



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Second Session, 3rd Parliament

OFFICIAL REPORT
OF DEBATES
(HANSARD)

Saturday, May 24, 2025
1st Sitting
Issue No. 3

THE HONOURABLE S3AWO1FZ, SPEAKER

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

(Entered Confederation July 20, 1871)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

His Honour the Honourable William_Dzhugashvili, OBC

SECOND SESSION, 3RD PARLIAMENT

SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Honourable S3aWo1fz

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Premier and President of the Executive Council Hon. Antonio_Gamer1567
Deputy Premier Hon. S3aWo1fz

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Leader of the Official Opposition Hon. Debatinglyness
Leader of the Third Party Hon. tthelakes
Clerk of the House rafaelmanman
Sergeant-at-Arms xXKenPlays

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS BY PARTY

BC LABOUR

Hon. Antonio_Gamer 1567	Saanich	Hon. S3aWo1fz	Rockland
Hon. Dakota_303	Victoria West	Hon. vd207	North Park
Hon. hxamz_a	Fernwood		

AZOY PARTY OF BC

Hon. Debatinglynness	Esquimalt	Hon. NotTowoasty	Burnside
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REFORMBC

Hon. tthelakes	James Bay
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INDEPENDENT

Hon. ManslyYT	Hillside	Hon. Shibe_R6	Oak Bay
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PARTY STANDINGS

Total seats – 10

BC Labour – 5 | Azoy Party of BC – 2 | ReformBC 1 | Ind. 2

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF RIDINGS

B

Burnside Hon. NotTowoasty

E

Esquimalt Hon. Debatinglynness

F

Fernwood Hon. hxamz_a

H

Hillside Hon. ManslyYT

J

James Bay Hon. tthelakes

N

North Park Hon. vd207

O

Oak Bay Hon. Shibe_R6

R

Rockland Hon. S3aWo1fz

S

Saanich Hon. Antonio_Gamer1567

V

Victoria West Hon. Dakota_303

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SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

The House met at 11:49 a.m.

[The Speaker in the chair.]

Routine Business

Introduction and First Reading of Bills

Hon. hxamz_a: Mr. Speaker, tthelakes is in the wrong seat. That's Debatinglyness's seat.

BILL 1 — AN ACT TO ENSURE THE SUPREMACY OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. hxamz_a introduced a bill intituled An Act to Ensure the Supremacy of Parliament.

Hon. hxamz_a: I move that Bill 1, intituled An Act to Ensure the Supremacy of Parliament, be introduced and read a first time now.

The introduction of this bill expresses the established right of parliament, through its elected members, to deliberate independently of the Sovereign. As such, it is an important part of our parliamentary democratic process. It is a right that was first asserted by the Parliament at Westminster in the year 1603, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

[11:55 a.m.]

Motion approved.

BILL 2 — ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE ACT

Hon. hxamz_a introduced a bill intituled Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act.

Hon. hxamz_a: I move that Bill 2, intituled Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, be introduced and read a first time now.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

Motion approved.

BILL 3 — PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

Hon. Dakota_303 introduced a bill intituled Public Service Act.

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 3, intituled Public Service Act, be introduced and read a first time now.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

Motion approved.

BILL 4 — CRIMINAL REHABILITATION AND ALTERNATE SENTENCING ACT

Hon. Dakota_303 introduced a bill intituled Criminal Rehabilitation and Alternate Sentencing Act.

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 4, intituled Criminal Rehabilitation and Alternate Sentencing Act, be introduced and read a first time now.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

Motion approved.

[12:00 p.m.]

BILL 5 — LEGAL PROFESSION STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT, 2025

Hon. Dakota_303 introduced a bill intituled Legal Profession Statutes Amendment Act, 2025.

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 5, intituled Legal Profession Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, be introduced and read a first time now.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

Motion approved.

BILL 6 — MINISTRY OF TRADE AMENDMENT ACT, 2025

Hon. Dakota_303 introduced a bill intituled Ministry of Trade Amendment Act, 2025.

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 6, intituled Ministry of Trade Amendment Act, 2025, be introduced and read a first time now.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

Motion approved.

