Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 30th Legislature
First Session
Cooper, Hon. Nathan, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (UCP), Speaker
Pitt, Angela D., Airdrie-East (UCP), Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees
Milliken, Nicholas, Calgary-Currie (UCP), Deputy Chair of Committees

Aheer, Hon. Leela Sharon, Chestermere-Strathmore (UCP)
Allard, Tracy L., Grande Prairie (UCP)
Amery, Mickey K., Calgary-Cross (UCP)
Armstrong-Homeniuk, Jackie, Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (UCP)
Barnes, Drew, Cypress-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Bilous, Deron, Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview (NDP), Official Opposition House Leader
Carson, Jonathon, Edmonton-West Henday (NDP)
Ceci, Joe, Calgary-Buffalo (NDP)
Copping, Hon. Jason C., Calgary-Varsity (UCP)
Dach, Lorne, Edmonton-McClung (NDP)
Dang, Thomas, Edmonton-South (NDP)
Deol, Jasvir, Edmonton-Meadows (NDP)
Dreeshen, Hon. Devin, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (UCP)
Eggen, David, Edmonton-North West (NDP), Official Opposition Whip
Ellis, Mike, Calgary-West (UCP), Government Whip
Feehan, Richard, Edmonton-Rutherford (NDP)
Fir, Hon. Tanya, Calgary-Peigan (UCP)
Ganley, Kathleen T., Calgary-Mountain View (NDP)
Getson, Shane C., Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland (UCP)
Glasgo, Michaela L., Brooks-Medicine Hat (UCP)
Glubish, Hon. Nate, Strathcona-Sherwood Park (UCP)
Goehring, Nicole, Edmonton-Castle Downs (NDP)
Goodridge, Laila, Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche (UCP)
Gottfried, Richard, Calgary-Fish Creek (UCP)
Gray, Christy, Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)
Guthrie, Peter F., Airdrie-Cochrane (UCP)
Hanson, David B., Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul (UCP)
Hoffman, Sarah, Edmonton-Glenora (NDP)
Horner, Nate S., Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)
Hunter, Hon. Grant R., Taber-Warner (UCP)
Irwin, Janis, Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP), Official Opposition Deputy Whip
Issik, Whitney, Calgary-Glenmore (UCP)
Jones, Matt, Calgary-South East (UCP)
Kenney, Hon. Jason, PC, Calgary-Lougheed (UCP), Premier
LaGrange, Hon. Adriana, Red Deer-North (UCP)
Loewen, Todd, Central Peace-Notley (UCP)
Long, Martin M., West Yellowhead (UCP)
Lovely, Jacqueline, Camrose (UCP)
Loyola, Rod, Edmonton-Ellerslie (NDP)
Luan, Hon. Jason, Calgary-Foothills (UCP)
Madu, Hon. Kaycee, Edmonton-South West (UCP)
McIver, Hon. Ric, Calgary-Hays (UCP), Deputy Government House Leader
Nally, Hon. Dale, Morinville-St. Albert (UCP)
Neudorf, Nathan T., Lethbridge-East (UCP)
Nicolaides, Hon. Demetrios, Calgary-Bow (UCP)
Nelsen, Christian E., Edmonton-Decore (NDP)
Nixon, Hon. Jason, Rimby-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre (UCP), Government House Leader
Nixon, Jeremy P., Calgary-Klein (UCP)
Notley, Rachel, Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP), Leader of the Official Opposition
Orr, Ronald, Lacombe-Ponoka (UCP)
Pancholi, Rakhi, Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)
Panda, Hon. Prasad, Calgary-Edgemont (UCP)
Phillips, Shannon, Lethbridge-West (NDP)
Por, Hon. Josephine, Calgary-Beddington (UCP)
Rehn, Pat, Lesser Slave Lake (UCP)
Reid, Roger W., Livingstone-Macleod (UCP)
Renau, Marie F., St. Albert (NDP)
Rosin, Miranda D., Banff-Kananaskis (UCP)
Rowswell, Garth, Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright (UCP)
Rutherford, Brad, Leduc-Beaumont (UCP)
Sabir, Irfan, Calgary-McCall (NDP)
Savage, Hon. Sonya, Calgary-North West (UCP), Deputy Government House Leader
Sawhney, Hon. Rajan, Calgary-North East (UCP)
Schmidt, Marlin, Edmonton-Gold Bar (NDP)
Schow, Joseph R., Cardston-Siksika (UCP), Deputy Government Whip
Schulz, Hon. Rebecca, Calgary-Shaw (UCP)
Schweitzer, Hon. Doug, Calgary-Elbow (UCP), Deputy Government House Leader
Shandro, Hon. Tyler, Calgary-Acadia (UCP)
Shepherd, David, Edmonton-City Centre (NDP)
Sigurdson, Lori, Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)
Sigurdson, R.J., Highwood (UCP)
Singh, Peter, Calgary-East (UCP)
Smith, Mark W., Drayton Valley-Devon (UCP)
Stephan, Jason, Red Deer-South (UCP)
Sweet, Heather, Edmonton-Manning (NDP), Official Opposition Deputy House Leader
Toews, Hon. Travis, Grande Prairie-Wapiti (UCP)
Toor, Devinder, Calgary-Falconridge (UCP)
Turton, Searle, Spruce Grove-Stony Plain (UCP)
van Dijken, Glenn, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock (UCP)
Walker, Jordan, Sherwood Park (UCP)
Williams, Dan D.A., Peace River (UCP)
Wilson, Hon. Rick D., Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin (UCP)
Yao, Tany, Fort McMurray-Wetwood Buffalo (UCP)
Yaseen, Muhammad, Calgary-Centre (UCP)

