As at March 31, 2002

	2002	2001
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$6,469	\$4,719
Prepaid lease payment	21,038	80,000
Accounts receivable and advances	363,835	204,454
Inventory held for resale	239,665	229,429
	\$631,007	\$518,602
Capital assets (Note 4)	1,126,152	764,022
	\$1,757,159	\$1,282,624
Liabilities & net liabilities		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,052,807	\$716,965
	\$1,052,807	\$716,965
Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	11,714,289	4,713,315
Vacation pay	705,992	632,013
	\$12,420,281	\$5,345,328
Net liabilities	(11,715,929)	(4,779,669)
	\$1,757,159	\$1,282,624

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



statement of changes in net liabilities  
For the year ended March 31, 2002

	2002	2001
Net liabilities at beginning of year	\$(4,779,669)	\$(5,580,650)
Net operating results	(33,609,136)	(23,266,185)
Net transfer from general revenues	26,672,876	24,067,166
Net liabilities at end of year	\$(11,715,929)	\$(4,779,669)

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

statement of operations  
For the year ended March 31, 2002

	2002 Budget	2002 Actual	2001 Actual
Revenues:	(Note 8)		
Gift Shop sales, services, and fees	\$167,000	\$287,607	\$159,975
Other	-	12,071	55,227
Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure for accommodation costs provided at no charge (Note 5)	-	1,286,882	599,060
	167,000	1,586,560	814,262
Expenses			
Voted:			
Financial management and administrative services	482,000	464,419	418,679
Government Members' services	2,401,000	1,990,392	1,597,080
House services	1,773,000	2,674,041	1,414,612
Human resource services	559,000	511,274	499,183
Independent Members' services	-	-	45,265
Information systems	2,039,000	2,274,788	1,552,746
Legislative committees	211,000	150,365	94,807
Legislature Library	1,268,000	1,202,914	1,177,280
MLA administration	20,544,000	19,397,905	14,415,097
New Democrat Opposition services	263,000	289,757	244,440
Office of the Speaker	334,000	331,278	320,322
Official Opposition services	727,000	765,287	1,081,273
Public Information Branch	2,034,000	838,444	1,436,893
	\$32,635,000	30,890,864	24,297,677
Valuation adjustments:			
Accommodation costs (Note 5)		1,286,882	599,060
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies		(1,429,608)	(653,317)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 4)		1,067,478	479,208
Provision for (reduction in) members' transition allowance (Note 6)		3,277,375	(639,962)
Provision for (reduction in) vacation pay (Note 9)		53,979	(669)
Lease payment expensed (capitalized)		58,962	(80,000)
Provision for employee benefit liability		-	39,418
Provision for doubtful accounts receivable		-	41,115
Increase in inventory held		(10,236)	(2,083)
		4,304,832	(217,230)
		35,195,696	24,080,447
Net operating results		\$(33,609,136)	\$(23,266,185)

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





statement of cash flows

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	2002	2001
Operating transactions:		
Net operating results	\$ (33,609,136)	\$ (23,266,185)
Add non-cash charges:		
Provision for doubtful accounts receivable	-	41,115
Amortization of capital assets	1,067,478	479,208
Increase (decrease) in vacation pay	73,979	(669)
Decrease (increase) in prepaid lease payment	58,962	(80,000)
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and advances	(159,381)	60,435
(Increase) decrease in inventory	(10,236)	2,083
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	335,842	(11,324)
Increase (decrease) in transition allowance	7,000,974	(639,962)
Cash used by operating transactions	(25,241,518)	(23,415,299)
Investing transactions:		
Acquisition of capital assets	(1,429,608)	(653,317)
Financing transactions:		
Net transfer from general revenues	26,672,876	24,067,166
Net cash provided (used)	1,750	(1,450)
Cash, beginning of year	4,719	6,169
Cash, end of year	\$ 6,469	\$ 4,719

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

notes to the financial statements

For the year ended March 31, 2002

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.

Note 2 Purpose

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

1. Support Members in carrying out their roles as elected representatives of the people of Alberta.
2. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of the office.
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. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
6. Support the exchange of ideas and information among Legislatures throughout the world.
7. Provide services to external clients as required.

Note 3 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies:

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 Minister of Finance. All receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. The net transfer from the 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

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year on the Office's operations.



*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. Furthermore, accommodation costs, provided by Alberta Infrastructure at no cost, are included in valuation adjustments so as to show the entire cost of the operation of the Office.

*Assets*

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

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

Capital assets of the Office are recorded at historical cost and amortized on a straight-line basis, over the estimated useful lives of the assets, invoiced at \$2,500 or greater, as follows:

- Computer hardware and software 2 years
- Office equipment 5 years
- Furniture 10 years

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds

from an operating budget to be used to purchase 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 accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their book 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 annual charge is the amount that is estimated to have been earned by Members during the year.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities and vacation pay liability are estimated to approximate their book values.

*Net Liabilities*

Net liabilities represent the difference between the value of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

**Note 4 Capital Assets**

	2002			2001
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Office Equipment	\$80,439	\$32,552	\$47,887	\$47,097
Furniture	652,321	135,234	517,087	291,945
Computer hardware and software	3,250,935	2,689,757	561,178	424,980
	\$3,983,695	\$2,857,543	\$1,126,152	\$764,022

At the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly Technology Management Committee, the Members' Services Committee approved a change in the upgrade policy for computer hardware and software from three years to two years effective 2001-2002.

This change in policy has resulted in a significant increase in amortization taken in the current year.



**Note 5 contribution from Alberta Infrastructure**

Included in the \$1,286,882 contribution from Alberta Infrastructure is \$851,227 for the construction of the new committee rooms in the Legislature Annex.

**Note 6 Members' Transition Allowance**

The Office implemented a Members' Transition Allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 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.

On August 7, 2001, the Special Select Standing Committee of the Assembly on Members' Services passed the Members' Allowance Amendment Order (No. 8). Consequently, section 9 of the Members' Allowance Order was repealed and amended.

Under the amended 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" includes the MLA indemnity and expense allowance and remuneration for a Member of Executive Council, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of

Committees, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the leader of a recognized opposition party, or a Member holding a position described in section 3(2) of the Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 1992, c. M-1, as amended) For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is still 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 year restrictions. There is no credit for years of service where 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 passing is paid to the Member's estate.

A portion of the increase in the liability is now being treated as a voted expense as directed by Alberta Finance. This voted expense component is equal to the amount approved by the Members' Services Committee. The difference in the increase in the liability and the amount treated as a voted expense will continue to be a valuation adjustment. As a result, \$4,200,000 has been treated as a voted expense for this fiscal period.

**Note 7 Defined Benefit Plans**

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 established by the government effective July 1, 1999.

The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of \$367,337 for the year ending March 31, 2002 (2001 - \$314,872).

At December 31, 2001, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$5,338,000 (2000 - \$170,858,000) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of \$320,487,000 (2000 - \$635,084,000).

At December 31, 2001, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a deficiency of \$399,000 (2000-surplus \$180,000).

The Office also participates in a multi-employer Long Term Disability Continuance Plan. At March 31, 2002, the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan reported an actuarial deficiency of \$2,656,000 (2001-\$4,583,000). The expense for this plan is limited to employer's annual contributions for the year.

