



Province of Alberta

The 27th Legislature  
First Session

# Alberta Hansard

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The Honourable Kenneth R. Kowalski, Speaker

# Legislative Assembly of Alberta

## The 27th Legislature

First Session

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[Errata, if any, appear inside back cover]

## Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 30, 2008

[The Speaker in the chair]

### Prayers

**The Speaker:** Good afternoon and welcome.

Let us pray. Let us keep ever mindful of the special and unique opportunity we have to work for our constituents and our province, and in that work let us find strength and wisdom. Amen.

Please be seated.

### Introduction of Guests

**The Speaker:** The hon. Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security.

**Mr. Lindsay:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my distinct pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly today a group of some of Alberta's brightest young minds, a group of students from Stony Plain Central school. They're joined by teachers Sherry Constantin, Colleen Schmaus, Sharon Marshall, and Sara Doran. Parents and helpers are Raymond Hohnstein, Alanna Iszcenko, Sandy Lynde, and Cindy Bryant. They're sitting in the members' gallery, I believe. I would ask that they stand and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

**Mr. Dallas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 95 grade 6 students from St. Thomas Aquinas middle school in Red Deer, teachers Mr. Isaac Hanna, Mr. Gary Gylander, Mrs. Cathy Bouchard, Mrs. Sharon Brunnen, Mrs. Amanda Jackson, and parent helpers Mrs. Linda Downey, Mrs. Penny Omilon, and Mrs. Carol Schoen. I'd also like to say hello to Keenan Lal, the grandson of my constituency manager. They are here today enjoying a tour with visitor services. I'm proud of these young folks here from Red Deer that are enjoying their day. I would ask them now to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this House.

**The Speaker:** The hon. the Premier.

**Mr. Stelmach:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure for me to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the Dizak family. I had the pleasure of meeting the Dizaks last year with my wife, Marie, at the Small and Mighty Celebration, and I'd like to share with you just a small part of their story.

The Dizaks had to hear what no parents should ever have to hear: your child Natasia has cancer. But as is said, tragedy often gives way to great strength. Inspired by the incredible strength and courage of their children, David and Carol Dizak along with Tom and Amy Andrews, who unfortunately could not be with us here today, created the Small and Mighty Celebration. The Small and Mighty Celebration is an evening which brings together kids and their families who are fighting cancer and gives them a special opportunity to have fun and enjoy some fellowship while raising funds and giving back to the two charities which provide them with much-needed support, the Kids with Cancer Society and Make-A-Wish Foundation. Of all of the events that my wife, Marie, and I attend throughout the year, the Small and Mighty Celebration was

an honour and experience that deeply touched our hearts. The Small and Mighty Celebration not only gives back but salutes the triumph of spirit that these children and their families so clearly demonstrate. Last year the Small and Mighty Celebration raised over \$55,000.

I am pleased to report that Natasia is now nine years old and is doing well. She's in the members' gallery, accompanied by her parents, Carol and David Dizak, and her friend Kennedi Vendramin. I would now ask them to please rise as the Assembly welcomes them. You are definitely an inspiration to all Albertans.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Well, you know, in the Speaker's gallery today is another member of a certain family that we'd be quite remiss if we did not acknowledge the presence of: the Premier's lady, Alberta's first lady, Mrs. Marie Stelmach.

The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Danyluk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I have two introductions. First, I would like to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly the managing director of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Dave Hodgins. Mr. Hodgins began his distinguished career as a volunteer firefighter and went on to be the fire chief in Strathcona county and London, Ontario. He's a certified emergency manager and has served as president of the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association and a board member of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs. Mr. Hodgins was appointed managing director of the newly created Alberta Emergency Management Agency in May of 2007. I would ask Mr. Hodgins to please stand up and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

Second, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly Paulette Levasseur and Mona McGinnis from the Elk Point Healthcare Centre. They came to the capital city today to receive the award of merit on behalf of the Elk Point Healthcare Centre at the Premier's awards for healthy workplaces. I would ask Mrs. Levasseur and Mrs. McGinnis to stand and receive the traditional warm welcome. I'm not exactly sure if they are seated in the public gallery. They are.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

**Mr. Olson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly today some representatives of the Alberta aboriginal capital corporations. I'm going to have an opportunity, I hope, to say a few more words about them in a member's statement coming up, but for the time being I'll just introduce them. If they would stand as I call their names. I assume they're up above me in the members' gallery. Representing the Alberta Indian Investment Corporation, chair Bernie Meneen and general manager Rocky Sinclair; representing Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc., chair Brian Hjellevold and general manager Michael Ivy; representing the Indian Business Corporation, chair Bernard Fox and general manager Rob Rollingson; and representing the Settlement Investment Corp., chair Alex McGillvray and general manager Wayne Gray. Also accompanying them today is Paul Wyminga from the Department of Employment and Immigration. Now if we can collectively give them a warm welcome, I'd thank my associates very much.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

**Dr. Taft:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to rise to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly several representatives of the Elder Advocates of Alberta Society. They're seated in the public gallery. Now, this society's goal is to uphold the rights of Alberta's seniors, to protect them from abuse and neglect, to ensure that seniors get the respect they deserve. In their own words, the Elder Advocates Society says that old age should be a time of fullness and completion. I am so glad that this society exists to shed light and advocate on this crucial issue. I will ask members to rise as I read their names. The representatives with us today are Ruth and Louis Adria, Joan Wilson, John Bizuk, Irene Stein, Bill and Mary Pelech, and Helene Lapointe. If there are others with them, please rise as well. I would ask all members of this Assembly to please extend them a warm welcome.

Thank you.

1:40

### Members' Statements

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

#### Alberta Emergency Management Agency

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to acknowledge the contributions of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency. Through the agency, staff provide 24-hour, seven-day-a-week support to government and emergency responders. When an emergency occurs, be it a flood, structure fire, chemical spill, or severe storm, agency staff collect and share critical information, and relevant information is communicated to MLAs and Members of Parliament in the affected area. The agency often co-ordinates and may lead during an emergency if such assistance is required by a local municipality.

Last weekend, Mr. Speaker, the agency, through its Agency Response Readiness Centre, otherwise known as ARRC, played a crucial co-ordinating role when a number of wildfires sprang up across our entire province. Information was immediately provided on what was happening, giving updates on the firefighting activities and evacuation plans that allowed members to deliver the most up-to-date and accurate information to constituents.

The agency is seen as a trusted source of information. Receiving timely and accurate information allows the jurisdiction the ability to respond to the event at hand and also respond to citizens during a time of uncertainty. The information allows the jurisdictions involved in emergencies a means to collaborate and share resources. As we know, communication is critical during an event, and it is important to a successful outcome. By working in partnership with other provincial departments, we are truly creating a government-wide response to emergencies. This is truly a team effort, Mr. Speaker.

Thanks to the agency's focus, our province is a leader in fire and emergency management, and Albertans can see that our government is taking action to make communities safer.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Wetaskiwin-Camrose.

#### Aboriginal Capital Corporations

**Mr. Olson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I had the privilege of attending the Alberta aboriginal business symposium on behalf of the Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Minister of Aboriginal Relations. I'm very proud of the fact that these ministries are very supportive of aboriginal workforce initiatives in the province. This was an opportunity to celebrate Alberta's aboriginal

entrepreneurs and also to honour the four corporations known as the aboriginal capital corporations. Again, those are the Alberta Indian Investment Corporation, the Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Corporation, the Indian Business Corporation, and the Settlement Investment Corp. They're best described as development lenders. They function much like community futures corporations.

I must say that until very recently I didn't know much about them at all, and I'm guessing that this would be information of interest to all of my colleagues. These corporations fill the gap where loans from conventional lenders are not available, but they do much more than lend money. They're very effective in terms of business planning, entrepreneurial training, business counselling, accounting, bookkeeping, and so on. Over the past 20 years they have lent out some \$168 million collectively. That's 5,000 loans, creating 8,000 permanent jobs in Alberta. These are corporations we should be very proud of. One of the keys to their success is their autonomy, the fact that they're community owned, and they are very committed to their communities.

You should all have a DVD on your desk, which gives you more information about the success of these corporations. This is very much a good-news story that we should be celebrating, so I'm very happy to say a few words about them today.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

#### Protecting Alberta's Natural Beauty

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Selling Alberta. For a variety of reasons, from the increased value of our Canadian currency to the high price of gas, our tourism dollars declined this year. People are motivated to visit Alberta for a variety of reasons, from attending cultural events to conventions. The biggest attraction, however, for tourists, whether from the U.S., Europe, or the Far East, has always been our natural beauty. From the earliest days of the box camera to today's digital upgrades Alberta's scenic backdrops have been the magnet that draws people to us. For every dollar we invest in tourism, we receive a \$10 return.

Given the growth of Internet access, our tinted nostalgic postcard prints have to an increasing degree been challenged if not replaced by aerial photos and satellite images of vast clear-cuts just 30 metres behind the camouflaging highway hedge, of tailings ponds the size of lakes, and man-made crevasses: horrific images which can be seen from space, that \$24 million of greenwashing cannot erase. Our industrial appetite is devouring our land at such a rate that sustainability has become an afterthought. Unless we re-evaluate, re-regulate, take our foot off the gas, and grasp the steering wheel, we are going to lose much more than our tourism economy. What kind of legacy will be left for our grandchildren and theirs? Even birds, with their tiny brains, know that their survival depends upon not fouling their nests.

Alberta has been blessed with abundant resources. By taking a measured, balanced approach, we won't have to abandon environmental stewardship for the sake of economic development. We can continue to be the destination of choice. We Albertans can have our cake and eat it, too.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Meadowlark.

#### Premier's Award for Healthy Workplaces

**Dr. Sherman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the 2008 Premier's award for healthy workplaces. I was privileged to attend the presentation ceremony earlier today to recognize some of the leaders with the healthiest workplaces in Alberta.

First presented in 2006, the Premier's award for healthy workplaces recognizes Alberta employers who support workplaces that encourage healthy eating, active living, smoking cessation, and much more. In the award's third year 21 workplaces with an employee wellness program applied for the award. Eight workplaces are being recognized this year. The 2008 award recipients range in size from Metromedia Marketing, a Calgary company employing 24 employees; the Elk Point health centre, employing 142 staff in Elk Point; to Canadian Pacific, which employs more than 4,200 employees throughout Alberta. The award recipients show us that workplaces of all sizes can help promote wellness initiatives.

Workplace wellness initiatives benefit employers, employees, as well as society. For society, by improving the health of Albertans, we are decreasing the number of patients in the system, thus reducing our wait times and ensuring sustainability of our health care system. For employers there are the financial implications of fewer sick days, more productive employees, and reduced leaves of absence. Most importantly, in Alberta healthier employees mean healthier Albertans who can enjoy their families, their communities, and their lives in general just that much more.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the workplace has a powerful impact on the health and wellness of our society. Because many of us spend more than half of our waking hours at work, it's important that our workplaces encourage employees to live healthy, active lives and reduce their risk of chronic disease. These awards demonstrate that all workplaces can make meaningful contributions to the well-being of their employees and their communities. Hopefully employers that don't have workplace wellness programs will be inspired by these leaders to establish such programs.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the 2008 Premier's award recipients for healthy workplaces for their dedicated efforts in putting their employees' health and wellness first and invite the rest of the employers in the province to take up the challenge.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay.

### Canadian Library Month

**Ms Woo-Paw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Libraries are the heart of our communities, where our children learn to read, where our students broaden their minds, and where Albertans can find a job and expand their skills. Most importantly, they are places where Albertans gather and build strong communities.

October has been designated Canadian Library Month. The month allows library partners from across the province and Canada to raise public awareness of the valuable role that libraries play in the lives of Canadians. This year's theme, Your Library, Your World, illustrates a variety of programs and services libraries provide and the important role libraries play in connecting us to the world.

Alberta has 310 public libraries. In 2007 Albertans made 17.5 million visits to public libraries. We can be proud that even the smallest rural library in Alberta has access to more than 30 million resources through such innovations as the library SuperNet, the public library electronic network, and the Lois Hole Campus Alberta digital library.

But libraries do so much more than simply house information. Libraries are a public place, for public good, with a public purpose. They are a focal point for citizens and centres of lifelong learning for all of us. They give Albertans access to information, ideas, and culture and contribute to learning, literacy, and personal develop-

ment. They offer essential programs that help new Canadians integrate into society. Libraries facilitate access to tutors for after school support and upgrading.

They have programs that help Albertans find employment through access to computers and websites, resumé writing, and interview skills. The government of Alberta is committed to a strong, sustainable, province-wide public library system. That is why the Minister of Municipal Affairs commissioned an MLA committee to consult with stakeholders to develop strategies on how the province can support libraries in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to reflect on the positive role libraries play in the lives of Albertans as we formally recognize Canadian Library Month.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, before the clerk calls question period, this Assembly has been sitting for nearly 103 years. The mace is in place. Today is the first time in our history that all of the table officers are women in this Assembly.

1:50

### Oral Question Period

**The Speaker:** First Official Opposition main question. The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

### Government Spending

**Dr. Taft:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the silly spending of the big-cheque Tories knows no limits. Just last month this government fast-tracked a grant of \$112,000 to pay for a return lane at the Drayton Valley drag racing club. I assume that's drag as in cars. The newspaper quotes the MLA from Drayton Valley-Calmar saying, quote, Minister Lindsay Blissett worked really hard so that we could have the cheque ready to present at this year's event, end quote. To the Premier: what are your government's priorities when this province provides zero funding to feed hungry schoolchildren but rushes to pay for a second lane at a drag racing track?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, as indicated yesterday, what the member is referring to is a number of projects that were undertaken through the Alberta lottery program. The minister has additional information to present to the House.