Party standings:
United Conservative: 63
New Democrat: 24

Officers and Officials of the Legislative Assembly

Merwan N. Saher, Clerk
Shannon Dean, Law Clerk and Executive Director of House Services
Stephanie LeBlanc, Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Trafton Koenig, Parliamentary Counsel

Philip Massolin, Manager of Research and Committee Services
Nancy Robert, Research Officer
Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of Alberta Hansard

Brian G. Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms
Chris Caughell, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms
Tom Bell, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Paul Link, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
### Executive Council

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Kenney</td>
<td>Premier, President of Executive Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leela Aheer</td>
<td>Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Copping</td>
<td>Minister of Labour and Immigration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devin Dreeshen</td>
<td>Minister of Agriculture and Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanya Fir</td>
<td>Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nate Glubish</td>
<td>Minister of Service Alberta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Hunter</td>
<td>Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adriana LaGrange</td>
<td>Minister of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Luan</td>
<td>Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaycee Madu</td>
<td>Minister of Municipal Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ric McIver</td>
<td>Minister of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dale Nally</td>
<td>Associate Minister of Natural Gas</td>
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<td>Demetrios Nicolaides</td>
<td>Minister of Advanced Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Nixon</td>
<td>Minister of Environment and Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prasad Panda</td>
<td>Minister of Infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Josephine Pon</td>
<td>Minister of Seniors and Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonya Savage</td>
<td>Minister of Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rajan Sawhney</td>
<td>Minister of Community and Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Schulz</td>
<td>Minister of Children’s Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Schweitzer</td>
<td>Minister of Justice and Solicitor General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Shandro</td>
<td>Minister of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travis Toews</td>
<td>President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Wilson</td>
<td>Minister of Indigenous Relations</td>
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### Parliamentary Secretary

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Muhammad Yaseen</td>
<td>Parliamentary Secretary of Immigration</td>
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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, 2019

[The Mace was on a cushion below the table]

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order! All rise, please.

The Clerk: Good afternoon.

[The Clerk read the Royal Proclamation dated April 30, 2019, summoning the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta to convene on this date]

The Clerk: Please be seated.

Entrance of the Lieutenant Governor

[The Premier, the Clerk, and the Sergeant-at-Arms left the Chamber to attend the Lieutenant Governor]

The Sergeant-at-Arms: Order! All rise, please.

Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, her party, the Premier, and the Clerk entered the Chamber. Her Honour took her place upon the throne]

Her Honour: Please be seated.

Mr. Schweitzer (Provincial Secretary): Hon. members, I am commanded by Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that she does not see fit to declare the causes of her calling of this Legislature.