**Note 8 Budget**

Expenses:	
2001-2002 budget <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 29,838,000
2001-2002 supplementary estimate <sup>(b)</sup>	2,797,000
2001-2002 total budget	32,635,000
2001-2002 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	(30,890,864)
2001-2002 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	\$1,744,136

<sup>(a)</sup> Office of the Legislative Assembly Estimates released on April 24, 2001.  
<sup>(b)</sup> Supplementary Estimates—General Revenue Fund released in Fall Session, 2001.

**Note 9 Approval of Financial Statements**

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





# Schedule 1 – Expenses Detailed by Object

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	2002		2001
	Budget	Actual	Actual
Expenses:			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	\$ 8,410,863	\$ 10,530,020	\$ 9,590,973
Supplies and services	12,277,437	8,649,386	6,894,083
Grants	3,000	-	1,800
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	11,943,700	11,711,458	7,810,821
Total expenses	\$ 32,635,000	\$ 30,890,864	\$ 24,297,677

# Schedule 2 – Salary and Benefits Disclosure

For the year ended March 31, 2002

	2002			2001
	Salary <sup>(1)</sup>	Benefits & Allowances <sup>(2)</sup>	Total	Total
Senior official Clerk of the Legislative Assembly <sup>(3)</sup>	\$155,360 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$36,482	\$191,842	\$166,293
Senior Management Team				
Senior Financial Officer	95,302 <sup>(4)</sup>	16,745	112,047	127,014
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	99,467 <sup>(4)</sup>	19,734	119,201	125,496
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	93,009	17,280	110,289	116,844
Director, Human Resource Services	76,598 <sup>(4)</sup>	13,343	89,941	97,903
Legislature Librarian	66,264 <sup>(4)</sup>	12,571	78,835	87,706
Clerk Assistant	73,226 <sup>(4)</sup>	12,953	86,179	93,799
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial, & Security Services and Sergeant-At-Arms	72,252 <sup>(4)</sup>	12,840	85,092	89,105
Manager Sub-total	576,118	105,466	681,584	737,867
	\$731,478	\$141,948	\$873,426	\$904,160

<sup>(1)</sup> Salary includes regular base pay, bonuses, vacation payouts, overtime and lump sum payments.

<sup>(2)</sup> Benefits and allowances include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long-term disability plans and WCB premiums.

<sup>(3)</sup> Automobile is provided; no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances figures.

<sup>(4)</sup> Salary includes the following vacation payouts: Clerk of the Legislative Assembly \$4, 787 (2001–Nil); Senior Financial Officer \$3,418 (2001–\$3,255); Senior Parliamentary Counsel \$735 (2001–Nil); Director Human Resource Services \$2,747 (2001–\$2,616); Legislature Librarian \$1,305 (2001–Nil); Clerk Assistant \$ 2,626 (2001–\$2,501); Director of Visitor, Ceremonial & Security Services and Sergeant-At-Arms \$2, 591 (2001–Nil).



# special events

## Auditor General Farewell

Speaker Kowalski hosted a farewell luncheon for Auditor General Peter Valentine on February 6th. Colleagues, family and friends gathered in the Carillon Room to honour Mr. Valentine’s service to Alberta.

## Book of Condolence in Honour of Princess Margaret

On February 11th and 12th, the public was invited to sign a book in the Legislature Rotunda offering condolences to the Royal Family upon the passing of Princess Margaret. The book was later forwarded to the Canadian government for delivery to the Royal Family.

## Family Day

On February 18, the Legislature pedway was full of family activities and entertainment. Highlights of the event were a children's carnival, a traveling zoo, hot chocolate and Legislature tours. Over 5,100 visitors attended the event.

## Eid-ul-Adha

On March 5, a celebration to recognize the Muslim festival of Eid-ul-Adha was held in the Legislature Rotunda. This festival celebrates the end of the annual pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca. The Ismaili Council for Edmonton made a presentation on behalf of Muslims in Edmonton to the Gordon Russell Crystal Kids Youth Foundation.

## Library Annual Spring Tea

Speaker Kowalski along with several Members of the Assembly and LAO employees, attended the 4th Legislature Library Annual Spring Tea on March 8.

## Royal Visit

His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent addressed the Assembly on Monday, March 18 during his visit to Alberta. This occasion marked the third time in Alberta’s history that a non-member was allowed to address the Assembly from the Chamber Floor. During his visit, the Prince met with Premier Ralph Klein; Dr. Ken Nicol, Leader of the Official Opposition; Dr. Raj Pannu, Leader of the Third Party and Speaker Ken Kowalski.

## Les Rendez-vous de la francophonie

On March 18, Speaker Kowalski hosted a ceremony to recognize l'Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta. Members representing each caucus as well as members of the Francophone community attended.

## World Poetry Day

On March 20th, Speaker Kowalski hosted a poetry reading in the Legislature Library to recognize World Poetry Day.

## Book of Condolences in Honour of the Queen Mother

On April 2nd and 3rd, the public was invited to sign a book in the Legislature Rotunda offering condolences to the Royal family upon the passing of the Queen Mother. The book was then forwarded to the Canadian government for delivery to the Royal Family.



“LAO employees enjoy working with community organizations to bring events to the public.”

Brian Hodgson, Director Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services

Clockwise: The Hearts and Hands Quilt, World Poetry Day, Canada Day and the Christmas Light-up. Centre: Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie.



Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair

On May 11 and 12, the 7th annual Edmonton Regional Heritage Fair was hosted in the Legislature pedway. The fair attracted 221 students from 16 different schools. There were more than 159 Canadian Heritage projects on display.

Auditor General Appointment

Mr. Frederick J. Dunn, CA was officially sworn in as Alberta’s fourth Auditor General by Speaker Kowalski on May 29. Colleagues, family and friends attended the ceremony held in the Carillon room. Mr. Dunn’s appointment became effective June 1st.

Golden Jubilee Garden Levee

On June 23, over 3,500 people visited the Legislature Grounds to celebrate the Queen’s Golden Jubilee. Entertainment, snacks and children’s activities were offered free throughout the afternoon.

Political History Web site Launch

The Alberta Political History Web site produced by the Heritage Community Foundation was launched by Speaker Kowalski on June 14th in the Legislature Library.

Provincial Page Speech Competition

The 8th annual Provincial Page Speech Competition, sponsored by TransAlta, was held on June 17, 2002. Deputy Speaker Don Tannas judged the competition along with representatives from TransAlta and the coordinator of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association. Last year’s winners were Nick Fowler, first place; Erin Weisgerber, second place; and Greg Andrews, third place.

Canada Day

On Canada Day the floor of the Legislature Chamber was open to the public. The event attracted over 18,000 visitors to the grounds, and featured a 21 gun salute, a military display, the ERTC Criterium bicycle race, a children's carnival and entertainment.

Information and Privacy Commissioner Appointment

On August 12, Speaker Kowalski hosted a swearing-in ceremony for Frank Work, Q.C. Colleagues, family and friends attended the ceremony in the Carillon room. His appointment as Alberta’s second Information and Privacy Commissioner became effective May 15.

