INSIDE POLITICS

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Calgary MP's nap in Commons draws opposition rebuke

Rob Anders caught snoozing on camera during question period

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Calgary MP Rob Anders, famous for a number of controversial comments during a 14-year career as a backbencher, was the source of chatter and criticism Wednesday for snoozing on the job.

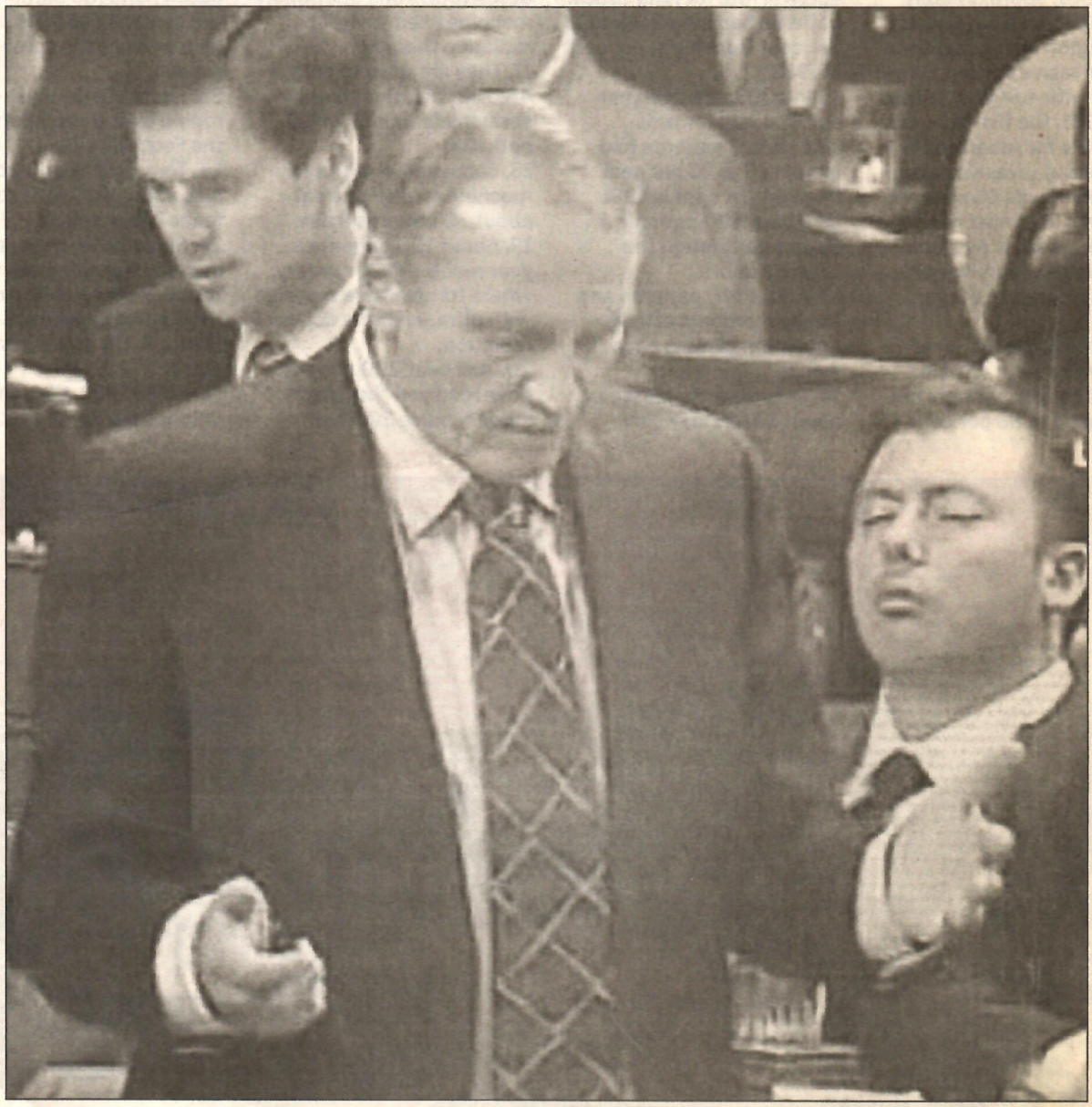
Anders was caught on camera drifting off during question period last week while Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan announced a government initiative to deal with water quality on First Nations reserves.

The video was shown on several news programs Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, and the "SleepyRobAnders" YouTube video had more than 5,000 viewers as of Wednesday evening.

Anders was drifting off while sitting behind Duncan during a testy exchange in the House of Commons.

When contacted by the Herald Wednesday Anders said he was "too busy" exercising to comment.

"I am too busy working out, thanks," he said before the phone line went dead.



YouTube image

Calgary MP Rob Anders, right, snoozes during question period last week as Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan speaks about water quality on First Nations reserves.