

Nos. 27 and 28

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

First Session of the Forty-third Parliament

Monday, March 31, 2025

TEN O'CLOCK A.M.

Prayers and Reflections by Hon. *Sheila Malcolmson*.

The Hon. *Brenda Bailey* (Minister of Finance) presented to the Speaker a Message from Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor, which read as follows:

WENDY COCCHIA
Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor transmits herewith Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly.

Government House,
March 28, 2025.

On the motion that Bill (No. 8) be introduced and read a first time, the House divided.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—89

Lore
G. Anderson
Blatherwick
Elmore
Sunner
Toporowski
B. Anderson
Neill
Osborne
Brar
Davidson
Kahlon
Parmar
Gibson
Beare
Chandra Herbert
Wickens
Kang
Morissette
Sandhu
Krieger
Chant
Lajeunesse

Choi
Rotchford
Higginson
Routledge
Popham
Dix
Sharma
Farnworth
Eby
Bailey
Begg
Greene
Whiteside
Boyle
Ma
Yung
Malcolmson
Chow
Glumac
Arora
Shah
Phillip

Dhir
Sturko
Kindy
Milobar
Warbus
Rustad
Banman
Kooner
Halford
Hartwell
L. Neufeld
Van Popta
Dew
Gasper
K. Neufeld
Day
Block
Bhangu
Paton
Boulton
Chan
Toor

Hepner
Giddens
Rattée
Davis
McInnis
Luck
Stamer
Maahs
Tepper
Mok
Wilson
Clare
Williams
Loewen
Dhaliwal
Doerkson
Chapman
McCall
Valeriote
Kealy
Armstrong
Brodie

NAYS—1

Botterell

Bill (No. 8) introduced and read a first time.

The Hon. *Brenda Bailey* (Minister of Finance) indicated intention to request that Bill (No. 8) advance all stages this day pursuant to Standing Order 81.

The House recessed until 10.33 a.m. for distribution of the Bill.

The Hon. *Mike Farnworth* proposed that, pursuant to Standing Order 81, the Bill be permitted to be advanced all stages this day, and tabled supporting documents.

Peter Milobar made representations.

Jeremy Valeriote made representations.

The Speaker took the matter under advisement.

The House proceeded to “Orders of the Day.”

Order called for “Private Members’ Statements.”

On the motion for second reading of Bill (No. M 205) intituled *Mental Health Amendment Act, 2025*, a debate arose.

On the motion of *Jody Toor*, the debate was adjourned to the next sitting of the House.

The Speaker delivered his reserved decision as follows:

Honourable Members:

The Chair has considered the application made under Standing Order 81 by the Government House Leader as it pertains to Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*. The Chair thanks the Government House Leader, the Member for Kamloops Centre, and the Leader of the Third Party for their thoughtful submissions on this matter.

Standing Order 81 places one decision in the hands of the Chair: whether to allow a bill to proceed through two or more stages of consideration in one day, on account of urgent or extraordinary circumstances that may necessitate the normal rules for the consideration of legislation by this House to be suspended.

An application for accelerated consideration of legislation by this House must be weighed with great care by any Presiding Officer, who must always balance the rights of the majority to transact public business and of the minority to be heard. As noted by my predecessors, it is a request that must be made sparingly out of respect for this House and the democratic values that we all cherish.

On the application under Standing Order 81, the Chair has consulted the precedents of this House, previous Speakers’ rulings, and *Parliamentary Practice in British Columbia*, 5th edition. In so doing, a two-part test is evident on the consideration of a request under this Standing Order: the first requiring the bill to address an urgent or extraordinary matter, and the second requiring the scope of the bill to be limited.

A key decision that relates to the matter at hand transpired after the House adjourned on Thursday, March 13 until Monday, March 31. The decision of the federal government to eliminate its consumer carbon tax, which has been described as the “federal backstop,” was realized by federal order in council on Saturday, March 15. Earlier today, the government introduced Bill (No. 8) and immediately sought the application under Standing Order 81, which was done at the first opportunity upon the resumption of the House.

The question becomes whether the timelines and circumstances at hand are extraordinary. While the government has publicly indicated its intention to eliminate the consumer carbon tax, that decision ultimately rests with this House. British Columbians—both citizens and industry—no doubt want certainty on the will of the House, and that certainty can only come through the legislative process. It is the view of the Chair that these factors point to extraordinary circumstances and meet this test of a request under Standing Order 81.