Speaker’s Cup

The 15th Annual Speaker’s Cup was held at the Westlock Golf Club on Thursday, August 29th. The Speaker hosted the event which drew a crowd of almost 200 people. Of that, 144 guests golfed.

September 11th Commemorative Service

A service was held in the Legislature Chamber to commemorate those whose lives were lost in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack in the United States.

Police and Peace Officers’ Memorial

On September 28, The Honourable Lieutenant Governor, Lois Hole, Deputy Chair of Committees, Shiraz Shariff and the Sergeant-at-Arms were present at a ceremony to honour Alberta Police and Peace Officers who have died in the line of duty.

Poppy Presentation

The Royal Canadian Legion launched its national poppy campaign at the Alberta Legislature on October 24. The Alberta-Northwest Territories Command presented poppies to Her Honour the Honourable Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor; Speaker Kowalski; Mr. Daniel Leroy, Ambassador of Belgium; the Honourable Shirley McClellan, MLA, Deputy Premier; Dr. Ken Nicol, MLA, Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition; Dr. Raj Pannu, MLA, Leader of the New Democrat Opposition, and other attending MLAs.

Remembrance Service

On November 7, Speaker Kowalski, along with Premier Ralph Klein, Opposition Leader Dr. Ken Nicol, New Democrat Brian Mason, MLA, and Mr. Joop Corijn, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, laid wreaths in the Legislature Rotunda in memory of Albertans who gave their lives to World Wars I and II, the Korean War and many peacekeeping missions. The Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the Youth of Alberta also laid wreaths.

Employee Recognition Dinner

Deputy Speaker Don Tannas hosted the annual Legislative Assembly Office and Constituency Office staff recognition dinner on November 28 to celebrate the past year's accomplishments. Awards were presented to staff with 5, 10, 15, 25 and 30 years of service.

Festive Season at the Legislature

On December 2, Premier Klein and Speaker Kowalski launched the holiday season by switching on the Christmas lights on the Legislature Grounds. Celebrate the Season events continued through to December 23 and attracted over 17,850 visitors to listen to choir and carillon in the rotunda. The pedway was filled with trees and gingerbread houses, decorated by Edmonton and area students.





# former members of the Legislative Assembly

## John Dubetz

July 7, 1916 - February 12, 2002

Mr. Dubetz was first elected to represent the constituency of Redwater for the Social Credit Party on June 18, 1959. Mr. Dubetz served on the Select Standing Committees on Agriculture, Colonization, Immigration and Education, Municipal Law, Private Bills, Public Accounts and Railways, Telephones and Irrigation.

## Michael Senych

September 24, 1926 - March 27, 2002

Mr. Senych was first elected to represent the constituency of Redwater for the Social Credit Party in the general election on June 17, 1963. Mr. Senych served on the Select Standing Committees on Municipal Law and Law Amendments, Public Accounts and Public Affairs. He also served on the Special Committees on Automobile Insurance and Centralization and Consolidation of Schools.



“not just me but i think every student learned many wonderful things while we (were) at the Legislature building”

Grade 6 Student from Velma E. Baker School

Clockwise: In the Chamber; students role play during Mock Legislature, students celebrate during Race for the Ridings and Community in Context. Centre: a student dressed up as Lieutenant Governor:



# commonwealth parliamentary Association – Alberta branch

Overview	
The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) consists of members of Commonwealth parliaments who, irrespective of race, religion, or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. Canada was one of six original member countries of the CPA when it was formed in 1911 under the name Empire Parliamentary Association.	Association branches now exist in 152 national, state, provincial, and territorial parliaments with a total membership of over 14,000 parliamentarians. Each provincial and territorial Legislative Assembly in Canada as well as the federal Parliament comprise a branch of the CPA. All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are members of the Alberta branch of the CPA.

<i>Speaker's Report</i> <b>Speaker Ken Kowalski, President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA</b>	
<p>New Brunswick, host of the 2002 Canadian Regional Conference of the CPA, is known for its rivers and scenic landscape – a beautiful landscape that is paralleled by the majesty of Alberta's mountains and the openness of its prairies. Canadian people, like its lands, are both diverse and yet very much connected. This theory is validated annually at the CPA regional conference, which provides parliamentarians an opportunity to experience an open, and often frank exchange of ideas and views.</p> <p>For the past 41 years, parliamentarians have gathered to share thoughts and information. Benefiting from the experiences of their colleagues, parliamentarians may gain insight into local issues that are common nation wide.</p> <p>The 2002 conference provided a broad scope of sessions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Powers of the Legislative Branch vs Authority of Executive Branch</li><li>• Selection process for party Leaders</li><li>• Role of Government in the Control, Marketing and Treatment of Gambling</li><li>• Electoral Reform</li><li>• Can Press Councils Play a Role in a Democratic Society</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interprovincial Trade</li><li>• Canada/US Relations Since 9/11</li><li>• Smoke-Free Legislation – the Nova Scotia Experience</li><li>• Member Remuneration</li></ul> <p>Whether parliamentarians have attended these conferences before or if it is their first time - valuable lessons are always learned and important issues are discussed and debated. Often, we become so entrenched in our own issues that it is refreshing to see how others view the exact same challenges.</p> <p>The bottom line is that we all are doing our best to serve our publics. Of course, one of the best ways to do that is to be open to all schools of thought. Who better to teach us than our colleagues from across the country? While our specific lessons may differ, the overall course is very much the same.</p>



“networking with representatives of other nations  
provides unique insight into parliamentary issues.”  
Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel

The Speaker with Mr. Jong Ki Park, Consul General of the Republic of Korea and associate.

Secretary’s Report

Clerk David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA

<p>The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association’s 41st annual Canadian Regional Conference was held in New Brunswick and was well attended.</p> <p>Alberta was able to send nine delegates to the 2002 conference, which featured a diverse scope of business sessions ranging from Members’ Remuneration to Canada/US relations since 9/11.</p> <p>Parliamentarians work in a unique environment. In some ways it is steeped in rich tradition dating back hundreds of years. In other ways it is evolving at lightning speed causing widespread change in terms of technology, policy and even organization.</p> <p>While focusing on the day-to-day duties we face within our own province, we often forget that these “local” issues are actually “global” in nature. As we deal with issues of Royal Assent, Interprovincial Trade and Electoral Reform, we may forget that other Parliaments are dealing with the same issues.</p>	<p>It is through the exchange of innovative ideas that we often gain insightful perspective into solutions for our own challenges.</p> <p>Equally important, the Canadian CPA Conference allows parliamentarians the opportunity to keep in touch with colleagues, establish new business relationships and strengthen ties with previous friends.</p> <p>Nine delegates attended the 2002 conference and each one gained something different from the experience whether it be new insight, new contacts or other positive learning experiences.</p>
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Bursaries

<p>Bursaries are presented to nominees from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls’ Parliament to increase interest in the parliamentary process among young Albertans.</p>	<p>On May 28, Speaker Kowalski awarded bursaries to Adam Park of the Calgary-Bow constituency for TUXIS and to Kim Ackermann of Peace River constituency and Shirmee Doshi of Sherwood Park constituency for Alberta Girls’ Parliament.</p>
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Grade 6 Essay Contest

<p>To encourage greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system, a province-wide essay contest is held annually for Grade 6 students. Emily Burt of Cardston-Taber-Warner was the grand prize winner for 2002.</p>	
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Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference

Windhoek, Namibia      September 4-14

Agenda

- 1) Address by CPA Secretary-General
- 2) Address by Commonwealth Secretary-General to the first Plenary Session
- 3) Regional Meetings
- 4) First Plenary Session: The Parliamentary Dimension of Human Security
- 5) Meeting of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians
- 6) Meeting of Society of Clerks-at-the-Table
- 7) Panel Sessions
- 8) Election of CPA Secretary-General
- 9) Executive Committee Meeting
- 10) Plenary Session: Role of the Democracy in Promoting Regional and Global Security

Alberta Delegation

Don Tannas, MLA Highwood, Deputy Speaker

Delegate Report (Edited for length)

I wish to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to attend this very worthwhile conference and I take this opportunity to report on it.