**Mr. Blissett:** We have in the last two years \$280 million worth of projects just in the major community facilities program alone. All these programs are matching programs. At least 50 per cent of the funding has to come from community organizations. We work with communities. We make sure that the communities support these projects.

**The Speaker:** The hon. leader.

**Dr. Taft:** Thank you. Again to the Premier. The *Fairview Post* newspaper reports that, quote, Fairview residents and tourists will soon know exactly what time it is, end quote, because this government granted \$40,000 for a clock. When we were told earlier this week that it's too expensive to hire people to enforce safety standards in our hospitals, how can this government spend \$40,000 on a clock?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, I think that if he does some further research, he'll find that there are a few more communities that actually access community lottery funds for clocks. Quite frankly, one of them is Lamont, my hometown.

**Dr. Taft:** Well, I can tell you that that's no reassurance at all, Mr. Speaker.

Again to the Premier. A government news release earlier this year says: "the Alberta government is contributing \$430,000 to the expansion of the Central Alberta Raceways." Can the Premier explain why if a car racetrack can't pay its own way, the government should?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, I'm going to take this hon. member with me when the city approaches us for further support for the international raceway, the races that so many people enjoy in the city of Edmonton, and look the mayor in the eye and say: uh-uh, we're not giving any more help. You'll come with me, we'll join Mayor Mandel, and you give him that message directly.

**The Speaker:** Second Official Opposition main question. The hon. Leader of the Official Opposition.

#### Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute

**Dr. Taft:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, the mismanagement of the public purse goes from silly to tragically inept when people's lives are stake. Last week the Premier dismissed the notion of managing growth saying: "managing growth through the government. Sounds more like what they were doing in the former Soviet Russia." But failing to manage growth has real consequences. To the Premier: why is the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute, after huge budget overruns and scheduling delays, sitting empty and unused six months after its grand opening?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, the Maz centre received an additional \$36 million to complete all of the floors in the Maz, which will help to decant a number of adult thoracic surgeries out of the part of the University where the Stollery shares the space. That will free up many more beds for children at the Stollery. It's a good partnership. We're in the process now of hiring additional staff to staff both the Maz and the additional beds at the Stollery.

**Dr. Taft:** Well, again to the Premier: given that a lavish grand opening was staged by this government six months ago, how much more time and money will it take before the \$200 million Mazankowski heart centre is used for patient care and not just to stage a red carpet event for the Tory glitterati?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, the minister of health can provide more information. But I can tell you that the Maz today is performing surgeries on patients, many from outside the province of Alberta, from northern B.C., northern Saskatchewan, the Yukon, and the Territories. They're all coming here to the province of Alberta, to Edmonton, to receive very highly specialized surgery. We also attracted some of the world's best surgeons right here to Alberta. At least appreciate something.

**The Speaker:** The hon. leader.

**Dr. Taft:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our information is quite the opposite: the ORs are empty, the patient beds are unused, and the hallways are silent. The Mazankowski centre, in fact, is the perfect symbol for this government: over budget, behind schedule, and empty. Will this Premier finally admit that his government's failure to plan is both expensive and wasteful?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, you know, as much as sometimes you

bite your tongue in this kind of line of questioning, I want remind everyone in this Assembly and those sitting in the gallery that our first task was to pay off \$23 billion worth of debt that was imposed by a very hostile government in Ottawa under the leadership of Pierre Elliott Trudeau. It took us years to do it, and now they're saying that we've got to manage growth. That was a sign of how they managed growth. They put unbelievably strict taxes on Alberta, on our oil and gas, killed our economy, caused migration out of the province, and now they're trying to cover it up.

**The Speaker:** Third Official Opposition main question. The hon. Member for Calgary-*Buffalo*.

#### Taser Use by Law Enforcement Personnel

**Mr. Hehr:** Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that I believe our police officers should have the best tools for fighting crime and for their protection. That said, there needs to be a careful and objective dialogue about public safety issues surrounding the use and proliferation of conducted energy weapons by our police forces. To that end, will the Solicitor General commit to putting all recommendations regarding the use of conducted energy weapons made by the chair of the Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP into place?

**Mr. Lindsay:** Mr. Speaker, I don't want to speculate on what may be coming in regard to the RCMP inquiry. But I will say that I'm very proud that the guidelines that we have in this province are some of the strictest in our country, and I have complete confidence that police use our CEDs in a very responsible and appropriate manner.

**Mr. Hehr:** My second question, Mr. Speaker: given the growing number of individuals who may have died as a result of tasers, will the Solicitor General agree to conduct an inquiry into the use of tasers in this province?

**Mr. Lindsay:** Mr. Speaker, there was an incident yesterday of individuals being apprehended, and the taser was deployed. I suspect that's what's bringing these questions forward. I want to go on record as saying that of all the thousands of times that a taser has been used in this province, it has saved thousands of lives. The alternative in a lot of cases is lethal force. It provides safety for the officer, safety for the person who's being apprehended, and also provides another tool for the public.

**Mr. Hehr:** Well, I'm not so sure about that. I don't remember us ever shooting thousands of people in a year. But that's fair enough.

My final question: are any of our provincial sheriffs carrying or being trained to carry tasers?

**Mr. Lindsay:** Well, that's quite a leap, Mr. Speaker. No. At this particular time our sheriffs are not utilizing the taser.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

2:00

#### Syringe Reuse

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A few days ago the Minister of Health and Wellness announced that individuals who had been at the dental clinic and the endoscopy clinic in High Prairie were being tested because of faulty procedures that were being used, going back to 1990, with respect to the reuse of syringes. At the same news conference Dr. Predy, the acting chief medical officer,

said that this was common practice throughout the '90s to the end of 2000. My question for the Premier is: if, in fact, we have to test people at High Prairie, going back to 1990, but similar things were done elsewhere in the province, why are the High Prairie people needing to be tested?

**Mr. Stelmach:** Mr. Speaker, that question is best left to the professionals, that being the public health officer of the province, Dr. Predy, and those that have the science and the knowledge in this very key, important area.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I don't really think that's good enough. It was your Minister of Health and Wellness that announced this look back in testing. So I'll repeat the question to the minister. If, in fact, patients from High Prairie need to be tested, going back to 1990, and this was widespread in other parts of the province, then why do the people who were in attendance at High Prairie need to be tested and other Albertans, who may have had the same thing happen to them, not be tested?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, Mr. Speaker, this is just an absolutely absurd suggestion, that we're going to test 3 and a half million Albertans on some goose chase that this particular member wants to undertake. I would like to quote one of the people who supports this particular member, the president of the United Nurses of Alberta, who says, and I quote: I think there are individuals clearly frightening and creating fear where it's inappropriate and irresponsible to do. I suggest she's referring to him.

**The Speaker:** I'm going to recognize the hon. member in just a second.

The hon. minister will table that document at the appropriate time with the appropriate copies.

The hon. member.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I have a nursing textbook here from 1989, which is before. This says very specifically that uncapped needles and syringes need to be disposed of in proper containers. Going back to 1989. So my question for the minister is: why did you not ensure and why has your government not ensured that proper professional practice was followed throughout the province?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that if this hon. member or any other person in the health care profession in this province knows of a particular situation that they feel is not appropriate or wasn't appropriate, it is their responsibility to notify, in the case of the professionals, their college or, in the case of this particular member, notify me. But he doesn't have anything specific. He is, as the president of the United Nurses of Alberta says, simply frightening and creating fear where it's inappropriate and irresponsible to do so.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood will also table at the appropriate time.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford.

#### Snow Valley Ski Club Funding

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, yesterday in a question directed to the Premier the hon. Leader of the Opposition expressed

scepticism, at the very least, regarding the value of the government of Alberta's contribution last week toward a new chair lift at the Snow Valley ski hill in southwest Edmonton. A few weeks before that the government contributed \$6 million to the Edmonton Humane Society. While whatever logic that may have been underlying this question was not apparent, nor was it apparent in his first question today, I'd like to pursue this theme a little bit further with some questions directed to the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit.

**The Speaker:** I'll have to go to the minister.

**Mr. Blakett:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the Snow Valley ski hill, that was a community project in which the community had to raise \$600,000. Two hundred thousand Edmontonians use that facility each year. That chairlift is there to create more access and give greater capability to the facility to support the members of the community. For 24 years that community has supported Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton, providing free lift tickets and equipment to support a worthy cause.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is to the same minister. Given that members opposite are so concerned about the rationale for this funding, how was the Snow Valley ski society chosen to receive the grant?

**Mr. Blakett:** It was chosen because they put in an application to one of our community liaison officers. There's a set of criteria that they have to meet, and once that has transpired, then that is forwarded to our office for final approval. In many cases we had consulted with the local MLA, who supported this particular initiative. As long as it meets the community needs and is supported by the community, then we'll support that.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Horne:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final question to the same minister: how do you know that the projects funded under this program deliver value to Alberta communities?

**Mr. Blakett:** Mr. Speaker, the MCF program is benefiting Albertans by helping groups like Snow Valley and the Edmonton Humane Society manage the incredible growth pressures we've experienced in Alberta. Also, in the case of Snow Valley getting more skiers and snowboarders up the hills keeps kids and families engaged in healthy activities. They have facilities and programs for seniors and young people.

The hon. members from the opposition, including the Member for Calgary-Buffalo, attended an MCFP presentation for Fort Calgary. The Member for Calgary-Currie attended an MCFP announcement for the southwest arenas. The Member for Calgary-Mountain View also attended an MCFP in Calgary.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

#### Protection of Vulnerable Seniors

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government's treatment of seniors, who have contributed to this province, has raised many issues of concern. There have been many questions raised regarding the rights that seniors have and the respect given to seniors' rights by

the government. My questions are to the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. Can the minister explain why there is currently no requirement to register enacted personal directives and powers of attorney legally with the government?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seniors are very important to this government. In fact, they are a priority for this government and certainly for this minister. We have enacted a new Personal Directives Act, which allows all Albertans from the age of 18 onwards to state what their wishes are if they should not be in command of their own selves. So we have a Personal Directives Act that helps take care of their rights. They can state who their agent is, and the agent can speak for the person who no longer has capacity. We have a registry for these personal directives as well. Both of these are voluntary and . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you. Madam Minister, what is the government policy regarding the obligation for public guardians or trustees to function explicitly in the best interests of the adults who are declared dependent?

**Mrs. Jablonski:** The policy of this government, Mr. Speaker, is to ensure that our public guardians and trustees act in the best interests of the seniors and the people that they represent. It's a priority, it's stated in our legislation, and it's something that we act on every day.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you. My third question will also go to the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. How can the minister protect vulnerable seniors from unscrupulous family or caregivers?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very difficult question. I've always said that there are more good families than bad, and that's why we function so well in society. However, there are those family members that do take advantage of their vulnerable loved ones. We have laws in place to protect people from those kinds of actions when it's obvious. When it's not as obvious, we have means of investigation. It's something that we continue to investigate each day and try to make better for our seniors and families.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

## 2:10 Community Development Funding

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recently born-again fiscal conservative leader of the Liberal opposition seems to be objecting to any and all expenditures from lottery funding that this government has been issuing to valuable not-for-profit groups. My questions are to the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. Can the minister advise that member and his entire caucus, that tends to be supporting him in it, as to how much lottery funding is being directed to ethnocultural and very important groups in our province?

**Mr. Blackett:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm fine to provide the information

for the funding for ethnocultural organizations: 36 projects for the community facility enhancement program, \$33.7 million; four projects for other initiatives, \$380,000, including \$50,000 for the aboriginal showcase at the Junos; six grants for the major community facilities program, \$3.8 million; 84 CIP applications for \$2 million. The total is 130 projects and \$10.077 million from 2005-06 to the present. This includes the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very interesting. Can the minister tell us so that the leader doesn't sow any more confusion: how are these applications reviewed, and how are they approved?

**Mr. Blackett:** As mentioned before, the applicants must be eligible to receive grants. They must meet the program criteria set out by the department's community liaison officers. My department works with the organizations to complete the applications. In the case of the MCFP business plan grants are provided on a matching basis, which means that they must have significant community support. Organizations must complete an extensive application. This process meets the criteria of the Auditor General. Projects also have the support of local MLAs. All MLAs are strong community leaders, so they are great . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the members of the opposition find it very funny and don't seem to have a good grasp of this, I imagine that the minister will tell us that none of these projects, including playgrounds and dancing and other groups, are funded in the opposition constituencies. Are there any?

**Mr. Blackett:** There's a multitude of projects that are funded in opposition – the hon. Leader of the Opposition would be happy to know that we just announced \$10 million for the Go Community Centre in his particular riding. That's a community facility that will help young people. He's saying that we have to spend money on policemen, but he forgets that communities are a responsibility for all of government, all of Alberta. We're doing our job on this side of the House to support those young people.

## Integrated Child Exploitation Team

**Mr. Taylor:** I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, but my questions aren't anywhere near that much fun. In recent weeks we've seen that this government's attention to children in their care has been seriously lacking. Protecting our children must always be a number one priority. This week's announcements on new police resources is lacking in a critical area. To the Solicitor General: the provincial integrated child exploitation team, which protects children from Internet predators, is receiving only two new positions. Given the importance of their work and the time involved in completing investigations, does the Solicitor General really think that only two extra positions are enough?