BILL M 201 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (VEHICLE IDLING) ACT

Hon. tthelakes introduced a bill intituled Environmental Protection (Vehicle Idling) Act.

Hon. tthelakes: I move that Bill 7, intituled Environmental Protection (Vehicle Idling) Act, be introduced and read a first time now.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

[12:05 p.m.]

Motion approved.

Orders of the Day

Hon. tthelakes: SYBAU

Hon. hxamz_a: Mr. Speaker, that is unparliamentary.

The Speaker: Order in the House. Members, stay seated.

Hon. hxamz_a: I ask that the Leader of the Third Party withdraw his comment to the Lieutenant Governor.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may. The Right Hon. gentleman is incorrect for this claim. I directed that claim — that comment — to Automazioneer, not to the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, please do not speak unless recognized.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order in the House. All Members are to refrain from speaking unless recognized.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 2 — ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE ACT

Hon. hxamz_a: I move that Bill 2, intituled Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, be read a second time now.

[12:10 p.m.]

The Speaker: Members, stand to be recognized for debate.

Interjection.

Hon. Dakota_303: Ok. I have one big issue with this bill. The RCMP Act allows the commissioner of the RCMP...

Interjections.

Hon. Dakota_303: ...to bypass the Employee Rights Act.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Please wait until the Member for West Victoria is finished, Leader of the Third Party.

Hon. Dakota_303: I take issue with this, both as a member of the RCMP...

Interjection.

Hon. Dakota_303: ...and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I yield.

Hon. ttelakes: Mr. Speaker, this Act is of the utmost importance for British Columbia. It protects the commissioner of the RCMP. And if there's any coup, or any resentment, or resistance, or any form of abuse, the commissioner can stop that as he bypasses the Employee Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, if I can still continue. If there are any issues, then the Premier or the Deputy Premier can of course step in, but it must be passed to protect the department itself...

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order in the House.

Hon. ttelakes: Mr. Speaker, I ask for Members of the House to remain professional. The person in front of me is not acting in the capacity of a congressman — not a congressman — as a Member of the House. I yield.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Member for Fernwood, do not speak unless recognized.

[12:15 p.m.]

Hon. vd207: While I recognize what you said, Mr. ttelakes, as a member of the RCMP, I do not believe that Inno_Dzhugashvili — holy moly these tags — should have such powers outlined in the Act, such as bypassing the Employee Rights Bylaw. By giving the commissioner said powers, you set a precedent that all department heads could possibly in the future bypass the Revised Employee Rights if given their own bill.

An Hon. Member: Are you done?!

The Speaker: Order in the House. Do not speak unless recognized.

An Hon. Member: My apologies, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. vd207: Mr. Dzhugashvili has used real life to justify this bill on several occasions. As a representative of my constituents — holy moly these tags — in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other departments, I do not believe that passing this bill would be in the best interest. I yield.

[12:20 p.m.]

Hon. ttelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may. Giving the commissioner authority enables a swift, a fast, a measured response to any misconduct, a breach of power, any breaches in integrity within the department or within administrative positions. Without this heightened authority for the commissioner, the Force risks being seen as slow or ineffective in handling issues which can decrease public confidence. The Member of the House is also acting like the commissioner of the RCMP is a baboon, is a monkey, is a rogue person that will destroy the department. I argue otherwise. The commissioner and their successors will be people of experience and trusted

people. That must be taken into account. The commissioner is not a free-ranked position, so ultimately it will protect fairness of all employees. Yeah, that's all I have to say. I yield, Mr. Speaker.

Interjection.

Hon. Dakota_303: I'll wait for him to finish.

Mr. tthelakes, as far as I'm aware, you are not a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As a corporal for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, I would like to share a few things. So, you mentioned that these powers given to the commissioner by the RCMP Act would help speed up operations. I believe there is previous legislation in place that prevents the department from taking too long during investigations. By passing this bill, you would not do anything significant to combat ineffectiveness.

Sticking on that point, that's kind of what reforms in departments exist for: to combat ineffectiveness within members of lower ranks. These are often conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Internal Affairs, which I believe should be the ones investigating misconduct outlined in the RCMP Act, not the commissioner. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Internal Affairs does have to abide by the outlines and guidelines set forth by the Revised Employee Rights Bylaw. So, passing this bill would just give the commissioner excessive powers of which they don't need. I yield.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may. The Right Hon. Member of the house has raised genuine concern. However, there are loopholes within the system where investigations...