On September 9th, there was an address by the Secretary General of the CPA (Hon. Dennis Marshall) noting that there are now 152 parliaments in 52 countries who are members of the CPA.

I attended the workshop on “Parliaments and Policies to Reduce Poverty and Enhance Human Security” which heard the call for a “Marshall Plan” for the third world countries. Rick Stapenhurst of the World Bank Institute showed that those countries with democratic involvement of its people were more prosperous and cited examples of counties which have improved the living standards of their citizens.

A senator from Australia noted that the most promising path to peace, prosperity, justice, individual dignity and safety of person was through democracy.

The closing ceremonies included gifts to retiring members of the CPA Executive and the turning over to Bangladesh of the responsibility for the 2003 CPA Conference.

As you know, we left Namibia and flew to Mpumalanga to meet with the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker and to visit their legislature building before traveling on to Uganda and Kenya.

I very much appreciate all that you have done for me to attend this conference.

Don Tannas, MLA





Canadian Presiding Officers Conference

St. John’s, Newfoundland January 24-27

Agenda

- 1) Exercising the Right to Petition the National Assembly
- 2) Subpoena Powers of the Legislative Committees
- 3) New Rules on Senators Indicted and Subject to Judicial Proceedings
- 4) The Report Stage of Bills
- 5) Neutrality of the Presidency
- 6) Security
- 7) Canadian Regional Council Meeting-The 2004 CPA Conference to be held in Canada

Alberta Delegation

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker Don Tannas, MLA, Highwood  
Shiraz Shariff, MLA, Calgary-McCall

Canadian Regional Council Meeting

Ottawa, Ontario June 1

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of Draft Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes of the meeting of June 2, 2001 Ottawa and January 26, 2002, St. John’s Newfoundland
- 3) 2004 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
- 4) Proposal re: Funding of Annual Conferences
- 5) Financial Matters
- 6) Regional Representative and Stand-by Branch – 2002-2003; List of Rotation
- 7) Regional Executive Committee – 2002-2003
- 8) Canadian Parliamentary Review
- 9) Centre for Legislative Exchange – Professional Development Seminar
- 10) Delegation Secretaries – 48th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
- 11) Regional Conference Sites
- 12) Parliamentary Seminar Sites
- 13) Conference of Presiding Officer Sites
- 14) Membership of the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians
- 15) Date of next Regional Council Meeting
- 16) Other business

Alberta Delegation

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

Canadian Regional Conference

Fredericton, New Brunswick July 16-21

Agenda

- 1) Powers of the Legislative Branch vs Authority of Executive Branch
- 2) Selection Process for Party Leaders
- 3) Role of Government in the Control, Marketing and Treatment of Gambling
- 4) Electoral Reform
- 5) Can Press Councils Play a Role in a Democratic Society
- 6) Interprovincial Trade
- 7) Canada / US Relations Since 9/11
- 8) Smoke Free Legislation – the Nova Scotia Experience
- 9) Members’ Remuneration

Alberta Delegation

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker Debby Carlson, MLA, Edmonton-Ellerslie  
Jon Lord, Calgary-Currie Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA, Red Deer-North  
Mel Knight, MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky Gordon Graydon, MLA, Grande Prairie-Wapiti  
Tony Vandermeer, MLA, Edmonton-Manning Ray Danyluk, MLA, Lac La Biche-St. Paul  
Susan Purdie, Special Assistant to the Speaker

Delegate Reports (Edited for length)

It was a real pleasure to be included in the Alberta Delegation for the 41st Canadian Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This is the second conference I have attended and wished to be a more active participant in order to benefit as much as possible from the experience.

I chaired the business session on Interprovincial Trade. That was a topic of specific interest to me as I have been a member of the Alberta all party delegation for PNWER (which also deals with trade issues) for many years. This was a very interesting discussion with the presenter, David Paye, M.N.A., Quebec. The general opinion was that while the central government supports the autonomy of the provinces, there are many lost opportunities in this area.

I was also interested in the session on electoral reform. The chair of this session, the Hon. Bev Harrison, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick talked about how Canada and its provinces are the furthest behind of all Commonwealth Countries on Electoral Reform.

The CPA conferences are a unique opportunity for all legislators, regardless of party background to participate on an equal footing in professional development. It is also an opportunity to network with other legislators, giving us a broader perspective on the world we live in.

Debby Carlson, MLA Edmonton-Ellerslie

more



It was my pleasure to attend the Canadian Regional Conference. Overall, the conference was worthwhile and informative. I believe the opportunity for interprovincial sharing of information was the most interesting and thought provoking.

As you know, I was co-presenter for the business session on Members’ Remuneration along with Ted Arnott, M.P.P. Waterloo-Wellington, Ontario. The discussion following our presentations was quite lively. An overview follows.

- There was unanimous consent to not follow Alberta’s lead with regard to the elimination of pensions—the participants didn’t believe the transition allowance or any other support had value when compared to a pension plan.
- It was felt that the general public is not concerned with MLA remuneration.
- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of documentation on the length of sessions and time commitment in the legislature that is communicated to constituents.
- There was general agreement that there should be a different calculation for rural constituencies with an increase/adjustment for distance to allow for more than one office, etc.
- My comments on using telecommunications to a higher degree were well received and considered an item worth pursuing.

Thank you again for the opportunity to attend this conference.

Ray Danyluk, MLA

It is clear that this conference provides not just a venue for debate on important national issues, but rather, is obviously a pivotal arena for influencing political thought within Provincial governments right across the nation.

I must say that I was greatly impressed by the calibre of speakers, who all presented very cogent arguments on a variety of important subjects. I was particularly pleased to hear the discussions highlighting the need for Interprovincial Trade policy changes, as well as hearing about the issues that have arisen between Canada and the US since 9/11.

The particular business session which I was assigned to was an interesting and controversial one, Press Councils and their Role in a Democratic Society. Virtually all of the speakers provided comments that were thoughtful, balanced and very mindful of the important role that media play in a democratic society.

The evening discussions proved equally enlightening. It is at conferences like this, that one realizes how vital it is to be in regular and constant communication with our counterparts across the nation.

I also thought I would mention that while it was not the focus of the trip, the side tour out to the historic village was quite a highlight, as well. It is a shame that we as Canadians seem to sometimes know so little of our country, and of the many attractions, assets and history we have to share with each other.