**Mr. Lindsay:** Mr. Speaker, yes, I certainly support the two new members to the ICE team. They are doing great work and have received some great results. At this point in time, yeah, they are a help, and they're doing a great job. We believe we're on top of that.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.



**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Solicitor General again. The ICE team needs specialized Crown prosecutors working with police investigators to ensure convictions. Can the minister tell us if he would recommend to the Attorney General assigning a specialized Crown prosecutor to the ICE team?

**Mr. Lindsay:** Mr. Speaker, we haven't seen a problem with proceeding with these cases through the judiciary, so at this point in time I wouldn't want to comment on whether we need more Crown prosecutors to review this or not.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One final question to the Solicitor General. There are many retired police officers and retired Crown prosecutors with extensive investigative experience. Would the minister consider hiring or contracting two or three of these highly qualified individuals as civilian analysts to assist in ICE unit investigations?

**Mr. Lindsay:** Well, Mr. Speaker, it's actually a great suggestion from the hon. member. In fact, we have hired a number of retired police officers and Crown prosecutors within our government operations, and in fact a lot of our sheriffs, who are very well trained and doing a great job in this province, are former police officers.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

#### Young Worker Health and Safety

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday this government launched a campaign geared to Alberta's young workers. Bloodylucky.ca is not without controversy, featuring several videos, some of them rather graphic. My question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Why is this government getting involved in such a bold campaign, knowing it might offend some Albertans?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Goudreau:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't like to answer a question with a question, but I would ask: what is the alternative to addressing young worker health and safety? Just turn our backs or pretend that it isn't happening? Well, it is happening, and while some might consider parts of the videos offensive, the truth of the matter is that what is truly offensive is the number of young Albertans being hurt or killed on the job. As for the content that some might consider graphic, there's nothing pretty about work-site injuries. It serves no purposes to sugarcoat this.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first supplemental is again to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. What if parents don't want their teenage children to participate in this program? What options do they have?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, I would hope the vast majority of parents understand the importance of this campaign and share it with their teenage children. However, if they don't want to, they certainly don't have to get involved. This is a web-based campaign, and you have to go to bloodylucky.ca to view the videos. Nothing

is being forced into individuals' living rooms and certainly to those who don't want to, not even through television or through radio. There's some small advertising that plays in movie theatres around the province, and it entices and encourages individuals to check out the website.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister. A leader of a local labour group this morning was on television suggesting for some reason that this campaign blames the worker. How do you respond to that?

**Mr. Goudreau:** Mr. Speaker, to be clear, this campaign is not about assigning blame. There is a shared responsibility between employers, employees, safety associations, industry, and government to ensure safe workplaces. Bloodylucky.ca targets one specific audience that is particularly vulnerable to workplace injuries; however, it does not imply that young workers are solely responsible. We just hope to remind young workers that they are not invincible and that serious injuries can and do happen.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

#### Wait Times for Long-term Care

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister of health along with his cabinet colleagues is plotting to privatize public health here in Alberta. [interjections] Meanwhile, he is doing nothing, absolutely nothing, to improve wait lists for long-term care placements, and it's not a laughing matter, hon. member. His priorities are wrong. He is failing to meet his own targets and the needs of seniors. My first question is to the Minister of Health and Wellness. Given that this minister's own target is to have no more than 242 Albertans waiting in an acute-care hospital for a long-term care bed, how does the minister justify 566 patients waiting? Why have you missed your target?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the member for once is actually correct. This is a real issue with long-term care patients in our acute-care facilities, the most expensive facilities, so we are working on a continuum care strategy paper that I hope will be out in the next month or two. It's going to deal with this issue. But, you know, we are fiscally conservative. We want to ensure that we have the right facilities for people in their communities. We don't just sort of go out and spend money like the opposition would like us to do.

**Mr. MacDonald:** For the record, this is the highest spending per capita government in the country.

Again to the minister. Given that the number of urgent cases in the community waiting for long-term care beds is 536 – this is according to your annual report – and the minister's own target is 233, how can the hon. minister miss this target again by 100 per cent? You yet again are failing seniors.

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, the member can stand there and make all the accusations he wants, Mr. Speaker, but our objective is to get our seniors in the right facility in their community in the way that they want to live, not necessarily put into long-term care. I've said that several times in this House. We need to develop a strategy that focuses on home care, on daily assisted living, and, yes, on long-term care, but we're not just going to go out there and build a whole

bunch of long-term care facilities and stick people into long-term care facilities because the opposition wants us to do that.

2:20

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you. Again to the same minister, Mr. Speaker: how is the government's scheme to reorganize public hospitals into private facilities going to increase the number of long-term care beds that are desperately needed throughout this province?

**Mr. Liepert:** Mr. Speaker, I challenge the member to give me one example of where a public facility is being turned into a private facility. He can't do it, so I don't have an answer to a question that has no substance to it.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by the hon. Member for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne.

### Syringe Reuse

*(continued)*

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to come back to the Minister of Health and Wellness, you know, who likes to accuse others of scaremongering, but it is his statements and the statements of his acting chief medical officer of health that seemed to contain a contradiction, and I really would like an answer to this. If people need to be tested because they reuse syringes at High Prairie going back to 1990, and if that practice was common throughout the rest of the province until the year 2000, why are we testing the people of High Prairie but not people in other places where this practice occurred?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said in my last answer, it simply is not possible to test 3 and a half million Albertans. If there is someone that feels that they had an incident somewhere that they would like to be tested for, the system is publicly funded, open to everyone. They can have that happen. What we had was a situation where it was identified that practices were not being followed in that particular case, so it is prudent to be on the safe side. Yes, there are some situations that, quite frankly, if we want, with the hon. member we can go back to the '40s. There is lots of stuff they did in the '40s that they don't do today.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Mason:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'm not convinced by the minister's argument. Is he saying that his acting medical officer of health is correct when he says that the reuse of syringes was common throughout the province until the 1990s? If that's the case, does the government have any plan to deal with that?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I would actually have to go back and check exactly what the acting chief medical officer of health said because I do not believe that he said it was common practice. I believe he said something to the effect that it was a practice that had been employed in instances in the '90s. But, you know, we're talking almost 20 years ago now. There were a whole bunch of practices in the health care system that were employed in the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s that now with the modern technology – frankly, what we've done is move up the bar in terms of patient safety, and I would think the hon. member should be supporting that.

**Mr. Mason:** Moving up the bar is a good thing, Mr. Speaker, but government testing people either unnecessarily or not testing people that should be tested is unacceptable from a policy point of view with respect to this government.

I want to ask the minister: given the government promised to fix this after the Vegreville hospital situation, what is the minister doing to make sure that this never can happen again in Alberta hospitals?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, as I said several times in this House, Mr. Speaker, the health care system is made up of hundreds of thousands of human beings, and there will be occasions. I cannot promise in this House that no standard or no practice will ever not be adhered to down the road. But what is important is that if there is someone in the health care system that sees a practice that is not being adhered to, they report it. We have colleges. It is the duty of any professional in this health care system to report it to their college if they see something.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne, followed by the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

### Fiscal Accountability

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was announced that Shell is postponing expansion plans at the Albion Sands oil sands facility, blaming the current economic state of affairs along with soaring construction costs as the reason for postponement. My questions are all to the President of the Treasury Board. Given that Shell is making these decisions based on sound economic indicators and best interests to its shareholders, can we expect the government to take the same prudent steps concerning its capital plan in the interests of our shareholders, Albertans?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mr. Snelgrove:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a slight difference, in fact. Shell is responsible to their shareholders strictly on a financial bottom line. As Albertans and as the government of Alberta we have a responsibility to our shareholders to be fiscally prudent, of course, but we still have to continue to respond to the needs for infrastructure and health and education and the infrastructure that makes our other businesses grow and thrive. Where it would be nice to be able to turn off the need as Shell can turn off their need to expand and then come back later, we have an obligation to continue to build and provide the necessary infrastructure.

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Again to the same minister: you know, given the current state of affairs, what's the point of having a 20-year plan, no confirmed money beyond three years if present circumstances mean that we struggle to fund what's currently announced? Is this the time to consider issuing an Alberta bond so that Albertans can invest safely in Alberta infrastructure projects?

**Mr. Snelgrove:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the 20-year plan is more than just a list of projects going out that are necessary parts of the puzzle that is the building of Alberta. It's important to have that vision and that goal so that we can make sure that departments are planning together and that the planning with our municipal partners and that can proceed. If you get further out than three years with committed money, it takes away a certain flexibility that needs to be there to address issues that may arise as we go through the three years. Any form of alternative building methods or financing that is prudent and makes sense we'll certainly be willing to look at.

**Mr. VanderBurg:** Well, I thank the minister for that, but would this not be the perfect time to just park a project and maybe get better value for government dollars, public dollars, by really analyzing some of our capital projects and getting a better bang for the buck, especially when our industry players start slowing down maybe in a year or two because of the economic situation?

**Mr. Snelgrove:** Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne is on the mark when he says that this may be an opportune time for us to continue to build and probably get a better price than we are now. We may be able to in fact take advantage of the opportunity that may open up from some postponements of major commercial projects to catch up and get ahead of the curve to be ready for the inevitability of Shell and others rebuilding their industry in Alberta.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose.

### Seniors' Housing

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 22, '08, the minister stated in *Hansard* that "our seniors can live in dignity where they want to live." However, he neglected to mention the first available bed policy, which moves seniors needing long-term care from the community that they live in to any other area that has a bed available regardless of distance to family and friends, and that's still the practice today. To the Minister of Health and Wellness: how can this minister say that seniors have a choice when they may have to move from the communities they grew up in when the long-term care facility they live in is changed to designated assisted living?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, two things wrong, Mr. Speaker, with the preamble. First of all, the first bed policy applies within a region. The member left the impression that somehow we were going to have patients from Lethbridge living in High Level. That's just bizarre. The first part of her preamble was so bizarre that I can't even remember what the question was. I think it was something along the lines of me saying that we should be providing opportunities for seniors to live where it best fits their need in the community, and I happen to agree.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely, totally agree with the minister that they should live where they want to live, and he has totally misconstrued the preamble.

My second question is: what is the minister's response to the seniors who live in the Calgary area who have been assessed as needing care beyond the level given by designated assisted living and long-term care is not available?

**Mr. Liepert:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not so sure that's correct either because what we do is take care of our senior citizens. We find the best facilities that are available. I did acknowledge with her colleague that, yes, we don't have enough facilities right now. We will be addressing that. Our objective is to ensure that we have a cross-section of facilities so that seniors have the opportunity to go where best fits their care needs and not be stuck into long-term care just because the opposition wants them there.

**Ms Pastoor:** But not when somebody is 90 and they have to go to Pincher Creek from Lethbridge to visit their loved one.

My next question would go to the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. Why does this minister not make it easier for seniors to access information regarding hardship funding that is available to them that would help with the cost of living in facilities that have just increased fees?

2:30

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have a seniors' information line, that's accessed every day on average by about 2,000 seniors. The people who answer this line are trained to be senior friendly and to direct and navigate seniors through this process. Although I don't have the number with me right now, I would recommend that any seniors that need any help or direction phone the seniors' help line.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

### School and Playground Zones

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've met with many parents in my constituency who have children attending schools like G.W. Skene, Monterey Park, and Blessed Kateri. These parents have raised concerns about the fact that these schools have playground zones instead of school zones designated. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Why are some schools only designated with playground zones and not school zones?

**Mr. Ouellette:** Well, Mr. Speaker, under the Traffic Safety Act the municipality determines where and when to use school zones or playground zones or both. By government regulation school zones start with a 30-kilometre per hour limit at 8 a.m. and have three start and end times throughout the day. Playground zones start at a reduced vehicle speed of 30 kilometres per hour from 8:30 a.m. to one hour after sunset.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the minister. That is the very concern. These schools have playground zones that come into effect at 8:30 while students go into school at 8 a.m. Can we make changes to playground zones to ensure they are at the same time as school zones?

**Mr. Ouellette:** Well, Mr. Speaker, my department is looking at amending that regulation for both zone times to start at 7:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m., but if municipalities want to change the end times to past 5 p.m., they can enact a bylaw. However, they cannot change the start time. The speed limit will remain 30 kilometres an hour, and that will increase traffic safety by easing confusion for motorists, for parents, and for children. The proposed amendment is based on previous stakeholder input on playground zones. Also, we will have province-wide . . .

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Bhullar:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, that proposed amendment is, indeed, very promising news.

My final question to the minister: what can be done in the meantime to ensure that the safety of children is not compromised when using playground zones?

**Mr. Ouellette:** Mr. Speaker, municipalities could enact a school zone bylaw in the meantime, but that could take some months. Some municipalities use signage and fencing as well as marked and signal crosswalks, and in some municipalities parents are getting involved. For example, in Calgary parents in some school areas are coming together and working with the city police on education and enforcement strategies, and that's to ensure the safety of our children.

Mr. Speaker, right now, today, I would really like to ask the people to make sure. Tomorrow is a very busy day for children. They'll be wearing dark costumes, and I ask that everybody look after our children tomorrow, on Halloween day.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, followed by the hon. Member for Red Deer-South.

