

The quality of life depends substantially on the availability of a wide variety of natural resources: energy and other mineral resources, forest resources and other natural products of the land, the land itself for agricultural and recreational purposes, the water, the air we breathe. There is a growing awareness of the effect of a rapidly growing and industrialized society on our environment. My Government will set before you several plans for the conservation and management of our resources.

## II. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

My Government will undergo re-organization and structural innovation to ensure that policies and programs are responsive and efficient.

My Government's programs for the coming year and, indeed, for the next decade, will encourage increased economic productivity, and devote resources to develop trading, exploration, investing and manufacturing aspects of our economy. My Government will continue to pursue excellence in our educational, health, social development, recreational and leisure programs to meet the many and growing needs of Albertans.

I have the honour to welcome you to the Fourth Session of the Sixteenth Legislature of the Province of Alberta. It will be my duty to present on behalf of my Government various matters which it wishes to propose for your consideration.

## I. INTRODUCTION

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE

# Speech From the Throne



1971

ALBERTA HANSARD  
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The objective will be to create a long-range policy for the use and development of our energy resources—a policy

My Government will propose an Energy Resources Conservation Act to ensure the management of Alberta's energy resources in a well-planned and integrated manner while at the same time countering any undesirable side effects of our expanding technology.

Within Alberta there lies, in aggregate, the largest accumulation of coal, oil and gas resources on the North American Continent. As the demand for energy derived from those resources continues to grow at a rapid rate, Alberta will assume an increasingly important position in the North American economy. Since approximately one-third of our population is associated directly or indirectly with development of those energy resources, the importance of a comprehensive conservation approach relative to those resources is recognized and will be emphasized.

#### THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION ACT

With this action—in conjunction with the establishment of the Environment Conservation Authority—Alberta will remain in the forefront in Canada in the field of pollution control and environment conservation.

The new Department will assume direct responsibility for the management of our water resources, for air and water pollution control, and for the controlled utilization of land. You will be asked accordingly to consider new legislation on air and water pollution control.

In accordance with this continuing emphasis my Government places on environmental matters, you will be asked to consider legislation for the creation of a Department of the Environment, wherein basic responsibility will be vested for the co-ordination of all policies and programs. The Department will be charged with the important responsibility of protecting and conserving our environment.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

It is the intention of my Government to introduce a Wilderness Areas Act that will incorporate key suggestions put forward by the public during hearings held throughout the Province last summer.

WILDERNESS AREAS ACT

Plans for a new provincial fish hatchery have been completed and construction will commence during the coming fiscal year. This fish hatchery is designed to provide a stock- ing capability which promises high quality fishing in more bodies of water in Alberta than ever before. There is also the prospect of a new salmon sport fishery.

PROVINCIAL FISH HATCHERY

The reforestation of harvested areas is now a significant program. This will ensure a major forest products industry for the Province which will be in keeping with a multiple use policy that will continue to serve Albertans in perpetuity.

and others in the summer months. My Government, continuing its emphasis on the conservation of our natural heritage, will open four new provincial parks for public use during the 1971-1972 fiscal year. Facilities in our parks will be expanded giving employment to students

PARKS AND REFORESTATION

problems are co-ordinated. Consolidating all energy resource management functions into a single board will ensure that solutions to interrelated

Alberta Power Commission Act will be placed before you. A new Hydro and Electrical Energy Act to replace The

electrical energy. The legislation will establish a new Energy Resources Conservation Board by extending the resource management functions of the Oil and Gas Conservation Board to include jurisdiction over certain functions related to coal, hydro and

future. that will provide information upon which all levels of government and industry can make intelligent decisions for the

My Government will propose establishing priorities for the Alberta economy. Attention will be given to the development of an economy balanced between primary and secondary industry; to the geographic location of major industries and

Industrial utilization of Alberta's renewable resources continues steadily. A new poplar wood industry is now being developed and there is assurance of a new pulp mill.

My Government will initiate various economic development programs which will reduce unemployment, and at the same time, assist some of the smaller communities to become more economically viable. My Government will expand its efforts to attract new industries to the Province. These policies will contribute to planned, balanced, and integrated industrial development in Alberta.