I hope this report will give you a good indication of my thoughts about this conference. I would certainly recommend that we continue to participate in it next year, in fact, I think it rather vital that we not only attend, but vocalise our support for its importance.

Jon Lord, MLA Calgary-Currie

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As this was my initial experience with the CPA it was a beneficial learning opportunity from the business sessions to the social events, which showcased the unique attributes of the Province of New Brunswick. The open and frank exchange of ideas and opinions on various methods employed in dealing with governance issues in different jurisdictions is perhaps for a new MLA, the fastest way to discover that there is not an exclusive right way to govern, but a number of applications of legislation that will produce the right result for constituents.

I was pleased to be chosen as a presenter in the seventh business session: Canada /US Relations Since 9/11 chaired by the Honourable Mildred Dover, Speaker of the Prince Edward Island Assembly. Sarmite D. Bulte, MP from Ontario addressed the issue from a federal perspective and I related Alberta’s experiences both positive and negative with respect to this issue. The Q&A generated good debate on the topic and again added to my positive experience at the conference.

As a bonus, the National Energy Board hearings, relative to Nova Scotia’s offshore gas exports, were underway in the same venue and I was able to attend briefly and see first hand how these hearings are conducted.

In summary, the program was very informative and well attended with a high level of participation.

Mel R. Knight, MLA Grande Prairie-Smoky

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this conference. Exchanging concerns and ideas with our parliamentary colleagues from across Canada was a very valuable experience.

The presentation for the third business session: Role of Government in the Control, Marketing and Treatment of Gambling was given by Russell M. Williams, MNA/Député from the Nelligan constituency in Quebec. As a member of the Liberal Party in Quebec, Russell was the Social Service Critic and led a campaign to prohibit the sale of lottery tickets to minors.

In his presentation Russell noted the following:

- Canadians believe that government should control gaming;
- Governments should not promote gambling; Gambling is a public health issue;
- Governments spend less than 1 per cent on problem gamblers;
- A Lotto Quebec study determined that the average player of VLTs is male, 37 years of age, 12 years of schooling, has an annual income of \$39,000 and loses \$1,200 annually through gambling.
- There were 33 suicides in one year connected with gambling, youth are twice as vulnerable as adults and young adults between 18 and 25 years of age are also vulnerable;
- The growth in gaming is huge, profits are up 570 per cent.

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Russell recommended the following:

- Print the chances of winning on every product;
- Implement a HELPLINE with counseling for gambling addictions;
- Cut back on the number of machines by 7 per cent. This will not result in less revenue as remaining machines will have more revenue;
- Train employees to recognize problem gamblers and to take positive steps to help them;
- Automatically shut down machines at closing time;
- Let communities decide if they want gambling in their communities;
- and Governments should not promote gambling.

In conclusion, Russell gave a good presentation on gaming that leaned toward his beliefs that gaming creates a social and public health problem. His strongest recommendation was that governments should always control gaming and never promote gambling.

Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA Red Deer-North

Regional Assemblée Parlementaire de la francophonie

Halifax, Nova Scotia      September 4-8

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of agenda
- 2) Report of the Chargé de mission on the activities of the American Region, July 2001 to July 2002
- 3) Update on salient points of the XXVIII Ordinary Session of the APF held in Berne in July 2002
- 4) APF support group for women parliamentarians – selection of two representatives from the America Region in anticipation of upcoming elections
- 5) Situation in certain sections of the America Region
  - a) New section: Saskatchewan
  - b) Modified section status: Louisiana and Maine
  - c) Disbarment of one section: Saint-Lucia
- 6) Follow-up of resolutions adopted at the XVIII Section of the Regional America Assembly held in Quebec in July 2001
- 7) Provisional calendar of regional activities 2002-2003
- 8) Statement of revenues and expenditures for the America Region of the APF 2001-2002
- 9) Information on the XIX Regional Session of the America Region of the APF
- 10) Working session: State of the francophonie in America
- 11) Working session: Fundamental Liberty and Democracy – Recognizing Rights to French Educational and Health Services
- 12) Working session: Parliamentary Diplomacy

Alberta Delegation

Denis Ducharme, MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake

Hector Goudreau, MLA, Dunvegan

Denis Herard, MLA, Calgary-Egmont

Louise Kamuchik, Clerk Assistant

more

Delegate Reports (Edited for length)

The opening session was chaired by Mr. Raymond Brouillet, President of the Quebec Section of the APF. He re-emphasized the objectives of the APF organization, namely to encourage and support the enhancement of the French language and to defend French culture and respect individual rights in areas that are totally or partially French-speaking in America.

To facilitate discussions and focus on strategies responding to Francophone needs, Mr. Brouillet advised that a questionnaire has been prepared by the Quebec section to be filled out by various jurisdictions, dealing with five main questions on language, parliamentary plan; international and multilateral plans; cultural and communication plans and general observations.

He pointed out that individual provinces have taken different approaches to promoting French services and virtually all provinces have associations that promote the enhancement and preservation of the French language, services and culture.

The session on Fundamental Liberty and Democracy was chaired by Mrs. Claudette Boyer, Ontario MPP.

Mrs. Boyer stated that in Canada the right to minority language instruction at the primary and secondary levels is protected under Article 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

She went on to say that concerns existed in smaller communities with low student populations which impacted the availability of course selection.

There were also discussions about the move in many provinces towards linguistic schools rather than the public/separate school concept. There was widespread recognition that many organizations are now involved in education through the use of technology which is expected to increase dramatically in the future.

Concerns on the health services side were discussed, particularly the ability of seniors to understand and to be understood when communicating in a language other than their own. Health Canada was supportive of access to French medical services in Francophone communities. Mr. Ducharme stated that a number of communities in Alberta have begun to offer services in French, particularly in the Peace and Lakeland Health Regions.

The last session was on Parliamentary Diplomacy. Mr. Bernard Patry, MP, the session chair, stated that Canada had an ongoing obligation towards the rest of the world and that obligation would increase as globalization continued to progress. He added there was an ongoing need for Canadians to understand what was happening around the world and for us to get involved.

Considerable discussion took place during the business sessions of this conference. The social functions also permitted excellent opportunities for the exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences.

Denis Ducharme, MLA

Denis Herard, MLA

Hector Goudreau, MLA





## Le Parlementarisme au XXI Century Canadian Regional Seminar

Quebec City, Quebec      October 9-12

### Agenda

- 1) What are the roots of this malaise affecting our democracy?
- 2) Is Parliament's decline irreversible?
- 3) Can the parties and proponents of one cause only, their own, be kept at bay?
- 4) Should ministerial responsibility be limited?
- 5) Can Parliament be reinvented?
- 6) In the age of the Internet, towards a resurrection of the citizen?

### Alberta Delegation

Dave Broda, MLA, Redwater                      Brian Mason, MLA, Edmonton-Highlands  
LeRoy Johnson, MLA, Wetaskiwin Camrose    Rob Lougheed, MLA, Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan

### Delegate Reports (Edited for length)

Several respected, well known speakers gave presentations on six topics. A question period followed the presentations.

During the first session, Serge Cantin, a Philosophy Professor at the University of Quebec, Trois-Rivieres, stated that there is no remedy and there has always been malaise. He also felt the work of the Legislature is not just to calm the people but educate them as well.