### Tourism Marketing

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The postsummer 2008 Alberta tourism operator survey indicates a decline in tourism almost across the board ranging from 5 to 10 per cent. According to the operators surveyed, operators are – and I quote – unsure of what 2009 will bring and are looking at shifts in market strategy and/or product development to maintain their share of the market. To the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation: now that Travel Alberta is a legislated corporation with a mandate to create a stronger tourism marketing force, can the minister tell us what progress is being made on strategies to increase tourism?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mrs. Ady:** Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the hon. member for the good question because I reported earlier in this House that tourism is down by about 5 or 10 per cent across some sectors. Some sectors, of course, actually didn't see a decline because of the great Stay campaign, that was enacted across the province. Albertans used this province in record numbers. But he does have his finger on an important concern, and that is the economic situation that is out there. I want you to know that we are hard at work at Travel Alberta. We are trying to anticipate these trends, make sure that we're marketing in proper places, and will continue to do that good work.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Tourism is a \$5 billion industry, and Travel Alberta has indicated that their goal is to expand this to a \$6.5 billion industry by 2011. Can the minister tell us what progress is being made to achieve this target? What specific plans are in the development stage?

**Mrs. Ady:** Well, it's very difficult for me to be specific about plans other than that I can share with the hon. member that we have a three-year Stay campaign going on, so we will be continuing to encourage Albertans. As far as our other markets go, we are in all sorts of new markets. We're down in Mexico. We're seeing a rise in that particular piece. We're down in Orange county. We're in our tried and true markets of England and Germany. We're in Asia for the first time in a big way. So we're very encouraged by the progress that we're seeing.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Chase:** Thank you. A reminder of the 1960s song: stay, stay, stay just a little bit longer.

The U.S. economy and the world's economy, for that matter, are not expected to stabilize any time soon, which will lead to challenges for operators. What steps is the minister taking to provide assistance to operators, both small and large, impacted by the economic slowdown?

**Mrs. Ady:** Well, the hon. member is right. That is a great song, and I think Albertans love singing it and thinking about Alberta.

Relative to what we're doing, we've got the tourism levy, which gives us sure funding to go out there. The Travel Alberta corporation is getting ready. It will be fully operational by April, but we're not being stagnant in this time period. We're going to be spending some \$67.2 million next year, Mr. Speaker, in marketing and creating new product for this province. I'm telling you we're not going to sit on our laurels. We're going to do all that we can.

**The Speaker:** Sounds like the hon. minister is following that other song, *On the Road Again*.

The hon. Member for Red Deer-South, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

### Wildfire Season

**Mr. Dallas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta's wildfire season closes tomorrow. My question is for the minister of sustainable resources. How did this year's season compare to those of previous years?

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, the wildfire season does close tomorrow. I'm happy to report to the Assembly that while the number of fires this year went up, the amount of forest lost went down considerably. We fought 1,600 fires this year compared to 1,260 last year. But while the number of fires was up by more than a quarter, the number of hectares lost last year was 103,000 hectares. This year only 20,000 hectares were lost despite the greater number of fires.

**Mr. Dallas:** To the same minister, Mr. Speaker: can we expect this year's trends to be repeated in subsequent seasons, then?

**Dr. Morton:** Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to report that the credit for this achievement this year goes to our wildfire suppression team both here in Edmonton and in the field. We have a fire centre here that anticipates where the weather is. There is a predeployment system that gets our resources out where the likelihood of fire is greatest. Thanks to that effort and also to the brave men and women who do our firefighting, who put their lives on the line all day during the season, we have another good result this year. I'd like to use this opportunity to thank those brave men and women for a job well done.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member?

The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

### Ministerial and Senior Official Vehicle Fleet

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, when a colleague of mine asked the minister in charge of Service Alberta about making the ministerial vehicle fleet more fuel efficient, she didn't have much to offer in response about overall guidelines, so I thought I'd ask a few more anecdotal questions today. To the minister: what does the minister drive, and does she know her approximate gas mileage?

**The Speaker:** That's government policy?

**Mr. Taylor:** I was looking forward to an answer.

**The Speaker:** Go ahead. It's okay. I recognized the minister. I just wonder if this is government policy.

**Mrs. Klimchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that when we all come to these positions as MLAs and as ministers, we all have our private vehicles. Most certainly, that's our choice as we move forward. I know that with respect to the whole executive fleet and greening the whole fleet, that's something that is very important to me and, as well, respecting what each individual's needs are across Alberta as all MLAs represent Albertans.

**The Speaker:** The hon. member.

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do look forward to finding out, if this is important to the minister, what she's going to do about it and when. Given that ministers and senior officials don't seem to be able to be relied on to be environmentally responsible on their own, when will this minister finally commit to a timeline requiring it of them?

2:40

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mrs. Klimchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated previously, the Minister of Environment and myself are having excellent discussions on the fleet, on the executive, a whole number of areas, especially in the area of idling. We have 36 hybrid vehicles right now that we are using, especially within the cities, the courier services that go across Alberta and the cities, and that's most definitely where the hybrids can be used. We're also looking at cars that are more gas efficient. So there are a whole number of areas that we are most definitely working on.

**Mr. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, when we talk about ministers and senior officials, I think we're talking about setting an example here, and with a \$43,500 taxpayer-funded perk I think we can expect an example to be set. When are you going to bring in a policy that requires hybrid vehicles or fuel efficient or ultra fuel efficient vehicles for ministers and senior officials?

**The Speaker:** The hon. minister.

**Mrs. Klimchuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of the executive fleet, currently 10 ministers have those vehicles, three of which are hybrid vehicles, so most certainly there is a great move in that direction. I think, too, that with the hybrid technology improving and changing every day as we speak, we are going to have more options available and able to use Alberta taxpayers' dollars in the best way.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, that was 100 questions and responses today.

We will pause for 30 seconds before we return to the Routine.

As we return, let me just acknowledge an anniversary celebrated by the hon. Member for Calgary-Mackay. Happy birthday.

### Members' Statements

*(continued)*

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

### Health Care Standards

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today we are facing a very serious situation in public health in Alberta because of this government's neglect and mismanagement. The list of health care scandals in this province is, sadly, too long to elaborate. However, I will begin with just two years ago in Vegreville, when it was discovered that medical instruments were not being sterilized, and 80 people were tested for potential cross-contamination. The response was the Cowell report, which outlined recommendations for a safer health system not only for citizens in East Central health but for all Albertans. But these recommendations were not followed, and promises were not kept. This week the people of High Prairie face a similar threat: 2,700 people are at risk today of contracting HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C because of outdated and unsafe medical practices.

In recent years five Alberta babies died from congenital syphilis, an indictment of this government's handling of public health considering that congenital syphilis is a condition rarely seen outside of Third World nations. Political interference with doctors trying to develop an effective response interfered with efforts to combat the epidemic. The health minister claimed that the departure of the four public health doctors was because the province could not afford to meet their salary expectations despite public health doctors being among the lowest paid in the profession. Yet months later departing regional health CEOs were paid millions of dollars in severance, money that should have gone to front-line services. These are not the actions of a government intent on improving infection prevention and control and sterilization practices. These are not the actions of a government committed to a strong and effective public health system.

### Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

**Mr. Prins:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 17, 2008, the Assembly passed Government Motion 8, which directed the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing to review and consider the temporary amendments to the standing orders and other issues relating to the proceedings in the Assembly. As chair of this committee I'm pleased to rise today to table five copies of the committee's interim report on this matter and to have copies of the report distributed to all hon. members of this Assembly.

I would like to acknowledge support provided to the committee by the staff of the Legislative Assembly Office, specifically our five table officers. I'd also like to thank the committee members from all parties and the House leaders for their input. I look forward to tabling the committee's final report on this matter within a month.

Thank you.

### Introduction of Bills

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Aboriginal Relations.

#### Bill 37

#### Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act

**Mr. Zwodzesky:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to request leave to introduce a bill today being the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act.

Mr. Speaker, very briefly, this bill will recognize millions of

Ukrainian men, women, and children who perished in the Ukrainian famine and genocide, Holodomor, of 1932-33. It will also establish and proclaim the fourth Saturday in November each year as the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day in Alberta. The debate on this historic bill will start in a few minutes. [Standing ovation] Thank you, members.

[Motion carried; Bill 37 read a first time]

### Tabling Returns and Reports

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Culture and Community Spirit.

**Mr. Blackett:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of the list of major community facilities projects approved for the city of Edmonton. The list of capital projects helps address the growth pressures in Edmonton and helps the government's mandate for growing strong and safe communities as given to us by our Premier. I would like to pass this on to the opposition. I would like to have them go through this list and tell us which one of these worthy projects they would like to have cancelled.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning.

**Mr. Sandhu:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in the House to table five copies of four different documents. First, on October 9, I attended an awards ceremony at John D. Bracco junior high school in my riding of Edmonton-Manning. I'm tabling five copies of a program from the ceremonies. At the ceremony I helped the principal give the awards to the students, and my office provided a cake for the occasion.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Health and Wellness.

**Mr. Liepert:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to table – actually I'm going to table 10 copies of an article out of the *Edmonton Journal* which was very critical of certain members who are spreading fear in the health industry today.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, you have a tabling?

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of an excerpt from a standard textbook on nursing entitled *Fundamentals of Nursing*, second edition, published in 1989. It describes procedures for administering intravenous medications, including the instructions to dispose of uncapped syringes.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, you had additional tablings?

**Mr. Sandhu:** Yes, sir. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have five copies of a program from the first ever Stone Soup Gathering. This event was put on by STOP, Striving To Overcome Poverty. The organization is formed by a gathering of service groups and northeast Edmonton groups, including the unity centre, the Candora Society, Amity House, and the gateway association, to name a few. The John D. Bracco school performed the play called Stone Soup and helped serve the families.

I'm also tabling five copies of a book of quotations from people

who attended this event that are living in poverty. These booklets were prepared by STOP from their many events over the years.

Finally, I have five copies of an advertisement from the unity centre, located in my riding of Edmonton-Manning. I attended the unity centre's first ever Longhorns & Lassos event at the Northgate centre on October 19. The very talented Brett Kissel was there to entertain the guests. The unity centre provides services to those who are underprivileged, including food, clothing, tax preparation, and helps connect their clients with other services for all people. They help over 200 each year in the Kilkenny community of northeast Edmonton. They raised over \$7,000 to help the community.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

2:50

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

**Ms Pastoor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I table five copies of the pamphlet that Team Lethbridge has been circulating during their meetings here with legislative members. Team Lethbridge is comprised of community leaders representing 12 organizations that make Lethbridge the vibrant, innovative, and forward-looking city that it is. Also, it points out in a very concrete way the contributions Lethbridge makes to this province; to name a few: water research, international art exhibits, music, agricultural products, and, most important, healthy, active children.

**The Speaker:** Some members may want to use Members Statements time for some of these tablings.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table for the Assembly this afternoon the mission statement and the organizational chart for the Alberta Health Services Board.

Thank you.

### Tablings to the Clerk

**The Clerk Assistant:** I wish to advise the House that the following document was deposited with the office of the Clerk: on behalf of the hon. Ms Evans, Minister of Finance and Enterprise, response to Written Question 21 asked for by Dr. Taft on October 27, 2008: what are the grant and estimated tax exemption costs for the department of agriculture's farm fuel benefit program from April 1, 1999, to March 31, 2008?

### Projected Government Business

**Mr. Chase:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call upon the Government House Leader at this time to share the projected government business for the week of November 3.

**The Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, November 3, 2008, at 8:30 p.m. under Government Bills and Orders there will be a motion on the Order Paper, Motion 20, with respect to the reappointment of the Ombudsman. Following that, second reading of Bill 39, the Court Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 42, the Health Governance Transition Amendment Act; and Bill 41, the Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2). In Committee of the Whole bills 10, 18, 27, 23, 24, 29, 32, and 33; the names are all on the Order Paper, so I'll save the House time in terms of reading them, and they have all been discussed before, of course. Third reading of Bill 34, Employment Pension Plans Amendment Act; Bill

35, Government Organization Amendment Act; Bill 36, Land Titles Amendment Act; and Bill 38, Securities Amendment Act.

On Tuesday, November 4, in the afternoon under Government Bills and Orders for second reading bills 42 and 41, and new on the Order Paper Bill 43, Emergency Health Services Act; Bill 44, Pharmacy and Drug Amendment Act; and Bill 45, Statistics Bureau Amendment Act. In Committee of the Whole bills 39, 24, 27, 29, 32, and 33. For third reading bills 34, 35, 36, 38, 10, 18, and 23. In the evening at 7:30 under Government Bills and Orders the same lineup, depending on progress.

On Wednesday, November 5, in the afternoon under Government Bills and Orders for second reading the same lineup, Mr. Speaker: bills 42, 41, 43, 44, and 45; in other words, depending on progress. In committee bills 24, 29, 32, 33, and 39; and for third reading we anticipate bills 23, 27, 18, 34, 35, 36, 38, and 10, of course depending on earlier progress. In the evening the same lineup.

On Thursday, November 6, in the afternoon under Government Bills and Orders for second reading bills 41, 43, 44, and 45; in committee bills 42, 29, 32, and 33; and third reading of bills 24, 39, 34, 35, 36, and as per the Order Paper.

We also, of course, have dealt with a number of bills in third reading, so at some point, if we can arrange it, we may anticipate the attendance of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, but that will be subject to our ability to schedule same either this next week or perhaps following.

### Orders of the Day

**The Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would request unanimous consent of the House to waive Standing Order 77(1) to proceed to second reading of Bill 37. Our standing orders not allowing progress of more than one stage a day without unanimous consent, I would seek the consent of the House to proceed.

[Unanimous consent granted]

**The Speaker:** As I recognize the hon. Minister of Aboriginal Relations, is there an opportunity for us to revert to Introduction of Visitors?

