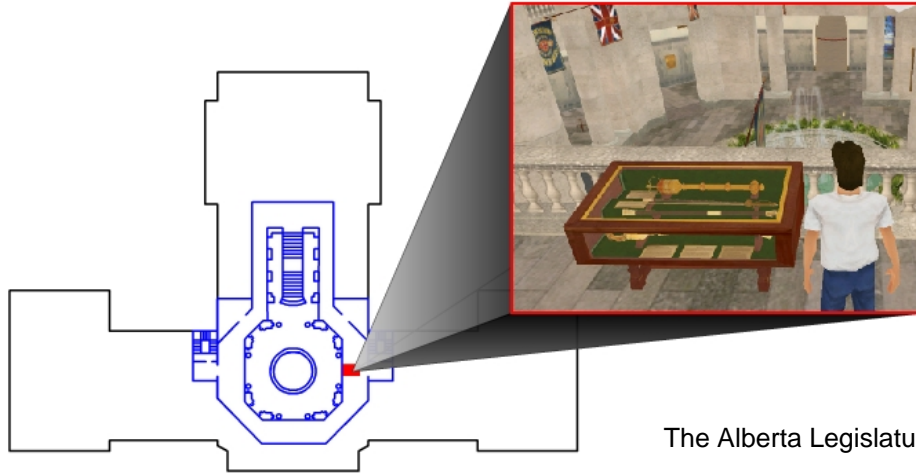


# Virtual Visit: Step Inside the Alberta Legislature

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## Mace Display Case



The Alberta Legislature – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

### The Sergeant-at-Arms' Ceremonial Sword

The ceremonial sword on display is part of the Sergeant-at-Arms' uniform. During Session, the Sergeant-at-Arms wears the traditional Westminster court dress with cock hat. The sword is made from pewter and steel. In 1987, the Legislature Building's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Wilkinson Sword presented a gift of a new sword to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

### The Black Rod

The Black Rod is a ceremonial staff used by the Sergeant-at-Arms when escorting the Lieutenant Governor into the Chamber.

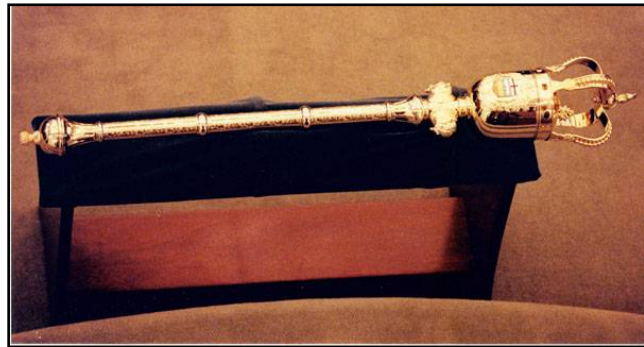


Alberta began using a Black Rod in 1991. On January 27, 1998 the Alberta-NWT Command of the Royal Canadian Legion presented a new Black Rod to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Alberta's Black Rod was funded completely by the Alberta-NWT Command of the Royal Canadian Legion. The Sergeant-at-Arms oversaw the project, and the Black Rod was designed by the Chief Herald for Canada. Calgary silversmith and artisan Charles Lewton-Brain created the Black Rod. The government of the United Kingdom provided a 1905 British gold sovereign that forms a part of the butt end. The government of Sri Lanka gave an ebony rafter that was turned into the shaft. Components of the design include the royal coronet, the Canadian maple leaf, the engraved crest of the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Alberta wild rose.

## The Mace

The Mace is the traditional symbol of the Legislative Assembly's authority to make laws on behalf of the people. The Mace, which is carried into the Chamber by the Sergeant-at-Arms, must be present at all sittings of the Legislative Assembly. In February 1956, the Provincial Civil Service Association



presented the Mace to the Legislative Assembly on the occasion of the Province's Golden Jubilee (the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Province).

The design of the Mace reflects the history and the culture of the province. The Mace features the beaver, the Coronation Crown, the wild rose, sheaves of wheat, buffalo heads and the Alberta Coat of Arms. When combined, the first letter of the name of each gem encircling the Crown spells ALBERTA. In this order, the gems are amethyst, lazurite, bloodstone, emerald, ruby, topaz, and agate.

Made in Birmingham, England, the Mace contains 5.7kg (12.5 lbs.) of gold-plated sterling silver. It weighs approximately 10kg (22 lbs.). In 1955, the cost of the Mace was approximately \$3,000.



The current Mace is the second one to be used in Alberta's Legislature. A "rush order" for the construction of Alberta's first Mace was placed with Watson Brothers Jewellery in Calgary shortly before the first sitting of

Alberta's first Legislature. Rufus E. Butterworth designed and crafted the Mace in only a few weeks using scrap materials and a little creativity. The shaft of the Mace was plumbing pipe mounted on a toilet tank float, some decorations around the orb were made from old shaving mug handles, and bits of an old bedstead and other scraps of wood formed the rest. A piece of red velvet and a coat of gold paint provided the finishing touches. This "temporary" Mace cost \$150 to make and was used for 50 years.