



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

News Release

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Lieutenant Governor to deliver Speech from the Throne

TORONTO—At 3pm this afternoon, the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, will read the Speech from the Throne, opening the second session of the 40th Parliament of Ontario.

“There shall be a Legislature for Ontario consisting of the Lieutenant Governor and of One House, styled the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.” Section 69, *Constitution Act, 1867*

The opening of a session of Parliament is a significant event in the parliamentary calendar. The proceedings are an important part of our system of constitutional government which are conducted with a sense of occasion. The event is notable for its ceremony, which reflects centuries of constitutional evolution and the unique traditions of the legislature.

The Queen’s representative in Ontario is accorded a 15-gun salute on ceremonial occasions, including opening of the Legislative Assembly.

The opening of Parliament highlights the dual role of the Lieutenant Governor: the parliamentary (Crown-in-Parliament) and the executive (Crown-in-Council). In our parliamentary system, only the Queen’s representative can summon the Legislative Assembly to meet. The summoning, proroguing and dissolving of the Assembly are Royal Prerogative powers, but are exercised on the advice of the Executive Council.

Before the Assembly can transact any business, the Lieutenant Governor must, by constitutional convention, also announce the reasons for this meeting of Parliament by reading the Throne Speech. This speech outlines the government’s legislative agenda for the upcoming session. Under responsible government, the speech is written by the Premier and members of the Executive Council.

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