During questions from the floor, the presenters were asked how they would give more power to the people when fewer of them are voting. Matthias Rioux, a member of the National Assembly of Quebec, said that people participate when they understand the issues, so parliament needs to inform them.

The during the second session, Louis Balthazar, Political science professor at the Laval University in Quebec stated that politicians are too responsive to the electorate in the short term and therefore make legislation without regard for the longer term effect. Alan Rosentahl a Professor at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University in the United States commented that governments are indeed becoming less representative and more democratic as a result of plebiscites and lobbying by groups. He attributes the decline to increasing power in the media, the negative is emphasized and legislatures can't deal with the assaults. He also said that people want neither conflict nor compromise, and the only way to stop the decline of parliament is civic education on representative democracy.

The third plenary session asked the question, Could or Should Party Line and Proponents of a Single Issue (their own) be kept at bay? In response, Jacques Brassard, a former Minister, stated that people are elected for the first time as a party member. The public votes the party, then the leader, then the candidate.

Claude Ryan, a former Quebec Minister, spoke against reinventing parliament, but rather just improving it. He advocated improving the voting system, having all members involved in Oral Question Period, more time for private members business, free votes on bills dealing with civil liberties but not on government bills like budgets, elimination of filibuster rules and less emphasis on behind-the-scene small stuff by the media.

Oliver Giscard d'Estaing, Chairman of the Committee for a World Parliament spoke about the impact of globalization on parliamentary action. He felt the 25,000 parliamentarians of the world could form a "World Parliament".

Rob Lougheed, MLA Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan

This organization of former members of the Quebec parliament was created by an act of the National Assembly of Quebec in 1993. It believes in the importance of sharing its knowledge and experience by putting them at the service of parliamentary democracy, both in and outside Quebec.

While the conference literature indicated that participants were to be from a breadth of backgrounds, in fact, 12 of the speakers were Quebec politicians. Thus, there was a strong Quebec political focus and perspective to the conference.

While there was simultaneous translation for the speeches, it was difficult for English-speaking delegates, like myself, to fully comprehend question and answer sessions, as most speakers spoke in French.

All participating speakers were given the opportunity to:

- Share their views about the status and trends of parliamentarianism, the cornerstone of democracy.
- Discuss the gap between the principles and the reality of the parliamentary system.
- Debate issues of concern to parliamentarians and legislators of all parliaments.
- Take up the role and powers of parliaments

During questions, it was stated that MLAs have more power than they realize. We need the courage to accept that power. If not, we are not made for the job.

We need more time to study bills. We introduce then pass bills before taking the time to study them properly.

The symposium was a valuable experience in that it provided an opportunity to look at the parliamentary system primarily from a Quebec and French perspective. The Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Quebec has done a good service to the Quebec parliament and the participants at this conference.

I believe that we in Alberta should also proceed to establish an organization of former MLAs with a similar purpose. I am sure an "Alumnus" organization of Alberta MLAs could do much to educate our public on our parliamentary system and to improve parliament's (legislative) effectiveness. I would be pleased to lend my assistance to that end.

LeRoy Johnson, MLA Wetaskiwin-Camrose

— more —



# National Conference of State Legislatures

Denver, Colorado      July 22-28

## Agenda

- 1) The Legislature’s Budget: A Panel Discussion
- 2) Roundtable Discussion – NCSL Task Force on Protecting Democracy
- 3) International Delegates’ Reception with NCSL President-Elect, Oklahoma State Senator Angela Monson
- 4) Opening Plenary: Homeland Security and Economic Issues
- 5) Interactive Breakout Session: Update on the Trust for Representative Democracy and NCSL’S Center for Ethics in Government
- 6) Breakout Session: Technology and the Legislature
- 7) Assembly on Federal Issues and Assembly on State Issues Committee Meetings
- 8) Plenary Session: Keynote Speaker AFL-CIO President John Sweeney
- 9) Off-Site Tour: Mock Session and Tour of the Colorado Capital
- 10) Closing Plenary Session: Ed Goeas and Peter Hart present their perspectives on the public’s attitudes and how it will shape the United States 2002 elections

## Alberta Delegation

Judy Gordon, MLA, Lacombe-Stettler      Doug Horner, MLA, Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert  
Bob Maskell, MLA, Edmonton-Meadowlark

## Delegate Reports (Edited for length)

During the introductions and roundtable discussions on how legislature budgets are determined, we heard from three Speakers: State Senate of Ohio President Richard Finan discussed the legislative branches of budget expenditure by state, Rt. Hon. Peter Ala Adjetey, Speaker of Ghana’s Parliament presented problems faced by the Speaker and the fact that funding for his Parliament’s activities was not only subject to the dictates of the Executive but also usually delayed, and the Hon. John Murray, MP Speaker of the New South Wales Parliament who described his system of appropriations and acts.

The opening plenary session was a panel discussion of new national polling information covering many issues, including a fairly bleak forecast of confidence in the economy. Fifty per cent of Americans believe it will decline. A lengthy discussion regarding how to get the public to understand and believe their money is being spent wisely followed.

There was very lively discussion surrounding the merits of the US Farm Bill during the afternoon session covering the subsidizing of agriculture. I shared Alberta’s perspective with a number of US Senators. Australia shared our view that massive farm subsidies have a negative impact on world trade. In fact, a member of the British Parliament also spoke to that issue.

During a session on health care, I was involved in a discussion regarding whether the US should follow Canada’s lead and enter into a fully publicly funded health care system. There were also presentations on Health Care Cost Growth, New thinking on Health Care Costs and what different states are doing, Medical Savings accounts, The Dilemma of Medical Savings accounts and Balancing Health Needs with Resources. All of these sessions were valuable in our committee deliberations in Alberta.

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The topic of the closing plenary session was polling data. Ed Goes and Peter Hart presented polling data which applied to the US electorate. The presentation indicated that there is a great deal of mistrust for the political system and the impression that big business has a major impact on political decision making.

I felt that the networking ability and the discussions with various groups at the conference broadened my perspective as a legislator. I was surprised by the fact that some of the problems outlined were unique to their system and some were common with ours. I would definitely recommend this as a good forum to learn from and to lobby for Alberta.

Doug Horner, MLA, Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert

I was most impressed with the conference. NCSL is a highly respected organization and has long been a productive forum for legislators to collaborate, address issues of mutual concern and strategize for the future. Over 6,000 attendees and more than 160 sessions to choose from.

The highlight for me was when I attended the Leaders Summit. A most interesting, interactive dialogue amongst knowledgeable panel members. Facilitated by Mara Liasson, a most controversial national political media correspondent, timely topics were hotly debated. Many issues were similar to Alberta – how can we fix a sagging economy, rebuild confidence in democracy, garner public trust and entice our citizens to become more informed and involved. As session participants we were able to share our views through instant polling.

I attended various sessions on education, health care, welfare reform, agriculture and crime. Repeatedly it was stated that America is at a critical point in its history – post September 11th. So many sessions and speakers focused the threats and issues related to terrorism.

I found the overall conference informative, and Denver to be a beautiful host city. Thank you for allowing me to be one of the Alberta Legislature representatives.