[Unanimous consent granted]

### Introduction of Visitors

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. It's a pleasure to introduce to you some very special guests who are here in our galleries today. These people have been waiting a very long time for this bill to be brought forward, and they have helped enormously. I would like to introduce some of them to you right now. If they would stand and remain standing, we could then collectively applaud their presence: the president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Alberta Provincial Council, Daria Luciwi; members of the "Liga" – League of Ukrainians Peter Dackiw and Jaroslaw Szewczuk; members of the Ukrainian clergy His Grace Bishop Ilarion, Father Michael Maranchuk, Father Stephan Semotuk, Father Cornell Zubritsky, Father Anton Tarasenko, and perhaps others are here. Finally, Mr. Speaker, my wife, Christine, and my mother, Anna, are here.

If you would remain standing and if I could ask the rest of the members in our gallery to also please stand, I want to introduce to you survivors of the Ukrainian famine of 1932-33. If they would please rise, we will applaud them one at a time: Mariya Holynska,

Fedir Horobec, Vera Ruday Horobec, Leonid Korownyk, Fedir Krykun, Stefania Krykun, Dusia Marych, Marija Prokopchuk and Hryhorij Prokopchuk, John Shaskin, Yar Slavutych, and Mrs. Natalia Hrebinska Talanchuk. [Standing ovation]

Mr. Speaker, our survivors of the Ukrainian famine and genocide are escorted today by Alberta's first lady, Mrs. Marie Stelmach. Thank you, Marie, for being here to perform that function.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, it's a long time since 1932-33, and we live in a different world than the Ukraine, but interestingly enough there's a connection. One of our pages, Maryna Muzychenko, was born in 1991 in the Ukraine and came to this country in 2002. Therein lies the connection of the times and the ages.

3:00

### Government Bills and Orders Second Reading

#### Bill 37

#### Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act

**The Speaker:** Proceed, please. The hon. the Premier.

**Mr. Stelmach:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my profound honour to rise as the first speaker in debate and, on behalf of my colleague the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek, to move second reading of Bill 37, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act.

I do this with a great range of personal emotion. It goes from immense satisfaction that we are able to officially recognize this tragic event in law to a profound sorrow and sadness about the horrific circumstances that make a bill like this necessary. The man-made famine that was forced on the Ukrainian people by the former Soviet regime led to the annihilation of millions of innocent Ukrainian men, women, and children. It was without question one of the most heinous atrocities of modern history. Scholars and historians have estimated that as many as 7 million Ukrainians perished during this famine, perhaps even more when the areas adjacent to Ukraine's borders are included. The exact number may never be known since historical data was destroyed or concealed by Soviet authorities.

The tragedy of this imposed starvation is almost unbelievable when one considers that Ukraine has been long known as the breadbasket of Europe. Ukraine is blessed with some of the most fertile and productive land in the world, chorna zemlia, as Ukrainians call it, black soil. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it was the love of this fertile black soil that helped persuade early Ukrainian immigrants to choose Alberta as their new home. There are striking similarities between the land in Ukraine, particularly western Ukraine, where the first wave of Ukrainians immigrating to Canada came from, and the land northeast of Edmonton, which is where those early pioneers were settled.

Now, when Ukrainian immigrants first began coming to Alberta in 1891-92, they felt welcomed by that black soil that reminded them of their homeland. My grandfather and grandmother were amongst those early pioneers who came to Alberta in the late 1890s, and Marie and I still maintain the original farm that they settled on. We till the same soil they did, and we also give thanks for the abundant crops that soil yielded, even though we had a lot of rocks to pick raising that crop.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, I cannot offer a similar happy story about the abundant crops yielded by the black soil in Ukraine in 1932-33. In Ukraine the people farming this rich land were forced to deliver all of their marketable grain to the state. They were not allowed to

sell it or keep it for themselves. Resistance could mean arrest and exile to Siberia. Neither were they allowed to keep any seed grain which was to start next year's crops. Soviet authorities even blockaded Ukraine's borders, which prevented farmers from travelling to neighbouring regions to obtain food to feed their families. Soviet authorities collected all of the marketable grain and exported it to earn money for new equipment to maintain Stalin's breakneck pace of industrialization, nationalization, and collectivization.

It should be noted that at the same time that they were forcing Ukraine into famine, Soviet authorities were also arresting Ukraine's intellectuals. It was truly an assault on Ukrainian people, which history is now proving was clearly premeditated and very deliberate. It was as if a war had been declared on the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of this devastating chain of events, mercifully a number of Ukrainians survived. They did so by resorting to extraordinary means, such as boiling and eating bark from trees, eating wild grass, and consuming whatever domestic or wild animals they could find. Others managed to escape the tyranny of their oppressors and found refuge in neighbouring countries. Today in your gallery are some of those survivors, who I want to recognize and also thank for their attendance. Once again, thank you so much for being here today. [Remarks in Ukrainian] How you survived that, only God knows. [As submitted]

I also want to thank all of our other guests in the galleries today, both members' and public, and those who are listening in on the Internet around the world. We have representatives here from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council, the League of Ukrainian Canadians, the Ukrainian clergy, the University of Alberta, and from numerous community groups and organizations. I am pleased to welcome all of you here today as proud Albertans of Ukrainian ancestry. You and your forebears helped build this great province, and you have been persistent in your efforts to inform and educate others about the Ukrainian famine and genocide, the Holodomor, as it is known.

It is in the memory of Holodomor victims, those millions of innocent Ukrainian men, women, and children, that we present this historic bill, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act. I note that other Legislatures in Canada have supported or are currently supporting similar legislation, including the government of Canada. Mr. Speaker, we cannot change the past, and we cannot right the wrongs, but we can recognize this tragedy for the horror that it was. We can enshrine its commemoration into Alberta law, and we can forever respect those who survived and forever honour those who perished. [Remarks in Ukrainian] Eternal memory unto them. [As submitted]

Thank you. [Standing ovation]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition.

**Dr. Taft:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a solemn privilege for me to rise to debate this bill today. I want to start by thanking the Premier for his heartfelt and eloquent words. They were very touching, very powerful. Thank you.

Bill 37, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act, will receive the wholehearted support of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. The principles behind this bill are noble and deserving of the respect of all Albertans.

As the Premier has noted, the Holodomor, the Ukrainian famine of the early 1930s, was a human catastrophe of massive scale, comparable to the Holocaust. Unlike the Holocaust, however, public awareness of the Holodomor remains relatively low, perhaps

because the full measure of the truth wasn't revealed for many decades after the fact and, indeed, is continuing to be revealed now. It is our hope that the memorial day act will help raise awareness of the Holodomor and perhaps offer some measure of comfort to the Albertans of Ukrainian heritage who still live with the sorrow of family members senselessly lost.

We can be justifiably proud that Alberta has played an important role in bringing the Ukrainian genocide to light. Robert Conquest's book *The Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivization & the Terror-Famine*, published by the University of Alberta Press in 1986, was one of the earliest books on the subject of the famine. In his introduction, Conquest wrote:

The story is a terrible one. Pasternak writes in his unpublished memoirs, "In the early 1930s, there was a movement among writers to travel to the collective farms and gather material about the new life of the village. I wanted to be with everyone else and likewise made such a trip with the aim of writing a book. What I saw could not be expressed in words. There was such inhuman, unimaginable misery, such a terrible disaster, that it began to seem almost abstract, [as if] it would not fit within the bounds of consciousness. I fell ill. For an entire year I could not write."

That's a quote from the book by Conquest, in turn quoting Pasternak.

3:10

It is amazing that a holocaust of such magnitude, with millions of victims, went largely unreported for so many years. But consider the lengths to which the Soviet government went to hide the truth. They fabricated the 1937 census. They had no choice. So many people had died that to publish accurate figures would have revealed to the world that something genuinely evil had happened. So they inflated the numbers to hide their crime.

This is why remembrance is so important. The Holodomor Memorial Day serves as a time of reflection and mourning, yes, but more importantly it keeps our collective memory of the event alive.

The nature of this genocidal crime is particularly chilling. It involved the systematic starvation of an entire population. I can't imagine a crueller means of subjugation than starving an entire people into submission and ultimately death: men, women, children, entire families slowly withering away, often dropping dead in the streets, all this in spite of the fact that there was indeed enough grain in the Soviet Union to feed everyone. In fact, in 1932 the Soviets passed a law that imposed sentences from 10 years in prison to death on any citizen that misappropriated any socialist property, including grain. Thousands of people were imprisoned and killed in just a few months. The law of the wheat ears, as it came to be known, made an already intolerable situation even worse.

It's the kind of misery that those of us fortunate enough to live in developed nations and places like Alberta and Canada find impossible to imagine today. Yet despite the lessons of history, today genocide continues. We've seen it in Europe, and now we see it in Africa and in Asia.

Fortunately, good people all over the world are doing their best to keep the public informed about genocide. One of those people, the Member for Calgary-Mountain View, put his own health on the line when he went on a hunger strike last year to call attention to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur. Most of the deaths in that region have been attributed to starvation. How long will this continue?

Food is a basic, essential human right. To deliberately deprive innocent people of food is a crime against humanity, and indeed just this year the European Parliament recognized the Holodomor as such.

There is a tragic irony in the Holodomor experience: famine in the midst of plenty in one of the world's great breadbaskets, human



beings subverting nature, almost mocking the land that we have heard about earlier, turning a nation of farmers into a nation dying of starvation.

We are so very fortunate the Ukrainians survived that experience and that they continue to enrich other nations with their skills and their perseverance. Much of Alberta's artistic and agricultural wealth and so much more can be attributed to our Ukrainian immigrants, who to this day help make Alberta the rich, bountiful place it is.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to again thank the Premier, the minister, and the government for introducing this bill. History means nothing if we don't keep it alive in our hearts and minds. The Holodomor Memorial Day will ensure that a tragic but important chapter of our world's history remains relevant and cautionary for Albertans of all ages.

Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

**Mr. Mason:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to speak on behalf of my constituents and the New Democratic caucus in support of Bill 37, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act. Ukraine had long been the most agriculturally productive part of Europe. The Soviet Union's determination to force the collectivization of farms and the requisitioning of grain led directly to a famine in which 10 million people died. In a century filled with war and genocide, Holodomor stands as a tragic lesson in the abuse of power. It is a reminder of the necessity of working for a world determined by human rights and the dignity of all persons.

The fourth Saturday in November has been recognized by the Parliament of Canada and the Legislatures of Manitoba, Ontario, and Saskatchewan as an annual day of remembrance of the genocide in Ukraine. I'm pleased that Alberta will now join in recognizing this occasion. Canada and the prairie provinces in particular have been profoundly shaped for the better by the large number of immigrants from Ukraine and their descendants. For us Holodomor is not a distant historical event in a distant country; it directly touches the lives of many Albertans and must always be remembered by all Albertans.

Along with the Holocaust Memorial Day and Genocide Remembrance Act, passed by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 2000, this bill will serve to remind us that we must ensure that the violent and tragic history of the 20th century will not be allowed to repeat itself ever again.

Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

**Mrs. Leskiw:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak in favour of Bill 37, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act. In Alberta today there are many individuals of Ukrainian descent whose families have been deeply affected by this horrific act in history. [Remarks in Ukrainian]

Mr. Speaker, as the daughter of Ukrainian immigrants and as someone who has a large family still living in Ukraine, I am proud to be speaking to this bill today. I also want to sincerely thank my friend of many years the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek for having pursued this bill for many years and for today concluding that journey so very successfully by having it presented in our Alberta Legislature. [Remarks in Ukrainian]

Bill 37 seeks to create awareness and understanding of Holodomor

for what it was: a genocide induced by famine against the people of Ukraine. In Ukrainian the word "Holodomor" means hunger and plague; in other words, death from hunger, and I appreciate that this tragedy was much more than that. The Holodomor was a precalculated extermination by means of starvation. It occurred primarily between 1932 and 1933 and was imposed upon the people of Ukraine by the Communist regime of the day. It was a cruel and deliberate genocide that resulted in the death of millions of men, women, and children. Our most commonly referenced number of victims goes as high as 7 million to 10 million when we include residents of Ukraine as well as Ukrainians living in the nearby regions. It is a crime against humanity that should never be repeated.

Mr. Speaker, it was a crime against the people of Ukraine that should not be forgotten. It is important now more than ever that we continue to preserve the memory of those who perished and those afflicted by these atrocious acts. We must honour their determination for survival and their ability to recover after such a horrific tragedy.

3:20

The current president of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, identifies the importance of recognition as a means of preservation and prevention with the following:

I address you on behalf of a nation that lost about ten million people as a direct result of the Holodomor genocide . . . We insist that the world learn the truth about all crimes against humanity. This is the only way we can ensure that criminals will no longer be emboldened by indifference.

In Alberta alone there are over 300,000 Ukrainian descendants, including our Premier and several other members of this Legislature. It would mean so much to all of these people if the province were to dedicate the fourth Saturday in November each year to honour the memory of the victims of the Holodomor. It is truly a remarkable way of honouring their memory and their struggle. The provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have chosen to recognize this day also, and for Alberta to do so would be very meaningful for families like mine.

This bill memorializes the victims of Holodomor and preserves the legacy of its survivors. It will help honour the memory of those affected, and I hope and pray that it will prevent such tragedies from ever being repeated.

