

SASKATCHEWAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PERMANENT LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR – SUMMARY



1. Fall Period

25-day Fall period starting on the fourth Wednesday in October (except when this conflicts with municipal elections, in which case the Session starts the following day and sits Thursday and Friday that week only). The Fall period will end the first week in December.

2. Spring Period

40-day Spring period ending on the Thursday before Victoria Day.

3. Sitting Days and Times

The Assembly will sit four days a week - Monday through Thursday.

- 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday
- 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday
- 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday

4. New Legislative Terms – Specified Bills, Completion Day and Deadline for Voting:

Specified Bills are Government Bills introduced during the Fall period, Government Bills introduced before December 21st in the first Session of a new Legislature, or Government Bills that are introduced in the Spring period that are necessary for the passage of the budgetary Estimates.

Completion Day is the day designated as the last day of the Session.

Deadline for Voting is the sitting day prior to the Completion Day.

5. Votes on Specified Bills

Specified Bills that have not been passed by the deadline for voting will be voted on provided the Government has allowed no less than 20 hours of debate on each Specified Bill. The cumulative time includes all stages of the Bill - second reading, public hearings and committees.

6. Suspension of Bill or Closure not permitted on Specified Bills.

The Government cannot invoke closure on Specified Bills and the Opposition cannot use the three-day suspension rule.

7. Reinstatement of Bills

Any Government Bill introduced in a preceding Session may be reinstated within five days of a new Session. If adopted, the bill will be restored to the same stage it was at prior to the end of the previous Session.

8. Budgetary Estimates

All budgetary Estimates remaining by the deadline for voting will be voted on in the standing committee or Committee of Finance and reported to the Assembly. The remaining Estimates will be disposed of provided the budget motion has been moved within 29 sitting days of the Completion Day, there has been 75 total hours of debate on Estimates and two hours of debate on each government department Estimate.

9. Automatic referral of Estimates to committees

Except for Executive Council Estimates, all Estimates will be permanently referred to the appropriate committee, eliminating review in the Assembly by the Committee of Finance.

10. Following an Election

The Government may deviate from the calendar in the first Session following a general election. If the first Session begins in the Fall period, any bill introduced by December 21 will be a Specified Bill and will follow the criteria necessary for voting Specified Bills. The Completion Day of the first Session of a new Legislature will occur 29 sitting days after the day the budget is introduced, and the Rules for budget votes will apply.

11. Special Provision for Third Session of the 25th Legislature (2006-07 Session)

The Government may designate up to three bills introduced in the 2007 Spring period as “Specified Bills.” These Specified Bills must be introduced no later than March 22, 2007. If the bills have not been voted on before the deadline for voting, the Specified Bill must have had no less than 20 hours of debate in order to guarantee a final vote during the Spring period. Both the Government and the Opposition have the option to extend the Spring Session by up to seven sitting days.