Her Honour: Her Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Lois Mitchell, CM, AOE, LLD, her party, the Premier, and the Clerk entered the Chamber. Her Honour took her place upon the throne]

The Sergeant-at-Arms: All rise, please.

[Preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the Lieutenant Governor’s direction in section 16(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act nominations are invited for the Office of Speaker of this Assembly for the 30th Legislature. Pursuant to Standing Order 11(1) the Speaker shall be elected according to the procedure set out in schedule A of the standing orders. I therefore call for nominations.]

Mr. Hanson: Thank you. I rise today to nominate the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills for the position of Speaker of this Legislative Assembly of Alberta. I’ve had the absolute privilege of working with Mr. Cooper as his deputy House leader for two years in opposition. I very quickly learned that he is indeed an absolute parliamentary and political nerd and that there is no one more suitable for the title of Mr. Speaker than the Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills. I was impressed with his knowledge of and respect for the parliamentary traditions based on the respected Westminster parliamentary system. I was impressed with his respect for our democratic institutions and the decorum required to maintain respectful, productive debate and with his knowledge of protocol, which will be necessary as he represents this House to visiting dignitaries and while he’s representing us in other jurisdictions.

The Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills is someone I am proud to call a friend and someone we can all be proud to call our Speaker.

Thank you.

The Clerk: Mr. Cooper, do you wish to accept the nomination?

Mr. Cooper: I do.

The Clerk: Are there further nominations?

Ms Gray: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Belated congratulations on your new role, and thank you, hon. members. It’s an honour to once again speak in this Chamber as the elected representative for Edmonton-Mill Woods, and I’d like to congratulate and welcome everyone. I see we have a lot of first-time representatives with us today. I can still remember the strange mix of excitement and pressure that each of you is likely feeling at this moment.

The learning curve for new members is a steep one, and that’s why I would encourage all of us to set aside partisanship at this moment and, instead, trust the incredible value that comes from experience as we make this very important choice for Speaker. There is no substitute for experience in a role. Knowing how things ought to work and how they do work allows an individual to excel in a particular role. That is why it is my honour to nominate the only member in this Chamber who already has the experience of presiding over this Assembly as its chair to be our next Speaker. I am proud to nominate Heather Sweet, the Member for Edmonton-Manning, who has served ably in the 29th Legislature as the Deputy Chair of Committees, to now take on the role as our Speaker.

Now, I know that Heather would bring to the role of Speaker a wealth of experience and a true desire to serve this Assembly impartially and with the considerable grace and wisdom that she has to offer. Ms Sweet has already shown that she can lead this Chamber through the fiercest of debates while keeping members of all parties in order and protecting the privileges that make our work as members of the Assembly possible.

We should also consider representation of the people of this great province, with the goal to have the Speaker’s office contain members that represent north, south, and certainly representation from our capital city.

I hope Heather will accept this nomination, and I hope you will join with me in valuing experience as we choose who will preside as our Speaker. Your ability to fulfill your duties as a member of this place depends on us making a wise choice for this role, and I know that Heather Sweet would allow each of us to represent our constituents to our fullest.

Thank you.

The Clerk: Ms Sweet, do you accept the nomination?

Ms Sweet: I do. Thank you.

The Clerk: Are there further nominations?

I declare the nominations closed.

The nominees for the position of Speaker are Mr. Nathan Cooper and Ms Heather Sweet. Voting will commence after the list of nominees is posted at each voting booth.

Thank you.

[The lists of candidates were posted]

The Clerk: Voting will now begin. Members will vote by printing the first and last names of their preferred candidate on the ballot
paper, then placing their completed ballot in the ballot box on the Sergeant-at-Arms’ desk.

Thank you.

[Members voted from 1:50 p.m. to 1:57 p.m.]

The Clerk: Have all voted who wish to?

[Ballots were counted from 1:58 p.m. to 2:09 p.m.]

The Clerk: Number of ballots cast for the election of Speaker, 87; number of spoiled ballots, one; number of votes required to achieve the 50 per cent plus one majority, 44. The member having received the majority of votes cast is Mr. Nathan Cooper. [applause] Mr. Cooper is hereby declared the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 30th Legislature.