[Remarks in Ukrainian] Never again. May eternal memory be upon them. [Remarks in Ukrainian] [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

**Mr. MacDonald:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured today to rise and join my fellow MLAs in supporting Bill 37. It is a good bill with a very important purpose. November is already associated with remembrance, so it seems quite appropriate to me to add the fourth Saturday in November as a memorial day, a day to reflect on past tragedy and to hopefully ensure that such tragedies will not happen ever again.

In Churchill Square, not far from this Assembly, there is a monument to Holodomor. The monument is quite beautiful and evocative, if foreboding. It features hands withered by starvation reaching out for help, set against the background of a twisted and broken circle of life. For millions of Ukrainian victims of the famine the help they were crying out for never came.

Perhaps memorializing the fourth Saturday in November will help stand guard against tyranny, violence, and inhumanity as the Holodomor monument downtown demands. Millions died in the Holodomor, and the loss to the world is immeasurable. Who knows

what gifts those murdered millions could have bestowed upon the world? Who knows what discoveries they might have made, what works of art they may have created? Who knows what legacies they may have left had they been allowed to live full lives in peace?

It is terrible to contemplate the destruction of so many hopes and dreams. Every victim had a history, a name, personal ambitions, and unique gifts. Most importantly, they had loved ones. Every one of those victims wanted to provide for their families, to pursue their dreams, to enjoy the full measure of happiness and fulfillment that every human being hopes for and works toward. But the victims of Holodomor were denied the opportunity to pursue these dreams. In fact, they were denied any opportunities at all. Their futures were stolen by a cruel, evil government.

Some people have tried to cover up the Holodomor, claiming that it was an unavoidable natural disaster. It simply isn't true. The hon. Premier spoke about this. Let's get this on the record. In 1931 Ukrainians harvested over 18 million tonnes of grain; in 1932 over 14 million tonnes; in 1933 over 22 million tonnes. More than enough to feed Ukraine's people. It is interesting to note that the highest death rates occurred in four of the Ukraine's most fertile grain-growing provinces, including Odessa. Twenty to 25 per cent of people living in these provinces died during the artificial famine. To deny innocent people food is the very definition of a crime against humanity, the kind of offence against common decency that resonates throughout history as an example of our worst failings.

The only way to overcome the crime of genocide is to remember the victims and in their names create a world in which the crime becomes unthinkable. We can do that by defending human rights whenever they are threatened, by exercising our franchise as voters, by supporting policies that empower citizens, and by speaking out against racism and intolerance. Once we recognize that we all belong to a single human family, it becomes inconceivable to allow such crimes to occur against our brothers and sisters.

Bill 37, I hope, reminds Albertans that families right here in Alberta were profoundly affected by events that took place on the other side of the world. A crime of this nature shatters all barriers of nationality or creed. Genocide is an affront to the entire human family. Let's do our part in Alberta to guard against further genocides. Bill 37 is a good first step.

In conclusion, on behalf of the constituents of Edmonton-Gold Bar I would like to personally thank the hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek for bringing this bill to the Assembly. Certainly, it is a very proud day for his community. It is also welcome news that your mother is up in the members' gallery.

Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Mr. Danyluk:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A time comes when silence is betrayal: Martin Luther King said these words in 1967. They are as true today as they were then. Memorial celebrations such as this one are how we can pay tribute to those who perished in Holodomor. As a Ukrainian descendant I always will be honoured to speak of acts of recognition because speaking out is my way of acknowledging the pain and suffering experienced by the Ukrainian people: the men, women, and children who share faith, traditions, and a heritage the same as my own and the Ukrainian residents in my constituency.

The Holodomor was a horrific period in Ukrainian history, but in spite of this the Ukrainian spirit has remained strong. Some of the survivors of the famine and genocide and their descendants reside in Alberta. I want to recognize the horrors faced by their brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, and friends who perished. I would like to

thank the survivors who immigrated to Alberta for the contributions they have made to make our communities strong with their resilience, dignity, and skill. I am proud to represent a constituency where so many Ukrainians thrive and enjoy a quality of life many of their forefathers could only dream of.

With deep respect I thank you for inviting me to speak today as we gather to remember those who died and pay honour to those who have survived. Do not let the sacrifice and the loss they experienced be forgotten. It is an injustice and a betrayal. Tell stories, remember, speak out. May their memory live forever, and may such tragedy never be repeated. [Remarks in Ukrainian] [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to rise today in front of our guests, in front of the survivors, and echo the comments of my colleagues in support of Bill 37. It's a bill that comes from the heart with noble intent, and I commend the minister, the Premier, and his government for bringing this forward.

3:30

Genocide is one of the ugliest words in the English language. It conjures up images of true horror and human misery, images I will not presume to describe. Everyone in this Assembly knows exactly what I'm talking about. For some tragedies there are truly no words. But whether or not we can do justice to the horror of genocide with our words, we have a duty to memorialize its victims with our actions, and this bill helps accomplish that goal.

On the fourth Saturday in November people across Alberta will take a moment to remember the millions of innocent Ukrainians who were callously starved by Soviet Communist tyranny. The news stories and word of mouth surrounding the memorial day will serve an important educational purpose. There are still many of us in Alberta who are unaware of this vitally important historical event. I am certain the discussion in Alberta communities this November will help raise awareness of the Holodomor. This is no small accomplishment, for history can only inform and caution when it is understood and remembered. You cannot anticipate and fight an enemy you have not taken the time to understand and to guard against.

Shining the light of truth on secrets that villains would rather have remain buried is a noble pursuit. We should be proud that Albertans have helped and will continue to help shine that light. The Holodomor Memorial Day is not merely a tribute to the fallen; it is a beacon of compassion and goodwill that I hope will help dispel the darkness of future genocides. The millions who died during those dark days of the early 1930s are lost to us forever, yet the Ukrainian nation lives on, stronger than ever both in the nation proper and via its immigrants here in Alberta, across western Canada, and around the world to the benefit of us all.

The Holodomor was a tragedy, Mr. Speaker, but the survival of the Ukrainian people: that stands as a great human victory. Every living Ukrainian is proof that while you can starve the body, the human spirit is much more difficult to extinguish.

Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Seniors and Community Supports.

**Mrs. Jablonski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am honoured to rise in support of Bill 37, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act. Today we grieve with the families and the survivors for the horrible loss of life during the Ukrainian

famine and genocide in the 1930s. We grieve with the families and survivors for the horrible loss of life during the Jewish Holocaust and the Armenian genocide. We grieve with the families and survivors throughout the world for the horrible loss of life in each act of annihilation and terrorism that has destroyed countless lives throughout the world. We grieve for the world, for this is our collective loss.

Mr. Speaker, today we can also celebrate. We can celebrate the strength and the determination of the Ukrainian people and all people who have overcome these horrors and have dedicated their lives to raising happy and successful families. We can celebrate the many exciting cultural and historical gifts they bring to us. We can celebrate the numerous contributions they have made to our communities, our province, and our country.

On behalf of myself, my family, and my grandparents Mariam and Paravon Kalagian, who suffered the horrors of the Armenian genocide and also survived, I congratulate and thank the Ukrainian people for having the courage, the wisdom, and the strength to demonstrate to the world that they will not be defeated, they will not be destroyed, but they will grow and prosper. They will make great contributions to medicine, education, science, and the arts, and they will help make this province, this country, and this world a better place for everyone to live, to love, and to laugh.

Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

**Mr. Chase:** Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity today to rise in support of the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act. I wholeheartedly support the principle of this bill: to help Albertans remember the Ukrainian tragedy. Remembrance is a key defence against future genocide.

When I watch or read the news coming in from around the world today or when I think about the violent history of our world, it is difficult not to be disheartened by the seemingly never-ending evidence of man's inhumanity to man. In recent years we have seen genocidal violence in Rwanda, the Sudan, the former Yugoslavia. Before that we had the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, the Armenian genocide of the early 20th century, and the Holocaust of World War II. One could argue that the near elimination of aboriginal culture in Australia and the Americas during the age of expansion came close to genocide. Our own residential schools contributed to cultural destruction and abuse.

There are, sadly, too many examples to list, but however different the circumstances of each particular tragedy, they all share one common characteristic. When the ugly engine of genocide coughs to life, it is started by one group of people who have decided through some twisted logic that another group of people does not deserve to live.

Mr. Speaker, genocide is with us still. It is happening now. It will almost without doubt occur in the future. But one day genocide will be called well and truly a thing of the past, and that day will come because we are willing to remember these crimes. We remember the victims and the pain their families endured. We mourn the lost potential. We resolve to put a stop to the killing. As John Donne memorably wrote in the 17th century:

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a minor of thy friend's or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

In other words, no matter where or when genocide occurs, each and

every human being is affected by the loss, so we all have a stake in preventing the greatest crime of all.

I commend the government and the minister for bringing this bill forward. This November I will remember and respect the victims of the Holodomor, as will all our fellow citizens. In remembering the crimes of the past, we help prevent the crimes of the future.

Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Castle Downs.

**Mr. Lukaszuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you visit Ekaterina, a Ukrainian senior, she will insist that you eat. "I can't have you leaving here hungry," she says. "Here. Just have a bowl of soup, and maybe later you'll feel like having a sandwich, a cup of tea, and a piece of cake." This hospitable 87-year-old cannot bear the thought of her guests being less than full. But, then, she has a horror of going hungry. Seventy-five years ago, Mr. Speaker, like with your guests, some members of Ekaterina's family and almost all of her neighbours starved to death in a man-made famine that killed millions in the Ukraine.

The Holodomor, as it is known in Ukraine, was part of Joseph Stalin's program to crush the resistance of the peasantry to collectivization of farms. When in 1932 the grain harvest did not meet the Kremlin's targets, activists were sent to the villages, where they confiscated not only grain and bread but all the food that they could find. The confiscations continued into 1933, and the results were devastating.

No one is sure how many people died, but historians say that in under a year at least 3 million and possibly up to 10 million starved to death. The horrors Ekaterina saw live still with her. "We didn't have any funerals; whole families died," she tells me. "Of our neighbours I remember all the Soloveiki family died, all of the Kapushuks, all the Rahachenkos, too, and the Yeremo family: three of them still alive were thrown into the massive grave." Ekaterina, her mother, and a brother survived by eating tree bark, roots, and whatever they could find.

3:40

Though some, like Ekaterina, can never forget what happened, many Ukrainians had never heard of the famine until the country's independence; such was the secrecy about it during the Soviet years. But every year since independence events to commemorate the famine get larger, and the momentum is growing behind the campaign to raise international awareness of what happened. This year, Mr. Speaker, marks the 75th anniversary of the start of Holodomor, and Ukraine is holding a year of commemorations.

Ukraine has officially declared the Holodomor a genocide. It says the famine was part of a campaign to crush Ukrainian nationalism. As Albertans we are forever interwoven with Ukrainian history, heritage, and its great people. This is why, Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon us to honour the victims of this senseless act of genocide inflicted upon the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to profoundly thank our Member for Edmonton-Mill Creek and our Premier for his leadership in spearheading Bill 37. Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Decore.

**Mrs. Sarich:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to rise before the Assembly today in support of Bill 37, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act. If proclaimed, the fourth Saturday in November will become a day that we all can commemorate the horrendous losses of the Ukrainian famine/genocide in 1932-33.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to explain why I support this bill. I support the bill because I think it is important to remember those who perished and to honour those who survived. I think it's important that we all recognize and acknowledge the pain and misery that the Ukrainian people endured during those years.

For me, being a fourth-generation Ukrainian and valuing my heritage and culture to no end, I feel connected to this tragedy. Even though my great-grandparents were fortunate in that they immigrated to Canada at the turn of the last century and were amongst the many first pioneers to break the lands east of Edmonton and even though they did not live in the Ukraine and through the horror of Holodomor, I deeply sympathize with anyone and everyone who did. The devastation was unimaginable and humanists absent. To have endured the experience of losing a mother, a father, a daughter, a son, families, relatives, and communities to hunger because there was literally no food is unconscionable. No matter how hard I try, no matter how hard we all try, we will never truly understand the weight and intensity of the emotions, the loss of life, the human crisis and affliction which these people experienced in the past and the burden of the dark memories that live forever in the minds of the survivors.

With this bill, however, Mr. Speaker, I would remember. I would remind myself of the agony and injustice of Holodomor. I would remind myself of the cruelty inflicted on innocent people in the Ukraine as they were starved to the point of death. I would take leave of the hurriedness of everyday living and always hold in my heart a special moment to remember and pray for all those who perished and all those who survived. Ultimately, I support this bill because I believe it would help to bring about more awareness of Holodomor, convey the sympathy of Albertans, and contribute to the recognition of Ukrainian people within Alberta and all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, may the souls of the Holodomor dearly departed rest in eternal peace always. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder.

**Mr. Elniski:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak in favour of the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Act. Ukraine in the 1930s was among the darkest periods in history ever experienced by the Ukrainian people. The horrors of the Holodomor go far beyond what has been recognized by today's society and by modern history. For this reason recognition of this event for what it is, a genocide, is essential to correctly acknowledge one of mankind's darkest events.

The history of Holodomor clearly recognizes the terror experienced by the Ukrainian people and the genocide committed by Joseph Stalin and his Communist regime. In 1922 Ukraine became part of the Soviet Union. As Stalin strengthened his iron grasp over the Soviet Union, policies of collectivism spread across the nation. The forced collectivization of agriculture was intended to increase output from large-scale, mechanized farms. It was also a method of bringing the peasantry under direct control.