Judy Gordon

# Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)

Welches, Oregon      June 9-12

## Agenda

- 1) Telecommunications
- 2) Tourism
- 3) Workforce in the 21st Century
- 4) Environment
- 5) Transportation
- 6) Agriculture
- 7) Sustainable Development
- 8) Financing Cross-border Infrastructure
- 9) Health Care
- 10) Energy
- 11) Inauguration of new PNWER President
- 12) Blue Cascades: Interdependencies Scenario

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Alberta Delegation

Drew Hutton, MLA, Edmonton-Glenora

Mel Knight, MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky

Rob Renner, MLA, Medicine Hat

Debby Carlson, MLA, Edmonton-Ellerslie

Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committee (CCPAC)

St. John’s Newfoundland August 25-27

Agenda

- 1) Roundtable-Reports from Delegations
- 2) The John Key Forum (joint session with CCOLA delegates): Measuring a Government’s Bottom Line
- 3) The Cost and Value of Culture (Guest Speaker)
- 4) Administrative Management – 5 years of Hearings
- 5) GOPAC (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) and Regional Chapter role
- 6) Canadian Auditor General, Legislative Auditor – Mandate, Role, Function and Oversight Committees
- 7) NAPAC (North American Parliamentarians Against Corruption) and World Bank: The International Context of World Governance Reform
- 8) Statements by Members of Parliament Regarding NAPAC
- 9) Resolution to Adopt NAPAC Constitution – Motions and Debate
- 10) East Coast Oil and Gas – Fueling our Economic Engine (Guest Speaker)
- 11) CCPAC Council Business

Alberta Delegation

Laurie Blakeman, MLA, Edmonton-Centre

Harvey Cenaiko, MLA, Calgary-Buffalo

Alana DeLong, MLA, Calgary-Bow

Gary Freidel, MLA, Peace River

Janis Tarchuk, MLA, Banff-Cochrane

Delegate Reports (Edited for length)

Resolution to Adopt NAPAC Constitution – Motions and Debate

During the ninth business session, the House of Commons PAC Chair presented the group with a proposal to consider a resolution to adopt a constitution for a regional chapter of GOPAC (Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption). He mentioned that the World Bank was prepared to fund a Secretariat for the group in Ottawa. The following motion was moved:

That the assembled parliamentarians at the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, create an organization called the North American Parliamentarians Against Corruption (NAPAC) as a regional chapter within the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

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This resolution was opposed by all jurisdictions, except Ottawa and Ontario. Some criticisms raised in the debate were:

- Creation of this body could duplicate the work of police and other bodies;
- CCPAC did not have the authority to make this decision; and
- The assembled parliamentarians could not speak for anyone else on their Committees or in their Caucuses.

Some delegates supported the motion, saying that it was agreement to an initiative which did not obligate any individual or group to join. Some amendments to the wording were suggested. As amended, the resolution would have read as follows:

That the individual parliamentarians at the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, endorse the creation of an organization called the North American Parliamentarians Against Corruption (NAPAC) as a regional chapter within the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

In the end, the resolution was deferred for future discussion.

British Columbia Resolution

During the closing session the following resolution was proposed:

“That CCPAC endorses the furthering of the independence of the Auditor General’s Office by supporting the notion that the budget for the Auditor General’s Office be reviewed and determined by the PAC through meetings held in public.”

There was opposition to this resolution, with most delegates agreeing that CCPAC had no authority to make such a decision or agree in principle to this decision. Again amendments were proposed but the idea did not gain support. As amended, the resolution would have read as follows:

“That CCPAC endorses the furthering of the independence of the Auditor General’s Office by supporting the notion that the budget for the Auditor General’s Office be reviewed and determined through meetings held in public.”

The Chair advised that the CCPAC constitution did not allow authority to consider the matter, and he accordingly ruled the motion out of order.

During discussion, the Saskatchewan PAC Chair mentioned that his jurisdiction had recently adopted a mechanism to allow their PAC to consider and approve the Auditor General’s budget. The Council agreed that Saskatchewan should be called upon to report next year.

Laurie Blakeman, MLA

Member, Standing Committee on Public Accounts





Council on Governmental Ethics Laws

Ottawa, Ontario                      September 29-October 2

Agenda

- 1) Campaign Finance Update
- 2) Achieving Public Integrity Through Whistle-blower Laws
- 3) Keys to Successfully Lobbying Legislators: How to Lobby for Change in the Campaign and Finance Laws
- 4) Impact of 9/11 on Access to Public Buildings and Records
- 5) Campaign Finance Debate
- 6) Ethics Update
- 7) Comparative Analysis of the Voting Systems in Use During Elections and Recommendations Under Consideration for Improvement
- 8) Stonewalling vs. Transparency: Executive Privilege vs Accountability
- 9) Conducting Risk Based Analysis of Financial Returns
- 10) Development of Business Contingency and Recovery Plans
- 11) Lobbying Update
- 12) Freedom of Information Legislation/Litigation Update
- 13) Enduring Constitutional Governance: Effects of 2001 Events on Disaster Planning of the Senate and the Road Forward
- 14) Update on Issue Advocacy, Independent Expenditures, Soft Money and Third-Party Advertising
- 15) Adjudication of complaints from Commissioners’ Viewpoints
- 16) Impact of 9/11 on Access to Information
- 17) Plenary Session: Levelling the Campaign Playing Field: Disclosure vs. Limits – International Panel
- 18) Information Accuracy and What to do with Data
- 19) National and International Political Funding and Electoral Developments: The Latest Word
- 20) Revolving Door/Conflict of Interest: Where Do Loyalties Lie?
- 21) Effective Enforcement of Financial Disclosure Requirements
- 22) Political Campaigning on the Internet
- 23) Model Lobbying Web site Revolutionizes Lobbying: How your Organization Can do the Same
- 24) National and International Ethics, Anticorruption and Transparency: What is COGEL’s role?
- 25) www.ETHICS-TRAINING.org
- 26) COGEL Annual Business Meeting
- 27) An Online Peek at Your Neighbour’s Politics: Has Disclosure Gone Too Far?
- 28) To Fine or Not to Fine? That is the Question
- 29) Electronic Filing Update: Campaign Financing and Economic Interests Statements
- 30) Open Government Beyond Our Borders
- 31) Plenary Session: Ethics Leadership, Building on Ethical Culture in the New Ethics Environment

Delegates

Janis Tarchuk, MLA, Banff-Cochrane                      Raj Pannu, MLA, Edmonton-Strathcona

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Delegate Report (Edited for length)

With the location, there was a larger than usual Canadian presence at this Conference in comparison to recent years. Bob Clark, Ethics Commissioner; Brian Fjeldheim, Chief Electoral Officer; Scott Sutton, Ombudsman; and senior staff from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner were also in attendance.

The host for this year’s Conference was Elections Canada and the program covered election issues ongoing in the United States, the effects of 9/11 on government programs and facilities, and freedom of information and protection of Privacy legislation. There was a particular emphasis on ethics issues and Bob Clark, Ethics Commissioner participated as a panelist on a number of panels.