The intent of Bill (No. 8) is to eliminate the consumer carbon tax in British Columbia—a topic of much debate in this House in the first four weeks of this session. In perusing the bill, the Chair is of the view that the bill is sufficiently limited in its scope and intended outcome to meet this test of a request under Standing Order 81.

In consideration of the above, it is the ruling of the Chair that Bill (No. 8) will be permitted to advance through all stages of consideration this day.

HON. RAJ CHOUHAN, *Speaker*

Bill *Ordered* to be placed on the Orders of the Day for second reading later today.

The Hon. *Mike Farnworth* moved—

That, notwithstanding Standing Orders 2 (1) and 3, the House sit beyond the hour fixed for adjournment for the afternoon sitting of Monday, March 31, 2025, until all questions pertaining to the remaining stages of consideration of Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*, are put and decided, and, should the bill pass, until the House has received the Lieutenant Governor and the said bill is presented for Royal Assent.

Motion agreed to.

And then the House adjourned at 11.56 a.m.

Monday, March 31, 2025

ONE-THIRTY O'CLOCK P.M.

Order called for “Members’ Statements.”

Order called for “Oral Questions by Members.”

The Hon. *Raj Chouhan* (Speaker) tabled the Auditor General Report, Ministry of Forests: Calculating Carbon Projections, March 2025.

The House proceeded to “Orders of the Day.”

Order called for Committee of Supply.

Pursuant to Sessional Order, order called for Section A of Committee of Supply.

Bill (No. 6) intituled *Supply Act (No. 1), 2025*, was committed.

Peter Milobar moved a proposed amendment to clause 1 of Bill (No. 6) which was defeated, on division.

Clauses 1 through 4, the preamble and the title of Bill (No. 6) passed.

Bill (No. 6) reported complete without amendment, read a third time and passed.

On the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*, a debate arose.

Rob Botterell moved the following amendment—

That the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*, be amended by deleting all the words after “that” and substituting therefor the following: “Bill (No. 8) not be read a second time until after the Minister of Finance has laid before the House a plan to address the climate crisis, the consequential and increasing budget deficit, and the impact of the loss of financial support to British Columbians.”

The amendment on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 8) was negatived on the following division:

NAYS—89

<i>Lore</i>	<i>Choi</i>	<i>Dhir</i>	<i>Toor</i>
<i>G. Anderson</i>	<i>Rotchford</i>	<i>Sturko</i>	<i>Hepner</i>
<i>Blatherwick</i>	<i>Higginson</i>	<i>Kindy</i>	<i>Giddens</i>
<i>Elmore</i>	<i>Routledge</i>	<i>Milobar</i>	<i>Rattée</i>
<i>Sunner</i>	<i>Popham</i>	<i>Warbus</i>	<i>Davis</i>
<i>Toporowski</i>	<i>Dix</i>	<i>Rustad</i>	<i>McInnis</i>
<i>B. Anderson</i>	<i>Sharma</i>	<i>Banman</i>	<i>Luck</i>
<i>Neill</i>	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>Wat</i>	<i>Stamer</i>
<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Eby</i>	<i>Kooner</i>	<i>Maahs</i>
<i>Brar</i>	<i>Bailey</i>	<i>Halford</i>	<i>Tepper</i>
<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Begg</i>	<i>Hartwell</i>	<i>Mok</i>
<i>Kahlon</i>	<i>Greene</i>	<i>L. Neufeld</i>	<i>Wilson</i>
<i>Parmar</i>	<i>Whiteside</i>	<i>Van Popta</i>	<i>Clare</i>
<i>Gibson</i>	<i>Boyle</i>	<i>Dew</i>	<i>Williams</i>
<i>Beare</i>	<i>Ma</i>	<i>Gasper</i>	<i>Loewen</i>
<i>Chandra Herbert</i>	<i>Yung</i>	<i>K. Neufeld</i>	<i>Dhaliwal</i>
<i>Wickens</i>	<i>Malcolmson</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Doerkson</i>
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Chow</i>	<i>Block</i>	<i>Chapman</i>
<i>Morissette</i>	<i>Glumac</i>	<i>Bhangu</i>	<i>McCall</i>
<i>Sandhu</i>	<i>Arora</i>	<i>Paton</i>	<i>Kealy</i>
<i>Krieger</i>	<i>Shah</i>	<i>Boulton</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
<i>Chant</i>	<i>Phillip</i>	<i>Chan</i>	<i>Brodie</i>
<i>Lajeunesse</i>			

YEAS—2

<i>Valeriote</i>	<i>Botterell</i>
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The debate resumed on the main motion.