The Speaker: Order in the House. Please sit, Leader of the Third Party.

[12:25 p.m.]

Interjection.

The Speaker: Please type in chat.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Type in text. Please only speak once recognized by myself. Recognition is indicated by me stating your title. Okay. Leader of the Third Party, you are recognized.

Hon. tthelakes: Finally. Mr. Speaker, if I may, if I may of course. His Excellency does provide genuine concern of this Act; however, the role of commissioner is the highest rank in the RCMP.

The Speaker: Text, please....

Interjection.

The Speaker: ...for the benefit of the public.

Hon. tthelakes: My apologies, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, allow me to type my response.

Interjections.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may!

Interjection.

The Speaker: Order in the House.

Hon. tthelakes: His Excellency has provided genuine concern of this Act! However...

The Speaker: Member for Fernwood, do not speak unless recognized.

Hon. tthelakes: ...there are loopholes within legislation, in which this Act suppresses that! May I remind the House, the rank of commissioner is the highest role, a role that takes years to achieve, and a role that is built on trust and confidence!

The Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, please refrain from yelling.

Hon. tthelakes: My apologies, Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: You may. You have been recognized.

Hon. tthelakes: The commissioner of the RCMP and his successors are not tribal people. They are well-educated and respected men. These members act like this Act will drive the department into anarchy. Instead, it will do the opposite!

[12:30 p.m.]

Mr. Speaker, if I may. It must be known that the Premier can terminate the commissioner if they are in any way abusing power through this Act. And as aforementioned, this Act will allow activities like investigations to be quickly processed and approved or denied, instead of sitting on the waiting list for many years. This Act speeds up the process. Of course there's chain of command; however, if that fails or somehow does not function as it should, the commissioner can override such and bring the department back into order. This leads me to my last point. This Act, in practice, would tend to be used as a last resort or for emergency use. The Members act like the commissioner would execute such powers every minute. I yield.

Hon. hxamz_a: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: I will permit two more Members to debate to prevent this debate from running in circles.

Hon. hxamz_a: Leader of the Third Party, what loopholes are you talking about when you bring up loopholes this Act will be patching? Also, for what reason are you against tribal people and are you suggesting that tribal people are not educated and smart? I am a Native American myself. Are you saying that the Indi-

genous people of Canada are not civilized and are not educated?...

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order in the Gallery.

Hon. hxamz_a: Lastly, do you believe in using loopholes to bypass the will of the people and the rule of law? I yield.

[12:35 p.m.]

Hon. Dakota_303: The Hon. tthelakes continues to state that this bill...

The Speaker: Please refer to Members by their title, Member for Victoria West.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order in the Gallery.

Hon. Dakota_303: ...would help the RCMP speed up investigations and improve overall efficiency. I would like to say, as a member of the RCMP, what investigations are you referencing? What investigation has taken so long? I yield.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: Please hold on. Sit back down. Member for Oak Bay, I will permit you to debate once. Leader of the Third Party, you may debate after him if you so choose. After that, I ask Members to move for adjournment of debate. Member for Oak Bay, please rise if you intend to debate. We are debating the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act.

Okay, Leader of the Third Party, if you wish to debate, please rise.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may....

Interjection.

The Speaker: Member for Fernwood, he is recognized.

Hon. tthelakes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Member of Fernwood, please open your eyes. Mr. Speaker, if I may.

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order in the Gallery.
[12:40 p.m.]

Hon. tthelakes: I would like to apologize for my comment regarding tribal people!

Interjections.

Hon. tthelakes: I have met many First Nations and I have much respect! Secondly, the Member of the House has provided concern of this Act. I believe his concerns are sustained. This Act cannot be passed! We all saw A_ruiz — that freak! Imagine if he became commissioner!

Interjections.

Hon. tthelakes: All agents must be subject to the rule of law. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative for a government, department, and as humans to maintain order and integrity.

Interjections.