Collectivization meant drastic social change of which many did not approve, particularly in the Ukraine. Ukrainian farmers resisted vigorously when the Soviet secret police forced them to turn their land, machinery, and grain over to the government. To increase grain exports from the Ukraine, Moscow imposed grain procurement quotas on the Ukraine. This left only minimal to no grain for the Ukrainian people. Laws were passed declaring that anyone who was caught hoarding food was subject to execution as an enemy of the people or, in extenuating circumstances, imprisoned for not less than 10 years, which really amounted to the same thing since none of them came back.

The Communist regime dispatched commissions and brigades to make sure these laws were brutally enforced over the Ukrainian people. It is through these commissions and brigades that the homes of the Ukrainian people were broken into. The Soviets thoroughly searched the houses and barns of Ukrainian peasants and confiscated every bit of edible food that they could find. If food was found through these searches, the Ukrainian peasants, often accused of hoarding food or stealing from the state, were then subject to Soviet punishment.

Stalin's collectivization policy was successful in increasing grain exports and industrializing the Soviet Union. However, this collectivization policy came at the cost of the annihilation of entire villages throughout the Ukraine. Even though starvation was rampant in the Ukraine, the Soviet grain procurement continued. The result of this was a famine the magnitude of which may never fully be known.

The unthinkable stories as a result of the socialist policies continue to haunt many Ukrainians today. These policies directly led to the starvation of the Ukrainian people and clearly indicate that the Soviet regime favoured and intended genocide of the Ukrainian people. It is estimated that the Ukrainians were dying at a rate of 25,000 a day. Estimates suggest that over 3 million babies born between 1932 and 1933 died of starvation, leading to an estimated total of 10 million deaths of Ukrainians during this period.

It is the realization of this dark moment in world history that has led many countries, including Australia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Peru, Poland, the United States, and Canada, to recognize the fact that the Soviet regime committed genocide upon the people of the Ukraine. The provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan have also recognized the genocide and have established the last Saturday of November as the official day of the Ukrainian famine and genocide.

There are many survivors of the Ukrainian famine and genocide of 1932-1933, and many of their descendants made new lives here in Alberta. Provincial recognition of this genocide is very useful and meaningful to all Ukrainian descendants who call Alberta their home. On behalf of the numerous members and friends of the Ukrainian community who reside in the Edmonton-Calder constituency I would like to thank my colleagues for the one simple act of your support of recognition and preservation. Sadly, once again we acknowledge something that we must not forget.

Thank you. [applause]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Deputy Government House Leader and Minister of Aboriginal Relations.

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, today is truly a hallmark day, and I rise as probably the final speaker on this bill for the afternoon. It's a hallmark day in our province because it marks a significant milestone for Alberta and for everyone who values the gifts of life and freedom, for everyone who denounces the actions of those who only seek to destroy lives and freedoms. Today we join tens of millions of others around the world, in our own province, and in our own country who have enacted laws and policies to commemorate one of the largest genocides known to mankind, the Ukrainian famine and genocide of 1932-33.

At the outset I want to sincerely thank all of my colleagues for their support to those who have already spoken in support of the bill, but most of all I'd like to thank our Premier for his support in allowing me to personally bring this bill into this House. As everyone here knows, it's not in my portfolio, but it's in my heart, and I've been working on it for years. So thank you for that, Mr. Premier, and to other colleagues.

3:50

I also want to thank the opposition leaders and their House leaders for their support and also for their agreement to allow this bill to go through all three stages in this House in one day. Thank you.

As you have pointed out, Mr. Speaker, this procedural point of allowing all three stages of a bill to be passed in the House is extremely rare. Members in the gallery, you should know that this particular procedural point is so rare that it has only been accomplished in this Legislature three times in the history of Alberta, so it's an historic moment from that point of view, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for pointing that out to us.

Thanks to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council and its president, Daria Luciw, her volunteer executive members and her staff, and to the League of Ukrainians, formerly known as the League of Ukrainians for the Freedom of Ukraine. It is now free thanks to their efforts and their volunteer members, who have worked with me for years to promote education and awareness of the Holodomor famine and genocide of 1932-33.

My other thanks with respect to this bill, its spirit and its intent, go to the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations, chaired by my colleague from Bonnyville and co-chaired by myself and attended by volunteers from throughout the province.

To the Canadian institute of Ukrainian studies at the University of Alberta, in particular to Dr. Zenon Kohut and Dr. Bohdan Klid for their research assistance; also to Dr. Natalia Pylypiuk for her work on the translation of the word "Holodomor," which is a put-together word, if you will; to Warren Singh, one of our researchers, for his enormous research last year in particular and throughout the beginning of this year; to Dr. Roman Petryshyn from Grant MacEwan College; to Marco Levytsky from *Ukrainian News* for their help in the development of this bill; also to Ron Glen, Jordon Copping, and George Samoil in the Premier's office for helping to make it happen.

I also want to recognize Natalia Toroshenko, a councillor from Vegreville who is here, for her support. Thank you to Boris Radyo, assistant superintendent of Edmonton Catholic schools, to Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky, Radomir Bilash, and others who have participated and contributed.

Now with the permission of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to offer a few words in my first language and in the native language of our special guests. [Remarks in Ukrainian]

I want to say a few words of thanks to all of you, our guests, who are here today and in particular to our very special guests, the survivors of the Ukrainian famine and genocide in Ukraine. It is impossible for us to understand what you endured and lived through in order to survive and what you must be living through in your memories every day. Nonetheless, we rejoice in your presence here with us today, and we pray to Almighty God for your continued health and wellness. [As submitted]

Among the survivors, Mr. Speaker, is my former professor of Ukrainian, so I hope I got all the grammar right, Professor Slavutych.

Mr. Speaker, it is significant to note that the atrocities committed against Ukrainian people, particularly in the early 1930s, must never be forgotten, as every one of the colleagues who have spoken before me has mentioned. That's one of the central purposes of this bill before us today. It serves to remind us that millions upon millions of Ukrainian people perished in one of the most despicable and inhumane methods of torture and death, extermination by starvation, as offered by our Harvard scholar linguist Dr. Natalia Pylypiuk. It serves to educate us and to educate future generations that denying, concealing, and/or destroying historical information such as was

done by Soviet authorities of the day is not only unacceptable; it is deplorable. It serves to enshrine in each of us, in our hearts and in our minds, the intrinsic value we hold for democratic freedoms, human rights, and the rule of law.

Ultimately this bill compels us to commemorate the Ukrainian famine and genocide, Holodomor, of 1932-33 on the fourth Saturday of November in every year henceforth. Obviously, with the anticipated passage of this bill today, this year's famine commemoration at Edmonton city hall and in front of what I believe is Canada's first-ever monument erected for honouring the victims, right here in Edmonton, Alberta, will have much added meaning for all of us, for the survivors, supporters, and sympathizers in Alberta will know that their provincial leaders, their MLAs, stood united on this day in this purpose.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank you for your support and assistance in helping make today's tribute so very welcoming, so very special for all of our guests. You, the Minister of Infrastructure, from Drumheller-Stettler, and the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit along with all others who are here have all been very helpful and very supportive.

With that, Mr. Speaker, and as the creator of this bill, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act, I'm pleased to conclude debate at second reading with just one reminder, a special invitation to everyone, particularly to our Premier, to the leader of the Liberal opposition, to the leader of the ND opposition, to join our friends for a brief hunger reception, which will take place in the rotunda. It's not a formal event. It will only feature the serving of a broth soup and a nonbuttered slice of bread.

We wear this special lapel mark as a symbol of our feelings today for those who perished and our respect for those who survived. To all my MLAs and colleagues here, thank you. [Standing ovation]

[Motion carried unanimously; Bill 37 read a second time]

#### 4:00 **Government Bills and Orders Committee of the Whole**

[Mr. Marz in the chair]

**The Acting Chair:** I'd like to call the Committee of the Whole to order.

#### **Bill 37 Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act**

**The Acting Chair:** Are there any comments, questions, or amendments to be offered with respect to this bill?

Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

**Hon. Members:** Question.

[The clauses of Bill 37 agreed to]

[Title and preamble agreed to]

**The Acting Chair:** Shall the bill be reported? Are you agreed?

**Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Chair:** Opposed? That's carried.

The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would move that the committee rise and report Bill 37, the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act.

[Motion carried]

[Mr. Marz in the chair]

**The Acting Speaker:** The hon. Member for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon.

**Mr. Rogers:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committee of the Whole has had under consideration a certain bill. The committee reports the following bill: Bill 37.

**The Acting Speaker:** Does the Assembly concur in the report?

**Hon. Members:** Concur.

**The Acting Speaker:** Opposed? So ordered.

[The Speaker in the chair]

**The Speaker:** The hon. Government House Leader.

**Mr. Hancock:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would again request unanimous consent of the House to waive Standing Order 77(1) to allow third reading to proceed on Bill 37.

[Unanimous consent granted]

## Government Bills and Orders

### Third Reading

#### Bill 37

#### Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act

**The Speaker:** The hon. Minister of Aboriginal Relations.

**Mr. Zwozdesky:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move third reading of Bill 37, Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act at.

Once again, I thank everyone for their strong support.

**The Speaker:** Hon. members, and ladies and gentlemen, in the history of our Parliament events such as this are very, very rare. All phases of a bill have been passed today, but the bill has not been put into the record. I would now like to do that before we vote on it.

Bill 37, Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act. It contains a preamble.

#### Preamble

Whereas millions of Ukrainians perished as a result of the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-33;

Whereas the term “Holodomor” is a Ukrainian word that means “extermination by means of starvation” and is used to describe the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-33;

Whereas it is recognized that the Soviet authorities denied, concealed or destroyed information about the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-33 and that accurate information about this tragic event is only now being made available;

Whereas the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the largest regional security organization in the world, passed a resolution that welcomes the recognition of the Holodomor in the United Nations, by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and by the national parliaments of a number of the OSCE participating States;

Whereas the OSCE strongly encourages all parliaments to adopt acts regarding recognition of the Holodomor;

Whereas some of the survivors of the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-33 and their descendants reside in Alberta and have contributed greatly to Alberta’s cultural, economic, political and educational life;

Whereas the people of Alberta value democratic freedoms, human rights and the rule of law, honour the values of compassion and honesty, and cherish the multicultural vibrancy of the Province;

Whereas the 4th Saturday in November has been recognized by the Parliament of Canada and by other Legislatures in Canada as a day to commemorate the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-33;

Whereas 2008 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-33; and

Whereas it is important and fitting to observe Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day for the purposes of recognizing the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-33 and of reflecting on the horrific legacy of this event;

Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

#### Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day

1 The 4th Saturday in November in each year is proclaimed as “Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day.”

[Motion carried unanimously; Bill 37 read a third time] [Standing ovation]

**The Speaker:** Mr. Premier, Mr. Minister, and hon. members, you can do very, very good work in this Assembly. You did such today. This House is now adjourned until 1:30 Monday next.

[At 4:08 p.m. the Assembly adjourned to Monday at 1:30 p.m.]

## **Bill Status Report for the 27th Legislature - 1st Session (2008)**

**Activity to October 30, 2008**

The Bill sponsor's name is in brackets following the Bill title. If it is a money Bill, (\$) will appear between the title and the sponsor's name. Numbers following each Reading refer to Hansard pages where the text of debates is found; dates for each Reading are in brackets following the page numbers. Bills numbered 200 or higher are Private Members' Public Bills. Bills with lower numbers are Government Bills. Bills numbered Pr1, etc., are Private Bills.

\* An asterisk beside a Bill number indicates an amendment was passed to that Bill; the committee line shows the precise date of the amendment.

The date a Bill comes into force is indicated in square brackets after the date of Royal Assent. If it comes into force "on proclamation," "with exceptions," or "on various dates," please contact Legislative Counsel for details at (780) 427-2217. The chapter number assigned to the Bill is entered immediately following the date the Bill comes into force. SA indicates Statutes of Alberta; this is followed by the year in which it is included in the statutes, and its chapter number. Please note, Private Bills are not assigned a chapter number until the conclusion of the fall sittings.

### **1 Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Implementation Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 (Stelmach)**

First Reading -- 9 (Apr. 15 aft.)

Second Reading -- 47-48 (Apr. 16 eve.), 203-08 (Apr. 23 eve.), 464 (May 5 eve.), 517-18 (May 6 eve.), 572-73 (May 7 eve.), 653-54 (May 12 eve.), 702-03 (May 13 eve.), 833 (May 20 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 916-19 (May 22 aft.), 962-67 (May 26 eve.), 988-90 (May 27 aft.), 1005-11 (May 27 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 1025-30 (May 28 aft., passed on division)

Royal Assent -- (Jun. 3 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 3, 2008; SA 2008 c7]

### **2 Travel Alberta Act (Ady)**

First Reading -- 215 (Apr. 24 aft.)

Second Reading -- 464-65 (May 5 eve.), 518-19 (May 6 eve.), 703 (May 13 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 754 (May 14 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 834-35 (May 20 eve., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Jun. 3 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2008 cT-6.5]

### **3 Fiscal Responsibility Amendment Act, 2008 (Snelgrove)**

First Reading -- 216 (Apr. 24 aft.)

Second Reading -- 654 (May 12 eve.), 703-06 (May 13 eve.), 755 (May 14 eve.), 834 (May 20 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 912-16 (May 22 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 960-62 (May 26 eve., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Jun. 3 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 3, 2008; SA 2008 c5]

### **4 Alberta Enterprise Corporation Act (Horner)**

First Reading -- 224 (Apr. 24 aft.)