On the motion of the Hon. *Adrian Dix*, the debate was adjourned to later today.

The Speaker declared a short recess.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor having entered the House, and being seated in the Chair—

Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, read the titles to the following Acts:

Bill (No. 2) *Acting Conflict of Interest Commissioner Continuation Act*.

Bill (No. 3) *Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2025*.

Bill (No. 4) *Business Practices and Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2025*.

Her Honour was pleased in His Majesty’s name to give assent to the said Acts.

The said assent was announced by *Kate Ryan-Lloyd*, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, in the following words:

“In His Majesty’s name, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these Acts.”

Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, read the title to the following Act:

Bill (No. 6) *Supply Act (No. 1), 2025*.

Her Honour was pleased in His Majesty’s name to give assent to the said Act.

The said assent was announced by *Kate Ryan-Lloyd*, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, in the following words:

“In His Majesty’s name, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth thank His Majesty’s loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Act.”

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*.

The debate continued.

The House divided.

Motion agreed to on the following division:

YEAS—88

<i>Lore</i>	<i>Lajeunesse</i>	<i>Phillip</i>	<i>Chan</i>
<i>G. Anderson</i>	<i>Choi</i>	<i>Dhir</i>	<i>Toor</i>
<i>Blatherwick</i>	<i>Rotchford</i>	<i>Sturko</i>	<i>Hepner</i>
<i>Elmore</i>	<i>Higginson</i>	<i>Kindy</i>	<i>Giddens</i>
<i>Sunner</i>	<i>Routledge</i>	<i>Milobar</i>	<i>Rattée</i>
<i>Toporowski</i>	<i>Popham</i>	<i>Warbus</i>	<i>McInnis</i>
<i>B. Anderson</i>	<i>Dix</i>	<i>Rustad</i>	<i>Luck</i>
<i>Neill</i>	<i>Sharma</i>	<i>Banman</i>	<i>Stamer</i>
<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Farnworth</i>	<i>Wat</i>	<i>Maahs</i>
<i>Brar</i>	<i>Eby</i>	<i>Kooner</i>	<i>Tepper</i>
<i>Davidson</i>	<i>Bailey</i>	<i>Halford</i>	<i>Mok</i>
<i>Kahlon</i>	<i>Begg</i>	<i>Hartwell</i>	<i>Wilson</i>
<i>Parmar</i>	<i>Greene</i>	<i>L. Neufeld</i>	<i>Clare</i>
<i>Gibson</i>	<i>Whiteside</i>	<i>Van Popta</i>	<i>Williams</i>
<i>Beare</i>	<i>Boyle</i>	<i>Dew</i>	<i>Loewen</i>
<i>Chandra Herbert</i>	<i>Ma</i>	<i>Gasper</i>	<i>Dhaliwal</i>
<i>Wickens</i>	<i>Yung</i>	<i>K. Neufeld</i>	<i>Doerkson</i>
<i>Kang</i>	<i>Malcolmson</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Chapman</i>
<i>Morissette</i>	<i>Chow</i>	<i>Block</i>	<i>McCall</i>
<i>Sandhu</i>	<i>Glumac</i>	<i>Bhangu</i>	<i>Kealy</i>
<i>Krieger</i>	<i>Arora</i>	<i>Paton</i>	<i>Armstrong</i>
<i>Chant</i>	<i>Shah</i>	<i>Boulton</i>	<i>Brodie</i>

NAYS—2

<i>Valeriote</i>	<i>Botterell</i>
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Bill (No. 8) read a second time and *Ordered* committed to a Committee of the Whole House to be considered forthwith.

(IN COMMITTEE—SECTION A)

12. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$99,120,000 be granted to His Majesty to defray the expenses of Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry Operations, to 31st March, 2026.

13. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$5,508,000 be granted to His Majesty to defray the expenses of Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agricultural Land Commission, to 31st March, 2026.

44. *Resolved*, That a sum not exceeding \$186,048,000 be granted to His Majesty to defray the expenses of Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, Ministry Operations, to 31st March, 2026.

Section A of Committee of Supply reported the Resolutions and completion of the estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and further reported progress of the estimates of the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Report to be considered at the next sitting.

Committee to sit again later today.