Of particular interest were the sessions on conflict of interest and ethics updates, as well as sessions relating to the ease of access and availability of personal information online. The two keynote speakers, Ms Jeri Thomson, Secretary of the United States Senate, and Rex Murphy, Canadian writer, broadcaster and political commentator, were informative and provocative.

The conference provided opportunities to discuss ideas and solutions with delegates and panelists, who attended from as far away as South Africa and Australia, and to discover that overall, current issues relating to ethics, election processes, and freedom of information and protection of privacy are very similar in all jurisdictions. Delegates also attended the COGEL Annual Awards Banquet at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, a world-class facility.

Karen Sawchuk, Committee Clerk for the Select Standing Committee on Legislative Offices

Parliamentary visit to United Kingdom

September 13-23

Agenda

London

- 1) Tour of Westminster Palace
- 2) Meeting with Clerk of Overseas Office – House of Lords
- 3) Meeting with CPA Secretary-General, Hon. Denis Marshall, QSO
- 4) Meeting with CPA-UK Branch members
- 5) Briefing on London Governance – Greater London Authority
- 6) Briefing, Canadian High Commission
- 7) Meeting at the High Commission

Edinburgh

- 1) Welcome and Introduction to the Scottish Parliament by Roy Devon, Secretary of the CPA (Scotland Branch)
- 2) Presentation on Devolution and the Scottish Parliament
- 3) Tour of the Visitor’s Centre and Assembly Hall
- 4) Observe Question Time and First Minister’s Question Time
- 5) Meeting and Presentation on Webcasting and Broadcasting

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*Belfast*

- 1) Ulster Folk and Transport Museum guided tour
- 2) Meeting with the Speaker Lord Alderdice and Mr. Arthur Moir, Clerk to the Assembly
- 3) Overview of the Northern Ireland Assembly
- 4) Tour of the Parliament Buildings
- 5) Meeting with representatives from various parties

**Alberta Delegation**

Hon. Ken Kowalski, MLA, Speaker	Bill Bonner, MLA, Edmonton-Glengarry
Richard Marz, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills	Brent Rathgeber, MLA, Edmonton-Calder
Thomas Lukaszuk, MLA, Edmonton-Castle Downs	Albert Klapstein, MLA, Leduc

**Delegate Reports (Edited for length)**

I was pleased to have been invited to travel to the British Isles as a member of the Alberta Parliamentary delegation. From the onset it was very obvious that our group was to benefit greatly from the strong relations developed over the years between parliaments in the British Isles and Alberta. The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker, led our delegation through an interesting and informative itinerary put together by our Clerk, Dr. David McNeil.

Our trip began in London, England with stops in Edinburgh, Belfast and Dublin. Sunday, our first full day in London, was spent touring Buckingham Palace. The following days were filled with meetings at Westminster Palace, with Commonwealth Parliamentary Association–UK Branch members, the Greater London Authority and the Canadian High Commission.

We then traveled to Scotland and met with members of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We also visited the Scottish Parliament where the main topic discussed was devolution and its impact on Scotland. A highlight was observing Question Time and the First Minister’s Question Time followed by meetings. We also had the opportunity to visit Glasgow City Hall, and meet with Lord Provost. One of the topics of discussion was the difficulty experienced by Glasgow with the loss of their ship building industry.

In Belfast we were given an overview of the Northern Ireland Assembly and then had separate meetings with representative from each party. It was very evident that they were experiencing difficulties with their move to devolution.

Our next stop was Dublin where we had very informative discussions with their parliamentarians regarding the great economic success, similar to Alberta, they are experiencing in the Republic of Ireland.

The discussions on issues dealing with devolution and the impact of joining the European Union helped to provide us with awareness of how change can occur and how important change is for all parliaments. The sharing of experiences and solutions was a great asset to all of us. The result was a greater appreciation of the democratic process and how important it is for us to make the process work more efficiently.

Bill Bonner, MLA, Edmonton-Glengarry

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It was a privilege for me to accompany legislature colleagues on this trip to meet with parliamentary members from each of the United Kingdom jurisdictions.

Items of discussion included the current as well as the historic role of the Monarchy in the United Kingdom, the United Kingdom’s involvement in the European community, currency issues, as well as trade and agriculture.

Of particular interest to me was the impact mad cow disease has had on the United Kingdom economy and the importance of the United Kingdom to trade with Alberta, ranking first in Europe and seventh overall.

Devolution of parliamentary powers to Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Welsh National Assembly was another topic of particular interest, especially compared to the Canadian opinion of sharing of federal/provincial powers.

I feel this tour was an important opportunity to dialogue with other Commonwealth parliamentarians, to share opinions on problems that are common to us, as well as learn about problems we can, hopefully, prevent.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent Albertans as a member of this delegation.

Richard Marz, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills



# interparliamentary relations

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, Speaker; Mr. Don Tannas, Deputy Speaker; Mr. Shiraz Shariff, Deputy Chair of Committees and the employees of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with Members and employees of other parliaments and other representatives of foreign countries. In 2002, they hosted the following events and/or met with the following visitors:

**March 4**  
Mr. Sulev Roostar  
Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Estonia

**March 11**  
Mr. Hector Romero  
Consul General of Mexico

**March 18**  
His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent

**April 8**  
Honourable Sipho William Lubisi, Speaker, and delegation from Mpumalanga, South Africa

**April 8**  
Mr. Wolfgang Thierse  
President German Bundestag

**April 10**  
Mr. Song Xizhu  
Consul General of the People’s Republic of China

**April 17**  
Mr. Kiyoshi Shidara  
Consul General of Japan

**May 2**  
Portugal Delegation

**May 6**  
His Excellency Galsan Batsukh  
Ambassador of Mongolia

**May 15**  
His Excellency Sándor Papp  
Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary

**May 28**  
Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations:  
His Excellency Trinh Quang Thanh  
Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Mr. Richard Grosse  
Consul of Singapore

Mr. Jerri G. Santos  
Minister and Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines

His Excellency U Nyant Tin  
Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar

His Excellency Dato’ Dennis J. Ignatius  
High Commissioner of Malaysia

His Excellency Eki Syachrudin  
Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia

His Excellency Dato Haji Abd Aziz Mohammad, High Commissioner for Brunei Darussalam

His Excellency Sunai Bunyasiripant  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand

**May 29**  
His Excellency Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos  
Ambassador of Greece

**June 10**  
Mr. Yoshikazu Takeuchi  
Consul General of Japan

**June 11**  
Czech Republic  
Senators Delegation



His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent addresses the Assembly during his visit to Alberta on March 18, 2002.



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**August 28**

His Excellency Sir Robert Andrew Burns  
British High Commissioner

Mr. Ian Kydd  
British Consul General

**October 10**

Her Excellency Sallama Mahmoud Shaker  
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**October 24**

His Excellency Daniel Leroy  
Ambassador of Belgium

**November 4**

His Excellency Dr. Seyed Mohammad Ali Mousavi  
Ambassador of Iran

**November 7**

Mr. John Corijn  
Consul General of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands

**November 21**

Mr. Jong Ki Park  
Consul General of the Republic of Korea

**December 4**

Mr. Jean-Yves Defay  
Consul General of France

**December 11**

Mr. James Rawlinson  
British Consul General

**December 17**

His Excellency Raymond Wolfe  
High Commissioner for Jamaica

