

Running roughshod over the Opposition

The legislature opens later today for a full session, and considering we're a month from Christmas Day, the session isn't likely to last long or accomplish much.

Politicians of opposing parties usually disagree on most issues, but hightailing it for a few weeks of yuletide break that runs well into the new year isn't one of them.

The sniping between the Opposition members and the government started long before there was any official opening date for the house and that's likely to grow.

The tiny Opposition wanted more money to hire staff to do their jobs better but government members — thanks to a tie-breaking vote by the Speaker — decided the extra money wasn't necessary.

Even if the session is a quickie, it won't take long to see if the Opposition is too overwhelmed to keep the government on the straight and narrow.

With only four members against 44 on the government side, that is a real possibility.

This unevenness of political power in the house offered a perfect chance for the premier to show his statesmanship.

His government has enough power to pass any legislation it wants and set any agenda it wants under any conditions.

Using its power to put the Opposition in its place isn't necessary and the premier could have demonstrated he doesn't always use a sledge-hammer approach as his detractors claim.

Voters gave the premier all the power he can use because they trusted him with it.

He still has yet to prove he deserves that trust.