Hon. tthelakes: You want A_ruiz to be commissioner?! Mr. Speaker...

The Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, I direct that you yield. Debate is to be adjourned. All relevant points have been made.

An Hon. Member: Bloody hell, sit down already!

Hon. tthelakes: Of course, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you.

An Hon. Member: Good boy.

The Speaker: Member for Fernwood...

Hon. h_xamz_a: Apologies. I move that the question be now put.

The Speaker: Members, you have heard the question.

Hold.

Member for Fernwood, you are still recognized for your motion.

Clerk of the House: A reminder to Members that voting “nay” on this motion indicates you would not like debate to be closed.

[12:45 p.m.]

The Speaker: You have heard the question.

Motion approved.

The Speaker: Okay, next question is the vote for second reading. For clarification, this is your opinion on the bill.

Clerk of the House: A reminder to Members that abstaining is not an option.

Motion negated.

[12:50 p.m.]

The Speaker: All Members are opposed. Do not speak unless recognized. The bill therefore fails second reading.

Point of Order

Hon. tthelakes: Point of order!

The Speaker: What is your point of order?

Hon. tthelakes: Mr Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: Please state your point of order.

Hon. tthelakes: I hope the House can join me in celebrating in hearing Their Majesties, the King and Queen, to be attending the State Opening of the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa.

Interjection.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Governor General, stay professional.

The Speaker: Improper point of order.

Hon. tthelakes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Please sit down, Leader of the Third Party. Thank you.

BILL 3 — PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 3, intituled Public Service Act, be read a second time now.

The Speaker: 15 seconds for Members to rise if they wish to debate.

Members, the question is if the bill should progress through second reading.

[12:55 p.m.]

Hon. hxamz_a: For what?

The Speaker: The Public Service Act, Member for Fernwood. The question is if the bill should progress through second reading.

Motion approved.

BILL 4 — CRIMINAL REHABILITATION AND ALTERNATE SENTENCING ACT

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 4, intituled Criminal Rehabilitation and Alternate Sentencing Act, be read a second time now.

The Speaker: 15-second period for debate.

Question is if the bill should progress through second reading.

Motion approved.

BILL 5 — LEGAL PROFESSION STATUTES AMENDMENT ACT, 2025

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 5, intituled Legal Profession Statutes Amendment Act, 2025, be read a second time now.

The Speaker: 5-second period for recognition.

Question is if the bill should progress through second reading.

Hon. tthelakes: Pizzar, SYBAU.

The Speaker: Order in the House.

Motion approved.

BILL 6 — MINISTRY OF TRADE AMENDMENT ACT, 2025

Hon. Dakota_303: I move that Bill 6, intituled Ministry of Trade Amendment Act, 2025, be read a second time now.

[1:00 p.m.]

The Speaker: 5-second period for recognition.

Question is if the bill should progress through second reading.

Motion approved.

BILL M 201 — ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (VEHICLE IDLING) ACT

Hon. tthelakes: I move that Bill M 201, intituled Environmental Protection (Vehicle Idling) Act, be read a second time now.

The Speaker: 10-second period for recognition.

tion for the purposes of debate.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

Interjections.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: You may.

Hon. tthelakes: This Act is of the utmost importance. It saves people from wasting petrol and helps the environment. Mr. Speaker, if I must educate these people, trees have feelings too. They live and stuff....

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order in the Gallery.

Hon. tthelakes: ...They photosynthesize. Osmosis. Diffusion. They give us the ability to live!...

Interjections.

The Speaker: Order in the Gallery for a final time.

Hon. tthelakes: Idling your vehicles without any reason is terrible for the greenery and increases air pollution. If we don't allow this Act, the streets of Victoria will become the streets of Karachi, or even Mumbai. I echo to the House: Do we want that?

[1:05 p.m.]

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: Please remain behind your bench, Leader of the Third Party.

Hon. tthelakes: I want to give the generations of British Columbia the very best at life.

On other planets like Canuck's British Columbia, that is impossible. Here, I say, Mr. Speaker, it is possible.

Interjection.

Hon. tthelakes: This Act is not a burden. It encourages people to turn off their engines when they aren't moving or serving a purpose on the roads.

Thank you. I yield.