Second Reading -- 654 (May 12 eve.), 834 (May 20 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 891 (May 21 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 959-60 (May 26 eve., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Jun. 3 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2008 cA-17.5]

### **5 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2008 (\$) (Snelgrove)**

First Reading -- 125 (Apr. 21 eve.)

Second Reading -- 143 (Apr. 22 eve.), 158-60 (Apr. 22 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 208-10 (Apr. 23 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 386-87 (Apr. 30 eve., passed)

Royal Assent -- (May 15 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 15, 2008; SA 2008 c2]

### **6 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2008 (\$) (Snelgrove)**

First Reading -- 165-66 (Apr. 23 aft.)

Second Reading -- 387 (Apr. 30 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 463 (May 5 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 516 (May 6 eve., passed)

Royal Assent -- (May 15 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 15, 2008; SA 2008 c1]

- 7 Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2008 (Bhullar)**  
First Reading -- 348 (Apr. 30 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 958 (May 26 eve.), 1037-40 (May 28 aft.), 1121-22 (Jun. 2 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1128-34 (Jun. 2 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1445-49 (Oct. 21 aft.), 1451 (Oct. 21 eve., passed)
- 8 Climate Change and Emissions Management Amendment Act, 2008 (Renner)**  
First Reading -- 348 (Apr. 30 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 958 (May 26 eve.), 1051-54 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1134-39 (Jun. 2 eve.), 1344-47 (Oct. 15 eve.), 1372-75 (Oct. 16 aft.), 1412-17 (Oct. 20 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1451-53 (Oct. 21 eve., passed)
- 9 Land Agents Licensing Amendment Act, 2008 (Mitzel)**  
First Reading -- 479 (May 6 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 967 (May 26 eve.), 995-96 (May 27 eve.), 1042-44 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1336-38, 1339-41 (Oct. 15 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1496-99 (Oct. 22 eve.), 1607-09 (Oct. 28 eve., passed)
- 10 Security Services and Investigators Act (Anderson)**  
First Reading -- 586-87 (May 8 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 889-90 (May 21 eve., referred to Standing Committee on Public Safety and Services), 1478 (Oct. 22 aft., reported to Assembly), 1600-03 (Oct. 28 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1637-46 (Oct. 29 aft., amendments introduced), 1655 (Oct. 29 eve., adjourned)
- 11\* Insurance Amendment Act, 2008 (Evans)**  
First Reading -- 348 (Apr. 30 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 990-91 (May 27 aft.), 1296-1302 (Oct. 14 aft.), 1325-29 (Oct. 15 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1341 (Oct. 15 eve.), 1362-70 (Oct. 16 aft., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1499-1502 (Oct. 22 eve., passed)
- 12 Teachers' Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2008 (Evans)**  
First Reading -- 348 (Apr. 30 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 834 (May 20 eve.), 886-87 (May 21 eve.), 909-11 (May 22 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 958-59 (May 26 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 986-87 (May 27 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 3 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force September 1, 2007, with exception; SA 2008 c6]
- 13 Financial Institutions Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 (Fawcett)**  
First Reading -- 533 (May 7 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 834 (May 20 eve.), 887 (May 21 eve.), 911-12 (May 22 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 959 (May 26 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 987 (May 27 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 3 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 3, 2008; SA 2008 c4]
- 14 Court of Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2008 (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 770 (May 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 992 (May 27 aft.), 1048-49 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1341-43 (Oct. 15 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1454 (Oct. 21 eve., passed)
- 15 Family Law Amendment Act, 2008 (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 770 (May 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 992 (May 27 aft.), 1049-50 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1343-44 (Oct. 15 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1455-56 (Oct. 21 eve., passed)
- 16 Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2008 (Danyluk)**  
First Reading -- 904 (May 22 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 992 (May 27 aft.), 1050-51 (May 28 eve.), 1077-78 (May 29 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1329-33 (Oct. 15 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1456-57 (Oct. 21 eve., passed)



- 17 Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (\$) (Evans)**  
First Reading -- 904 (May 22 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 958 (May 26 eve.), 993-95 (May 27 eve.), 1044-47 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1079-81 (May 29 aft.), 1122-28, 1139 (Jun. 2 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1204-07 (Jun. 3 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 9 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on various dates; SA 2008 c8]
- 18 Film and Video Classification Act (Blackett)**  
First Reading -- 848 (May 21 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Community Services), 1477 (Oct. 22 aft., reported to Assembly)  
Second Reading -- 1572 (Oct. 27 eve.), 1593-1600 (Oct. 28 aft.), 1653-54 (Oct. 29 eve., passed)
- 19 First Nations Sacred Ceremonial Objects Repatriation Amendment Act, 2008 (Blackett)**  
First Reading -- 848 (May 21 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 967-68 (May 26 eve.), 1075-77 (May 29 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1302-08 (Oct. 14 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1465-66 (Oct. 21 eve., passed)
- 20 Agriculture Statutes Repeal Act, 2008 (Griffiths)**  
First Reading -- 848 (May 21 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 968 (May 26 eve.), 996-97 (May 27 eve.), 1047 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1308-09 (Oct. 14 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1502-03 (Oct. 22 eve., passed)
- 21 Heating Oil and Propane Rebate Act (Griffiths)**  
First Reading -- 848 (May 21 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 968 (May 26 eve.), 1047-48 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1333-36 (Oct. 15 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1453-54 (Oct. 21 eve., passed)
- 22 Appropriation Act, 2008 (\$) (Snelgrove)**  
First Reading -- 932 (May 26 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 981-86 (May 27 aft.), 997-1004 (May 27 eve., passed on division)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1030-37 (May 28 aft.), 1041-42 (May 28 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1067-75 (May 29 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 3 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 3, 2008; SA 2008 c3]
- 23 Weed Control Act (Mitzel)**  
First Reading -- 1095 (Jun. 2 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Resources and Environment), 1478 (Oct. 22 aft., reported to Assembly)  
Second Reading -- 1572 (Oct. 27 eve.), 1609-10 (Oct. 28 eve., passed)
- 24 Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act (Jablonski)**  
First Reading -- 1095 (Jun. 2 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Health), 1478 (Oct. 22 aft., reported to Assembly)  
Second Reading -- 1569-71 (Oct. 27 eve.), 1589-93 (Oct. 28 aft.), 1610-11 (Oct. 28 eve., passed)
- 25 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 1095 (Jun. 2 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1295-96 (Oct. 14 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1329 (Oct. 15 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- (Oct. 21 eve., passed)
- 26 Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2008 (Goudreau)**  
First Reading -- 1096 (Jun. 2 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1154-70 (Jun. 3 aft.), 1171-1204 (Jun. 3 eve., passed on division)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1207-08 (Jun. 3 eve.), 1224-35, 1237-66 (Jun. 4 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1268-81 (Jun. 4 eve., passed on division)  
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 9 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2008 c9]
- 27 Funeral Services Amendment Act, 2008 (Johnson)**  
First Reading -- 1323 (Oct. 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1371 (Oct. 16 aft.), 1417 (Oct. 20 eve.), 1611-14 (Oct. 28 eve.), 1654-55 (Oct. 29 eve., passed)

- 28 Jury Amendment Act, 2008 (Redford)**  
First Reading -- 1323 (Oct. 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1371 (Oct. 16 aft.), 1417-18 (Oct. 20 eve.), 1438-39 (Oct. 21 aft.), 1485-87 (Oct. 22 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1529-30 (Oct. 23 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1574 (Oct. 27 eve., passed)
- 29 Alberta Capital Finance Authority Amendment Act, 2008 (\$) (Evans)**  
First Reading -- 1323-24 (Oct. 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1371 (Oct. 16 aft.), 1433-38 (Oct. 21 aft.), 1487-92 (Oct. 22 aft., passed)
- 30 Alberta Evidence Amendment Act, 2008 (Bhullar)**  
First Reading -- 1324 (Oct. 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1371-72 (Oct. 16 aft.), 1418-19 (Oct. 20 eve.), 1439-42 (Oct. 21 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1530-31 (Oct. 23 aft.), 1616-17 (Oct. 28 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1660-61 (Oct. 29 eve., passed)
- 31 Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008 (Snelgrove)**  
First Reading -- 1324 (Oct. 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1370 (Oct. 16 aft.), 1442-45 (Oct. 21 aft.), 1526-27 (Oct. 23 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1617-19 (Oct. 28 eve., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1661 (Oct. 29 eve., passed)
- 32 Meat Inspection Amendment Act, 2008 (Griffiths)**  
First Reading -- 1361 (Oct. 16 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1419 (Oct. 20 eve.), 1457-59 (Oct. 21 eve.), 1481-85 (Oct. 22 aft.), 1527-29 (Oct. 23 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1620 (Oct. 28 eve., adjourned)
- 33 Agriculture Financial Services Amendment Act, 2008 (\$) (Groeneveld)**  
First Reading -- 1361 (Oct. 16 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1419-20 (Oct. 20 eve.), 1459-62 (Oct. 21 eve.), 1572-74 (Oct. 27 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1621-22 (Oct. 28 eve., adjourned, amendments introduced)
- 34 Employment Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2008 (Brown)**  
First Reading -- 1361 (Oct. 16 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1420 (Oct. 20 eve.), 1463-65 (Oct. 21 eve.), 1603-04 (Oct. 28 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1650 (Oct. 29 aft.), 1655-56 (Oct. 29 eve., passed)
- 35 Government Organization Amendment Act, 2008 (Hayden)**  
First Reading -- 1324 (Oct. 15 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1370 (Oct. 16 aft.), 1462-63 (Oct. 21 eve.), 1492-94 (Oct. 22 aft.), 1495-96 (Oct. 22 eve.), 1503-04 (Oct. 22 eve.), 1523-26 (Oct. 23 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1646-50 (Oct. 29 aft., passed)
- 36 Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008 (Brown)**  
First Reading -- 1361 (Oct. 16 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1420 (Oct. 20 eve.), 1574-75 (Oct. 27 eve.), 1604-06 (Oct. 28 aft.), 1607 (Oct. 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1650-51 (Oct. 29 aft.), 1656 (Oct. 29 eve., passed)
- 37 Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act (Zwozdesky)**  
First Reading -- 1673-74 (Oct. 30 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1675-81 (Oct. 30 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1681 (Oct. 30 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 1682 (Oct. 30 aft., passed)
- 38 Securities Amendment Act, 2008 (Fawcett)**  
First Reading -- 1388 (Oct. 20 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1479-80 (Oct. 22 aft.), 1614-16 (Oct. 28 eve., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1656-60 (Oct. 29 eve., passed)
- 39 Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 (Denis)**  
First Reading -- 1389 (Oct. 20 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1480-81 (Oct. 22 aft.), 1575-76 (Oct. 27 eve., adjourned)

- 41 Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2) (Danyluk)**  
First Reading -- 1634 (Oct. 29 aft.)
- 42 Health Governance Transition Act (Liepert)**  
First Reading -- 1588 (Oct. 28 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1653 (Oct. 29 eve., adjourned)
- 201 Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act (Mitzel)**  
First Reading -- 59 (Apr. 17 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 89-102 (Apr. 21 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 430-43 (May 5 aft., passed)  
Third Reading -- 625-31 (May 12 aft., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (May 15 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 15, 2008; SA 2008 cH-15.5]
- 202 Alberta Volunteer Service Medal Act (Cao)**  
First Reading -- 59 (Apr. 17 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 102-07 (Apr. 21 aft.), 258-64 (Apr. 28 aft., six-month hoist amendment agreed to)
- 203 Election Statutes (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2008 (Allred)**  
First Reading -- 224 (Apr. 24 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 265-74 (Apr. 28 aft.), 443-44 (May 5 aft.), 631-34 (May 12 aft., six-month hoist amendment agreed to on division)
- 204 Traffic Safety (Hand-Held Communication Devices) Amendment Act, 2008 (Johnston)**  
First Reading -- 224 (Apr. 24 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 937-49 (May 26 aft., referred to Standing Committee on the Economy), 1478 (Oct. 22 aft., not proceeded with)
- 205 Traffic Safety (Used Vehicle Inspection) Amendment Act, 2008 (Bhardwaj)**  
First Reading -- 401 (May 1 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1100-12 (Jun. 2 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1553 (Oct. 27 aft., defeated)
- 206 Alberta Personal Income Tax (Physical Activity Credit) Amendment Act, 2008 (Rodney)**  
First Reading -- 587 (May 8 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1112-13 (Jun. 2 aft.), 1396-1406 (Oct. 20 aft., passed)
- 207 Young Albertans' Advisory Council Act (Fawcett)**  
First Reading -- 1295 (Oct. 14 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1553-62 (Oct. 27 aft., adjourned)
- 208 Alberta Affordable Mortgage Protection Act (Weadick)**  
First Reading -- 1479 (Oct. 22 aft.)
- 209 Traffic Safety (Driver Disqualification and Seizure of Vehicles Arising From Drug Offences) Amendment Act, 2008 (Quest)**  
First Reading -- 1479 (Oct. 22 aft.)
- 210 School (Enhanced Protection of Students and Teachers) Amendment Act, 2008 (Forsyth)**  
First Reading -- 1634 (Oct. 29 aft.)
- Pr1\* Young Men's Christian Association of Edmonton Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 (Lukaszuk)**  
First Reading -- 719 (May 14 aft.)  
Second Reading -- 1078 (May 29 aft., passed)  
Committee of the Whole -- 1122 (Jun. 2 eve., passed with amendments)  
Third Reading -- 1266-68 (Jun. 4 eve., passed)  
Royal Assent -- (Jun. 9 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force June 9, 2008]







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