The Speaker: Members, before I begin, let me just take a moment to honour – I see former Speaker Ken Kowalski in the Speaker’s gallery this afternoon. It’s a pleasure to have you here. So nice of you to join us on this fantastic day. Thank you for joining us.

As this is my first opportunity to do so, I wish to send my greatest and deepest thank yous to the outstanding constituents of Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills for placing their trust back in me. I also wish to congratulate all members of the Assembly, whether it was your first election or your re-election. Congratulations on being here today, and thank you – thank you so very much – from the very bottom of my heart for placing your trust in me to serve as Speaker of the 30th Legislative Assembly.

Whether it’s your first time as an MLA or you have faithfully served this institution like the Leader of the Official Opposition for 4,097 days or, in the case of the Member for Calgary-Hays or Cypress-Medicine Hat, for 2,585 days, I’m sure that all of them will tell you that coming to the Chamber for the very first time after an election is a very, very, very special time. This is a special place, where the weight of history meets our own unbridled hopes as we race towards the future. My hope is that in your debates we will be vigorous, thoughtful, and amicable. To date in this Chamber only 954 people have ever been elected to serve and represent Albertans. As we honour their legacy and service, let us be mindful that we must never forget to be good for each other.

We will commit to you that as long as I have the privilege of serving as Speaker, your privileges and duties as elected members of this Assembly will be recognized and defended. I encourage and entrust all of you to remember that in our haste to do good for each other, we must never forget to be good for each other.

I have reviewed the calendar, and there are many busy days ahead, so let us proceed.

The Speaker: I’d invite you all to rise for the prayer.

Prayers

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

Please be seated.

Election of a Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees

The Speaker: Hon. members, pursuant to section 17(1) of the Legislative Assembly Act and to Standing Order 58(1)(a) nominations are invited for the Office of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of this Assembly for the 30th Legislature. I therefore call for nominations.

The Member for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, please.

Mr. van Dijken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It truly is a pleasure to rise in this House today and be the first to congratulate you on your new role as Speaker of this Assembly. I know that your extensive experience and your eagerness for the role will serve all members of this Assembly well.

Now moving on to the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees. The role of the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees is not just a figurehead position but, rather, a role that serves a vital function in this Assembly in keeping order, preserving tradition, and holding decorum. As with the Speaker of this House, the deputy position serves an essential purpose and is not to be taken lightly.

I believe the person who would be best suited to this role is one that is familiar with House proceedings, a member in good standing, and who I’ve witnessed first-hand to be fair to all. It is also important that they have a presence that can command the House. With that said, it is my honour to nominate the Member for Airdrie-East, Angela Pitt.

Following her role as deputy whip to our legacy caucus, Mrs. Pitt has served as our deputy House leader in the United Conservative caucus for almost two years. She has proven herself to be attentive to the role while being a leader to those around her. She is respected amongst all members of our caucus and has a deep admiration for our parliamentary process and the historic traditions of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I must reflect on my first opportunities in getting to know the Member for Airdrie-East. When we were first elected in this Legislature in 2015, Mrs. Pitt was my seatmate, just off to my right. One of the things that I got to know about Angela was her
Ms Sweet: do you choose to accept the nomination?

The Speaker: together we can build a sweet House. and civility in this House. So I ask all members to join me because tone for this 30th Legislature and to significantly improve decorum members. We have an important opportunity right now to set the Committees of this House.

Mr. Speaker, the tradition of a nonpartisan chair and a nonpartisan Speaker from the opposition caucus. Not only does this contribute to the good functioning of the House but also ensures nonpartisan decorum, objectives that, I understand, the new government caucus of this Legislature. It helps to achieve improved civility and nonpartisan action.

Mr. Speaker, the tradition of a nonpartisan chair and a nonpartisan Office of the Speaker is of critical importance for the functioning of this Legislature. It helps to achieve improved decorum and courtesy, objectives that, I understand, the new government caucus holds dear. To achieve those ends, Canada’s federal House of Commons has frequently used the practice of choosing a Deputy Speaker from the opposition caucus. Not only does this contribute to the good functioning of the House but also ensures nonpartisan functioning of the Speaker’s office.