Pursuant to Sessional Order, order called for Section A of Committee of the Whole.

Order called for Committee of Supply.

Pursuant to Sessional Order, order called for Section B of Committee of Supply.

The House continued to sit past midnight.

(IN COMMITTEE—SECTION B)

Section B of Committee of Supply reported progress of the estimates of the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Report to be considered at the next sitting.

Committee to sit again at the next sitting.

(IN COMMITTEE—SECTION A)

Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*, was committed.

Clauses 1 through 8 of Bill (No. 8) passed.

In consideration of clause 9 of Bill (No. 8), the Committee divided as follows:

YEAS—6

Davidson
Morissette

Choi
Routledge

Sharma

Bailey

NAYS—6

Milobar
Kooner

Dew
Boulton

Williams

Botterell

The Chair announced that the votes being equal, and in accordance with established practice, she cast her vote in favour of the motion.

Clause 9 of Bill (No. 8) passed.

Clauses 10 through 14 and the title of Bill (No. 8) passed.

Section A of Committee of the Whole reported Bill (No. 8) intituled *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*, complete without amendment.

Bill (No. 8) read a third time and passed.

The Speaker declared a short recess.

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor having entered the House, and being seated in the Chair—

Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, read the title to the following Act:

Bill (No. 8) *Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025*.

Her Honour was pleased in His Majesty's name to give assent to the said Act.

The said assent was announced by *Kate Ryan-Lloyd*, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, in the following words:

"In His Majesty's name, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to this Act."

Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor was then pleased to retire.

And then the House adjourned at 1.49 a.m.

HON. RAJ CHOUHAN, *Speaker*

NOTICE OF BILLS

Tuesday, April 1

Peter Milobar to introduce a Bill intituled *Carbon Tax (Repeal) Act, 2025*.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Wednesday, April 2

11 The Hon. *Mike Farnworth* to move—

That *Larry Neufeld* replace *Tara Armstrong* as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

PROGRESS OF BILLS
GOVERNMENT BILLS
(Listing printed for convenience only)

Bill No.	Title	Member	First Reading	Second Reading	Committee	Report	Amended	Third Reading	Royal Assent	S.B.C. Chap. No.
1	An Act to Ensure the Supremacy of Parliament	Hon. Niki Sharma	Feb. 18							
2	Acting Conflict of Interest Commissioner Continuation Act	Hon. Niki Sharma	Feb. 19	Feb. 24	Feb. 26	Feb. 26		Feb. 26	Mar. 31	1
3	Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2025	Hon. Laanas / Tamara Davidson	Feb. 19	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Feb. 26	Mar. 12	Mar. 31	2
4	Business Practices and Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2025	Hon. Niki Sharma	Feb. 25	Mar. 3	Mar. 13	Mar. 13		Mar. 13	Mar. 31	3
5	Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2025	Hon. Brenda Bailey	Mar. 4							
6	Supply Act (No. 1), 2025	Hon. Brenda Bailey	Mar. 6	Mar. 12	Mar. 31	Mar. 31		Mar. 31	Mar. 31	4
7	Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act.....	Hon. Niki Sharma	Mar. 13							
8	Carbon Tax Amendment Act, 2025	Hon. Brenda Bailey.....	Mar. 31	Mar. 31	Mar. 31	Mar. 31		Mar. 31	Mar. 31	

MEMBERS' BILLS
(Listing printed for convenience only)

Bill No.	Title	Member	First Reading	Second Reading	Committee	Report	Amended	Third Reading	Royal Assent	S.B.C. Chap. No.
M 201	Low Carbon Fuels Amendment Act, 2025.....	Kiel Giddens	Feb. 26							
M 202	Eligibility to Hold Public Office Act.....	Darlene Rotchford.....	Feb. 26	Mar. 3						
*M 203	Free Trade and Mobility Within Canada Act.....	John Rustad	Mar. 4							
M 204	Perinatal and Postnatal Mental Health Strategy Act.....	Jody Toor.....	Mar. 4	Mar. 10						
M 205	Mental Health Amendment Act, 2025	Elenore Sturko	Mar. 12							
M 206	Interpretation (Pacific Daylight Time) Amendment Act, 2025	John Rustad	Mar. 13							

* Title changed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY
(Listing printed for convenience only)

ESTIMATES, 2025-26

Ministry	Estimates Completed
Agriculture and Food	March 31, 2025
Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport	March 31, 2025