The extent of unemployment, and the resulting increase in public assistance, is a major concern of my Government. While the main responsibility for unemployment rests with the Federal Government, my Government will introduce programs to assist the unemployed and to stimulate economic development, emphasizing both high labour content and immediate application.

You will be asked to approve legislation appropriate to orderly, diversified and continued expansion of the economy. A new Act called The Industrial Development Incentives Act will be introduced to provide a program of financial incentives for establishment, expansion or modernization of industries in Alberta. The program is directed towards those industries that are located or will locate in areas which are not eligible for assistance under the federal regional program or in many of our smaller centres which do not have highly industrialized bases.

### III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY

As an initial step, the Environment Conservation Authority will look at present wilderness areas in regard to their suitability.

To assist farmers in improving their operations, farm management programs will be emphasized. The use of computers in analyzing farm records will be increased.

Established policies by my Government have helped to diversify Alberta agriculture. Efforts will continue to assist and encourage farmers to make further adjustments to ensure economic stability.

In view of the public acceptance of my Government's involvement in providing marketing assistance during the past year, you will be asked to consider expanding this service in provincial, national and international markets. Expansion of current markets and the development of new markets will require a constant supply of quality products. Therefore, my Government will develop programs to ensure that Alberta producers meet these objectives.

During the past few months, my Government has noted more optimism in the agricultural industry. This is due especially to increased sales of wheat, feed grains and oil-seeds as well as the buoyant situation in livestock. The improved agricultural situation is having a beneficial effect on most segments of our economy. My Government will continue to develop programs designed to increase the income of Alberta farmers.

Agriculture will continue to be regarded as basic to Alberta society.

My Government proposes to develop mechanisms which will ensure that to the fullest extent possible, use is made of Alberta labour, capital, technical and managerial expertise in the development and processing of Alberta's resources. long-range plans for industrial and agricultural development. Alberta and foreign trade patterns for the purpose of preparing to the integration of the recommendations of relevant Government Boards and Commissions; and to the examination of associated facilities; to the co-ordination of personnel supply and training with present and future manpower requirements; to the integration of the recommendations of relevant Government Boards and Commissions; and to the examination of long-range plans for industrial and agricultural development. My Government proposes to develop mechanisms which will ensure that to the fullest extent possible, use is made of Alberta labour, capital, technical and managerial expertise in the development and processing of Alberta's resources.



You will be asked to approve amendments to existing legislation to allow municipalities to extend to all electors the same rights and responsibilities as other homeowners with regard to taxation and elections. You will be asked to approve amendments to various Acts to give mobile homeowners the same rights and responsibilities as other homeowners with regard to taxation and elections. You will be asked to approve amendments to various Acts to give mobile homeowners the same rights and responsibilities as other homeowners with regard to taxation and elections.

Legislation will be submitted providing for adoption of the principle of industrial tax sharing so that all municipalities shall receive an equitable share of the benefits derived from energy resource development.

**VI. MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

The benefits of this new organization will be greatly improved integration of local services and increased financial flexibility.

A new form of administration in the unorganized and widely separated areas of Northern Alberta will be developed to carry out a comprehensive service function, including education, health, social development, recreation and municipal affairs.

Executive Council on all social and economic issues in Northern Alberta; planning, co-ordination and management of local services in areas lacking self-government structures.

It is envisioned that this agency shall undertake two distinct but complementary functions for the benefit of all Albertans: a comprehensive information and advisory role to the Executive Council on all social and economic issues in Northern Alberta;

planning, co-ordination and management of local services in areas lacking self-government structures.

**V. NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT**

My Government will propose an active continuing Public Works program throughout the Province. All these programs will help to create more jobs for Albertans.

You will be asked to approve legislation providing for the creation of a new northern development agency to be called the Northern Development Commission.

vote on by-laws now restricted to the vote of the proprietary electors.

There will be submitted for your consideration legislation to assist planning agencies in the Province to provide province-wide planning on a regional basis.

You will be asked to consider amendments to The Alberta Housing Act, 1970, to permit the establishment of an Alberta Housing Advisory Committee and to authorize the undertaking of studies by the Corporation into housing and urban or regional development.

Additionally, various amendments to statutes affecting municipal administration will be submitted for your approval, many of which have been requested by our municipal associations.

