

Some terms used in the Assembly

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 ministries, 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 ministry.

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 - The official, substantially 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.

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

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

Opposition - MLAs belonging to parties other than the governing party. In the House they sit opposite the cabinet and serve as critics of government policies.

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 principal adviser in charge of the security of the House and MLAs; also has custody of the Mace and the Black Rod.

Session - A series of meetings of the Legislative Assembly opened by Royal Proclamation and closed by prorogation. When the session is divided into spring and fall periods, these periods are called sittings, as are the daily meetings of the Assembly.

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

Speech from the Throne - The speech is delivered by the Lieutenant Governor to open each new session and outline the government's proposed program for the session.

Please direct questions about the Legislative Assembly to:
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Visit our website at assembly.ab.ca for information about the Legislative Assembly. Check out our searchable databases for *Hansard* and Bills and amendments.



LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY
OF ALBERTA



THE 31ST LEGISLATURE
First Session, 2025 Spring Sitting

MAY 13, 2025

Greetings from the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. We hope your visit will be an enjoyable one.

For your convenience this leaflet contains a seating plan for the Legislative Assembly as well as a glossary of commonly used terms.

Ric McIver

Assembly Sitting Hours

Monday 1:30 to 6 p.m.

Tuesday 1:30 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday 1:30 to 6 p.m.

Thursday 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Morning Sittings: Upon passage of a Government motion, the Assembly may meet on Tuesday morning beginning at 10 a.m. and on Wednesday or Thursday morning beginning at 9 a.m.

Evening Sittings: Upon passage of a Government motion, the Assembly may meet on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Broadcast of Assembly Proceedings

The proceedings of the Assembly and its committees are broadcast through a live video feed on the front page of the Assembly website and are televised on Telus channel 843, Rogers (formerly Shaw) channel 930 and Rogers Xfinity channel 263. House proceedings are also streamed live on the Assembly's YouTube, X (Twitter) and Facebook channels.

Live and archived proceedings are available through Assembly Online.

Seating Plan

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

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 opposition party with the most seats is called the Official Opposition.

Some common terms used in the Assembly are defined on the back of this leaflet. Sources of other information about the legislative process are also listed there.

What to know if you are visiting the galleries

Please remember that there are certain customs you must observe to ensure that your elected representatives can do their work without disturbances.

- Please enter and leave the galleries as quietly as possible.
- Please do not applaud or talk out loud.
- Briefcases, parcels, signs, banners or other objects are not permitted in the galleries.
- You may not smoke, eat or drink in the galleries.
- Each day's proceedings start with the Speaker's procession, led by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing the Mace. Upon entering the Chamber, the Sergeant-at-Arms calls, "Order, order! Speaker." At this point please rise and remain standing until the Speaker has read the daily prayer.
- Should the Speaker stand at any time, please remain in place until the Speaker is seated.

