

February 14, 2011

Building a better Alberta the focus of spring legislative agenda

Edmonton ... Legislation ensuring Alberta continues to prepare for economic growth and build safe, caring communities will highlight the spring session of the provincial Legislature, which re-convenes on Tuesday, February 22 at 3 p.m. It is anticipated that the government will introduce at least 11 new bills for debate by MLAs.

“The government’s legislative agenda this session will be focused on the future. This means securing the fiscal advantages Albertans have worked hard for and passing a responsible budget so we can concentrate on building a better Alberta,” said Government House Leader Dave Hancock.

A major focus of Spring Session will be on the introduction of the 2011/12 budget on February 24 and subsequent review of all 24 departments’ budget estimates to take place between February 24 and April 28. The entire budget estimates review process will be streamed live through the [Alberta Legislative Assembly website](#).

The Assembly will recess for constituency weeks from March 28 to April 7, and May 2 to 5.

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Backgrounder: 2011 spring sitting legislation outlined

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Legislation proposed for the 2011 spring sitting

<p><i>Livestock Industry Diversification Amendment Act, 2011</i> (Agriculture and Rural Development)</p>	<p>Proposed amendments transfer legislative responsibility for farmed cervids (elk and deer) as identified in the <i>Wildlife Act</i> and <i>Wildlife Regulation</i> to the <i>Livestock Industry Diversification Act</i>.</p>
<p><i>Protection Against Family Violence Amendment Act, 2011</i> (Children and Youth Services)</p>	<p>Proposed legislation will help increase protection for individuals and families affected by family violence by holding accountable those who violate protection orders, and make Alberta's penalties for such violations among the strongest in Canada.</p>
<p><i>Education Act</i> (Education)</p>	<p>Proposed legislation will allow the education system to be more flexible and able to respond to the diverse learning needs of students more quickly and effectively.</p>
<p><i>Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Amendment Act, 2011</i> (Employment and Immigration)</p>	<p>Proposed legislation puts in place a consolidated 'Practice of Geoscience' to reflect the changing geoscience profession and align Alberta with other provinces, while maintaining high standards for licensed professionals.</p>
<p><i>Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2011</i> (Finance and Enterprise)</p>	<p>Proposed amendments will ensure the Alberta Investment Management Corporation has the proper legal framework and authorities to operate effectively while managing nearly \$70 billion in investments, including the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, as well as pension funds, for the Government of Alberta. Changes include updating language around conflicts of interest to bring it in line with industry practices.</p>
<p><i>Securities Amendment Act, 2011</i> (Finance and Enterprise)</p>	<p>Amendments will help strengthen the protection of Alberta investors by addressing regulatory gaps and further harmonizing and streamlining Alberta securities laws.</p>
<p><i>Rules of Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2011</i> (Justice and Attorney General)</p>	<p>Proposed amendments will make legislation consistent with the new language and updated procedures used in the recently revised Alberta Rules of Court. This will make court proceedings clearer and easier to understand for Albertans involved in civil matters.</p>
<p><i>Notice to the Attorney General Act</i> (Justice and Attorney General)</p>	<p>Proposed legislation will ensure that the Attorney General is notified if allegations of inadequate consultation with Aboriginal people arise or when there is a constitutional challenge being brought before Alberta Courts or Tribunals.</p>

<p>Corrections Amendment Act, 2011 (Solicitor General and Public Security)</p>	<p>Proposed amendments will allow inmate health information to be shared on an as-needed basis and in a timely way between Alberta Health Services staff and corrections staff. The amendments also update the process for transferring and returning inmates between a correctional facility and a hospital or mental health facility.</p>
<p>Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2011 (Solicitor General and Public Security)</p>	<p>Proposed amendments to the <i>Victims of Crime Act</i> are designed to increase efficiencies to the Financial Benefits program through procedural improvements</p>
<p>Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act (Sustainable Resource Development)</p>	<p>The Act clarifies the original intent of the legislation, to plan for the future needs of Albertans and manage growth, while respecting existing property rights. The Act also requires government to consult with Albertans to develop regional plans and creates an appeal process for those plans.</p>

Additional bills will be forthcoming pending the approval of caucus.

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