When our new Premier served in the federal government’s Executive Council, he and his colleagues did so with multiparty representation in Parliament’s Speaker’s office. So I invite us to adopt that same tradition here in our Legislature. It’s my honour to nominate Heather Sweet for Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees of this House.

As I said in my earlier nomination, Heather Sweet would be a very capable Deputy Speaker of this Assembly, bringing a wealth of experience along with her demonstrated ability to work with all members. We have an important opportunity right now to set the tone for this 30th Legislature and to significantly improve decorum and civility in this House. So I ask all members to join me because together we can build a sweet House.

The Speaker: There are very few days in which you’re allowed to use names in this Chamber. I appreciate what you’ve done there. Ms Sweet, do you choose to accept the nomination?

Ms Sweet: I do, Mr. Speaker.
Speaker’s office, and she is also a representative of the Edmonton area, which brings an availability to participate in all the demanding activities of the Speaker’s role.

Finally, we have a shortage of women in leadership positions in this House and in Executive Council. By electing Heather Sweet, we will be sending an important message to all Albertans and recognizing the value of having strong, experienced, and talented women in all-important roles.

I encourage all members to support Heather Sweet in the role of Deputy Chair of Committees.

The Speaker: Ms Sweet, do you accept the nomination?

Ms Sweet: I do.

The Speaker: Are there further nominations? The Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mr. Gottfried: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s an honour to rise before you today, with deep gratitude, of course, to the people of Calgary-Fish Creek for this great privilege, and to extend my sincere congratulations after your hard-earned and well-deserved ascendency to the Speaker’s chair. I would also like to congratulate Angela Pitt, the hon. Member for Airdrie-East, on her election as Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees. We are very proud of you both and know that we shall all be well served by your shared commitment and that of your excellent staff to all members of the Legislature and indeed to all Albertans.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honoured to have the privilege today of nominating Nicholas Milliken, the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees. While the hon. member was only recently elected to his first term as an esteemed member of this Assembly, I’ve gotten to know him over the past year while witnessing his sense of duty in his roles, first as a nominee and more recently through the campaign period as a hard-working, dedicated, and passionate Albertan, ready, willing, and more than able in serving his constituents. Yet he is always willing to lend a hand to his new colleagues and emerging political family, which I am hopeful he will be given the honour of including all of us in as we consider him for this humble role.

Nick’s background includes volunteering and fund raising for charities in his community, many of them, in fact, while he also has a professional background in finance, law, and entrepreneurship, those skills that he can bring to this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, he is also a proud family man and honours and appreciates that balance in our lives also allows us to bring balance to this Chamber in the forms of compassion, honesty, fairness, generosity, humility, and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, my nomination of Nicholas Milliken on this auspicious day in the history of Alberta is without reservation. I encourage all members to support him in his quest to serve this great Assembly.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Mr. Milliken, do you accept the nomination?

Mr. Milliken: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Needless to say, simply being part of this process is a humbling experience, and it is my honour to accept this nomination from the hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

The Speaker: Are there any further nominations?

I declare the nominations closed. The nominees for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees are Heather Sweet and Nicholas Milliken. Voting will commence after the list of nominees is posted in each voting booth.

[The lists of candidates were posted]

The Speaker: The voting will begin now.

[Members voted from 2:50 p.m. to 2:57 p.m.]

The Speaker: Members, have all voted who wished to do so? Has everybody voted that wanted to?

[Ballots were counted from 2:57 p.m. to 3:06 p.m.]

The Clerk: Number of ballots cast for the position of Deputy Chair of Committees, 84; number of spoiled ballots, none; number of votes required to achieve the 50 per cent plus one majority, 43. The member having received the majority of the votes cast is Mr. Nicholas Milliken. Mr. Nicholas Milliken is hereby the Deputy Chair of Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for the 30th Legislature.

The Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk, and congratulations to Mr. Milliken.

Members, the House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, at 3 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 3:06 p.m.]
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