Upon a recommendation of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, my Government will appoint a commission to conduct a comprehensive study of, and make recommendations on, the financial responsibilities and sources of revenue of the various levels of government within the Province.

My Government will be proceeding with a major project on urban life. Much work has gone into organizing the Task Force on Urbanization and the Future of Alberta. This important project will emphasize a longer-range perspective and will encompass all major aspects of urban life, including our smaller centres.

In accordance with my Government's policy that planning should involve the public to the maximum extent possible, the Task Force will work with representatives of the complete range of Alberta interest groups. These representatives will be asked to present their views, information and suggestions for solutions to the many problems associated with urbanization. In addition, they will be asked to deliberate actively and to reach conclusions on immediate and future action to be taken.



In continuation of the policy to decentralize mental health services various pilot projects will be proposed.

My Government has made strong presentations to other governments, suggesting alternative methods for federal financial contributions to provincial health programs. Our proposals, if accepted, will greatly facilitate the development of new methods of delivering health services, as well as providing the flexibility to adjust priorities in accordance with local needs.

You will also be asked to consider legislation for the establishment of a Hospital Services Commission.

The new Department of Health and Social Development will be vested with responsibility for adult correctional services and probation. Planning and implementation of a major review leading to a redesign of such services has now begun and will be accelerated.

You will, therefore, be asked to consider legislation to create a new Department of Health and Social Development, laying the foundation for an integrated approach to preventive, as well as active and rehabilitative health and social services at the community level.

In the field of health, the Sixties were characterized by construction and the introduction of new programs and services, and the rapidly escalating costs of health services. Attention must now be directed toward achieving a greater degree of integration of services. In the Seventies my Government will focus on achieving greater efficiency in the utilization of health services and facilities, emphasizing preventive measures.

In preparation for a new decade, my Government has thoroughly assessed the accomplishments of the Sixties.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### VII. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Through the Alberta Colleges Commission and the Universities Commission, my Government is developing an educational master plan specifying educational needs which should

operate on a more intensive, year-round basis. assistance program will encourage post-secondary institutions the development of the Alberta economy. Improvement to the after graduation and contribute their skills and abilities to be offered to those students who remain within the province will be a provision whereby a special financial incentive will

The objective of the fund will be to make financial assistance more equitably available. A vital part of the program

the present program of the Students' Assistance Board. create an Alberta Educational Opportunity Fund to strengthen

As an important part of my Government's campaign to make educational opportunities available to everyone, legislation will be brought forward for your consideration, to

## EDUCATION

themselves in need. fulfill its obligation to provide adequately for those who find

My Government will expand its already successful program of employment opportunities. At the same time it will

three persons be appointed to enquire into the legislation, policies and procedures relating to foster care.

My Government will recommend that a committee of

sector. who are unable to secure positions in the private business skills of graduates of the Alberta School Hospital at Red Deer, community farm in Central Alberta which will utilize the mentally retarded. Steps will be taken to develop a sheltered facilities for the care and training of those who are severely

It will be proposed that construction commence on new

children. ment of a special treatment centre for emotionally disturbed

proceeding to utilize facilities in Calgary for the development of a special treatment centre for emotionally disturbed

As the result of the recommendations made by the Calgary Mental Health Planning Council, my Government is

My Government has developed a special program for individual adults called the High School Equivalency Diploma, which allows credit for educational experience outside of a school system and recognizes the special credentials of a mature student. It is a program to help train the unemployed.

The area of adult and continuing education has received special attention from my Government during the last several months. Society can only meet the demands of rapidly changing technology by considering education a life-long process, and my Government will focus on this question.

My Government will institute methods of working with the emotionally disturbed deaf through a special unit of the Alberta School for the Deaf. My Government will increase services to blind and visually impaired children, instituting special programs aimed at integrating the visually impaired child into the regular school. Additional resources will be made available to a broader range of handicapped children.

A Driver Education Course will be proposed for our high schools.

Another program being developed is "work experience": Senior high schools across the Province have been quick to adopt this new scheme whereby credits are granted for on-the-job training.

My Government will encourage boards to try new procedures which may prove more effective and efficient than the old. School boards are rising to the challenge and proposals are now being received for a host of imaginative and potentially valuable programs. To reach this objective, the innovative Projects Fund will be continued.