Hon. Dakota_303: I would like it to be known that I hug a tree on the regular. I am also from Mumbai and find it extremely rude that you would compare the streets of Victoria to the streets of Mumbai, as if they aren't satisfactory. I would also like to pose the question: How do you expect LE to enforce this? As a member of law enforcement for almost 3 years, I would have issues enforcing this bill. You suggest that vehicles idling for 2 minutes should be cited; however, this can drain law enforcement resources and impact our citizens. I yield.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may.

The Speaker: All sit down, please.

This sitting has been going on for a while and some Members have to leave soon. Debate will proceed as follows: Members for Oak Bay and North Park will be able to speak. The Leader of the Third Party may speak once more as a rebuttal. Members for Oak Bay and North Park may rise.

[1:10 p.m.]

Hon. Shibe_R6: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to say that I appreciate this bill's intentions. It is imperative that we, the Assembly, do all within our power to protect our precious environment and lower noise pollution. However, Mr. Speaker, this bill is in need of some serious refinement. In my eyes, a fixed 2-minute limit is seriously impractical to enforce. What do we expect our officers to do with their time?

Pull out a stopwatch and measure how long a vehicle has been idling for?

I also take issue with the line “emergency vehicles performing an emergency response”, Mr. Speaker. There are many situations where an emergency vehicle is not undertaking an “emergency response” but may still need their engine on in order to conduct official business. So I return to my point that this bill needs refinement before we consider passing it.

I yield, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Order in the House. Leader of the Third Party, do not stand while another Member is recognized.

Hon. tthelakes: I think I did more than stand, but okay.

Hon. vd207: Monsieur Lakes, les émissions moyennes de CO₂—oops...

The Speaker: Please address other Members through me, Member for North Park.

Hon. vd207: My bad, Mr. Speaker; slip of tongue.

The average CO₂ from a car is about 404 grams of CO₂ per mile. In Canada, because of the air, that’s down to 302. Source: ChatGPT.

Interjection.

Hon. vd207: So, I think that there’s no real environmental impact of idling vehicles. I care a lot about the environment.

[1:15 p.m.]

I hug trees on the regular. I go out of my way just to make sure all our trees in BC are cared for. Each and every tree has been hugged by me, particularly the ones outside the Victoria Police Department. I take special care of those.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Do not speak unless recogni-

zed, Members.

Hon. vd207: I come from Chandagarnuklari, India. I can assure you I take quite good care of my environment, so I think that this bill is not needed. And similar to what Shibe_R6 said basically, it’s unreasonable to expect cops to sit here and time people’s engine times....

Interjection.

Hon. vd207: It’s a waste of resources and is not really relevant considering there’s many other greater crimes being committed in Victoria which have more impact on the community.

Okay, I yield, thanks.

Hon. tthelakes: Mr. Speaker, if I may. These Members of the House do provide real concern. I also apologize Mr. Speaker for my remarks about Mumbai. I retract that to be New Delhi instead. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, I must echo that enforcing this bill is the same way as enforcing someone for running a red perhaps. An LEO would just approach the vehicle or their owner and ask them to switch the engine off. The idea of having a “2-minute stopwatch” is taken much out of context. LEOs would give their judgement. I must also remind the House, Mr. Speaker, that this can be amended, but it is imperative to have it passed so drivers are aware and would act as a deterrent for drivers...

[1:20 p.m.]

The Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, I will give you one more minute as some Members must leave.

Hon. tthelakes: ...to leave their car idling without any reason. I yield.

The Speaker: Thank you.

A clarification beforehand, Members. If you oppose this motion, the bill in its entirety would be failed. However, you can amend or remove certain clauses of the bill, if you wish, by mov-

ing it past second reading and amending it in Committee. In essence, if you oppose this bill in its entirety, oppose this question. If you wish to amend it, vote in favor of this question. With that out of the way, the question is now put.

Interjection.

The Speaker: Leader of the Third Party, am I to assume you are in favor of this bill passing second reading?

Hon. the lakes: Indeed I am, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Understood.

Motion negatived.

Hon. the Speaker moved adjournment of the House.

Motion approved.

The Speaker: This House stands adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

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