Bill - A proposed law. To become law, a Bill must pass three readings, committee study and be given Royal Assent.

Black Rod - A ceremonial baton the Sergeant-at-Arms uses when accompanying the Lieutenant Governor on such occasions as Royal Assent or the Speech from the Throne.

Cabinet (Executive Council) - The heads of government departments, led by the Premier and chosen from the elected members of the party holding the majority of seats in the Assembly.

Cabinet Minister - A member of the cabinet, the head of a government department.

Caucus - All of the elected members from one party, a private meeting of this group.

Chamber - The room where the Legislative Assembly holds its sittings.

Clerk - The chief permanent officer responsible for keeping the Assembly’s records and providing procedural advice and administrative support to the Speaker and Members.

Committee of Supply - A committee of all Members of the Legislative Assembly which meets to discuss the government’s budget estimates in detail.

Committee of the Whole - A committee of all Members of the Legislative Assembly which meets to discuss Bills in detail.

Estimates - The government’s proposed expenditures for each government department.

Government - In the parliamentary sense, the cabinet (Executive Council), headed by the Premier.

Hansard - A verbatim record of parliamentary debates and proceedings.

House - The Legislative Assembly; also used to refer to the Chamber.

Legislative Assembly - A law-making body of elected representatives sometimes called the House.

Lieutenant Governor - The representative of the monarch and formal head of state.

MLA - Member of the Legislative Assembly, one of the 87 elected representatives.

Mace - The ceremonial staff carried into the Assembly each day before the sitting begins. It symbolizes the authority of the Legislative Assembly.

Premier - The leader of the party holding the most seats in the Legislative Assembly.

Private Member - Any MLA who is not in the cabinet.

Readings - Three stages of a Bill. The Bill is introduced at first reading and may be debated at second and third readings.

Royal Assent - A ceremony in which the monarch’s representative, the Lieutenant Governor, gives final approval to a Bill.

Sergeant-at-Arms - Legislative Assembly officer in charge of the security of the House and MLA’s; also has custody of the Mace and the Black Rod.

Speaker - An MLA elected by all other MLAs to maintain order in the House in an impartial manner.

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta - The chief permanent officer of the Legislative Assembly, also responsible for keeping the Assembly’s records and providing procedural advice and administrative support to the Speaker and Members.

The Legislative Assembly is the focal point of our democratic process. It is where laws are passed, policies approved and programs developed, all of which affect our way of life in Alberta.

There are 87 Members of the Legislative Assembly. They belong to political parties, and each represents a different constituency. Following an election the leader of the party having the most seats in the Assembly becomes the Premier and forms a government by choosing a cabinet from among the MLAs in that party. Each Cabinet Minister is responsible for a government department.

The elected Members from other parties form the opposition. Their job is to serve as a check on the government, criticizing and suggesting alternatives to its policies.

The proceedings of the House and its committees are available on the website at assembly.ab.ca or on cable television (Telus channel 843, Shaw channel 930 and Shaw BlueCurve channel 243).
## Assembly Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shannon Dean, QC</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie LeBlanc</td>
<td>Clerk Assistant and Senior Parliamentary Counsel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Massolin</td>
<td>Clerk of Committees and Research Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Robert</td>
<td>Research Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafon Koenig</td>
<td>Parliamentary Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Schwegel</td>
<td>Director of Parliamentary Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teri Cherkewich</td>
<td>Law Clerk</td>
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</tbody>
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## Seating Plan of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

### 30th Legislature Second Session

**Spring Sitting**

- **Chris Caughell**
  - Sergeant-at-Arms
- **Paul Link**
  - Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
- **Tom Bell**
  - Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
  - Bar

**Main Entrance**