My Government will outline a Program Budgeting Task Force which will give leadership to boards in the establishment of more effective planning and accounting procedures.

My Government will outline a Program Budgeting Task Force which will give leadership to boards in the establishment of more effective planning and accounting procedures. The goal will be to provide a balance of services to the residents of the Province, to avoid unnecessary duplication, and to integrate certain operations of universities and colleges.

An important effect will be to lower the voting age in provincial, municipal and school elections to eighteen. The legislation will grant full rights, privileges, and corresponding responsibilities to those eighteen and over.

This legislation will extend to all persons who are eighteen years of age full rights over all matters that fall within legislative competence of the Province of Alberta.

An Act will be introduced lowering the age of majority. Several new Acts will be introduced for your consideration.

**VIII. CIVIL RIGHTS**

My Government will put before you legislation to authorize the creation of a new department to be called the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. This Department will provide the contemporary and integrated framework necessary to accommodate youth programs, cultural activities and community recreational programs during the Seventies. This Department will incorporate many programs presently administered by the Department of the Provincial Secretary and the Department of Youth.

**CULTURE, YOUTH AND RECREATION**

More students are enrolled in Alberta universities, measured as a percentage of the population, than any other province in Canada. My Government intends to ensure that the Alberta educational system pursues excellence, enabling individual Albertans to achieve their full potential.

My Government will urge opening up of Alberta's schools for community use. A number of communities have already undertaken ambitious community-use projects.

My Government will recommend that The Jury Act be amended. All references to sex will be deleted from the statute, thus extending equal responsibility to women.

A new Act will be introduced to replace The Magistrates and Justices Act. This Act will include several important changes giving provincially appointed judges security of tenure and independence similar to that enjoyed by judges of the higher Courts.

A rewritten Police Act will be forwarded for consideration. It will carry into effect the recommendations contained in the report tabled in the last Session of the Legislature. It provides for the formation of an Alberta Police Commission. This Commission will be a co-ordinating body that will not interfere with local autonomy.

A new Act will be introduced regulating the manner in which commercial firms grant franchises to local agents. It will also provide regulations to control pyramid selling.

## **IX. MAINTAINING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

### **INTRAGOVERNMENTAL**

My Government has devoted a great deal of time and effort to a thorough examination of the governmental structures which serve Albertans. The quality, efficiency and economy of the services the institutions perform depend to a significant extent upon how the institutions are structured and upon how they work together.

Continuing change in response to the needs and aspirations of the residents of Alberta will be a hallmark of my Government.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL

Federal-provincial and inter-provincial relations in the past several years have become an extremely important area of government. The interdependence between the two orders of government is now such that almost everything one government undertakes has implications for what other governments are doing or can do. In response to a growing recognition that a great deal more co-ordination and co-operation is needed to achieve the policy goals of government, my Government will recommend establishment of an Intergovernmental Affairs Agency to formalize and structure contacts between the two orders of government.

We have to be in a position to contribute materially to make Canadian federalism work, to ensure good government and to achieve unity on a national scale.

The establishment of an Intergovernmental Affairs Agency will be an important step towards the improvement of federal-provincial relationships, and one which will benefit the people of Alberta.

## X. CONCLUSION

A significant historical event which helped open up the West in an orderly way was the arrival of the North West Mounted Police. In preparation for the Centennial of this event, my Government will propose a program of commemoration.

My Government proposes a continued emphasis on new and exciting programs and policies to ensure the development of the great human potential of our province; the encouragement and fostering of continued growth and productivity, the creation of new opportunities within the Alberta economy, with particular emphasis on providing employment; and the re-organization and development of departments and programs to offer efficient and contemporary services to the people of Alberta.

February 11th, 1971

May Divine Providence enlighten your deliberations.

I leave you now to the business of the Session. Members of the Legislative Assembly: if you deal with these issues with wisdom and determination your work will contribute to a sense of purpose and fulfillment for all Albertans.

Members of the Legislative Assembly: during the Session you will be asked to grant the necessary funds for the services and expenditures authorized by the Legislature. The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the ensuing year will be presented for your most careful scrutiny.

The measures proposed, and the objectives of the Government, reflect the desire of Albertans to have programs to satisfy the needs and meet the aspirations of our citizens.