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The Honourable Kenneth R. Kowalski, Speaker

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The 27th Legislature

Second Session

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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 28, 2009

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good afternoon.

Let us pray. Grant that we the members of our province's Legislature fulfill our office with honesty and integrity. May our first concern be for the good of all of our people. Let us be guided by these principles in our deliberations this day. Amen.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright.

Mr. Griffiths: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly on behalf of the hon. Member for Little Bow a group of students and teachers from Calvin Christian school. The Member for Little Bow always talks about how proud he is of the students and how encouraged he is that these are the future leaders of the province. Accompanying the 22 students from Coalhurst are Rose Slingerland, Marvin and Erica van den Hoek, Lourens and Peggy Van Essen, and Tony and Christine Vandenberg. I would ask that the students, the teachers, and the parents from Calvin Christian school rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Ms Calahasen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again it is my pleasure to rise to recognize the third group from E.G. Wahlstrom middle school who are visiting the Legislature this week. Unfortunately, again they are not here, but we won't have an opportunity to be able to introduce them again because they'll be leaving early, and I thought it was really important for us to be able to recognize them. They are accompanied by their teacher, Christina Nuxoll, and they are also joined by parent helpers who are making sure that they get home safe. I would ask that this Assembly extend a very warm welcome to them as they visit the Legislature.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Athabasca-Redwater.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly a group of 24 students, teachers, and parents from Thorhild central school. The grade 6 kids are here for the tour and to take in some of the day's festivities. I'd like to welcome Mr. Mike Popowicz, Sharon Lakusta, and Gerald Gargus and their 21 students. I'd ask them to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Whitecourt-Ste. Anne.

Mr. VanderBurg: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to rise and introduce three very special young ladies in my life. The first is my wife, Liz – 34 years we'll be married next month – and my beautiful daughter-in-law Crystal and our newest granddaughter, a very special young lady, Alyssa. I ask the three of them to stand up and receive the warm welcome.

The Speaker: The hon. member is aware of the size of the diamond that's required for a 34th anniversary, is he not?

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Calder.

Mr. Elniski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you two ladies who are very, very important to me, one who has been important to me for several years now and one who is about to become very important to me on the 6th of June. I'd like to introduce first of all Ms Anita Zacharias, my constituency manager. Anita and I are no strangers to each other, having worked together in what is, I think, now our third endeavour, starting in Fort McMurray on the Horizon oil sands site several years ago.

With her today I am pleased to introduce to you my new constituency summer student, Miss Natasha Soles. Natasha has a particularly enviable resume. Virtually, it's better than mine; however, I'll highlight it for you and say that she is a member of the TUXIS youth parliament and has also served on the AUMA conference as a youth delegate. Her work experience includes a considerable amount of time with Amberlea Meadows Equestrian Centre. I look forward to a very, very productive summer. I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional greeting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise today and introduce to you and through you one of my constituents from Edmonton-Ellerslie, Sandra Badejo, and her mother, who is visiting us from Nigeria, Ewemade Igbinovia. Sandra had a baby last fall, Josh Badejo. Her mother came to Alberta to attend her grandson's baby dedication on November 23, 2008, at Mill Woods Pentecostal Assembly, a dedication which I was happily a part of. The day she arrived, she left 40 degree Celsius temperature in Nigeria and came to minus 30 weather in Alberta. I sincerely hope that Ms Igbinovia is enjoying her stay in Alberta and ask my guests to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Sandhu: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you five guests in the public gallery today. First, Sabreena Braich was my STEP student last year and is with me again for this summer and is here today to see question period. She is joined by her parents, Sunny and Balwinder Braich, and her cousins who are visiting from Seattle, Aseem and Navi Cheema. It has been great to have Sabreena helping out in my constituency office, and she has been a great help. I would like to ask Sabreena and her family to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Mr. Liepert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the generosity of our Department of Employment and Immigration I have the privilege this summer of working with two STEP students. The first, Lauren Hutchison, is a STEP student in my constituency office in Calgary-West and is a second-year sociology student at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. The second STEP student works in our office here in Edmonton and jointly works with the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. Billy Anderson is a second-year political science student at Carleton University in Ottawa and is also the son of the executive assistant to

the minister of government services. One of the jobs that Bill has in our office is that he opens the mail. He had an interesting experience yesterday. I would ask him and Lauren to stand up and be recognized in the Assembly.

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

Mr. Taylor: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two guests to introduce today. It's my pleasure to introduce a constituent of mine, Steffi Stehwien, and a friend and colleague of hers, Donna Eaton, who are guests in the public gallery today. Steffi is the mother of Aaron Shoulders, who was murdered in 2003 and whose murder remains unsolved in Calgary. Donna Eaton is the mother of another murder victim, Brooke Clapson. Brook's killer was caught, convicted, and sent to prison in 2000 and granted escorted day passes in 2008. I'll be talking about this some more in my private member's statement later on this afternoon. For now I would ask my guests to rise, please, and accept the warm welcome of the House.

The Speaker: The hon. President of the Treasury Board.

Mr. Snelgrove: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House a good friend of mine and his daughter from Vermilion. Dr. Lee Arthur is an instructor at Lakeland College. He's kind of the new face of agriculture. He's into elk ranching. It's a very, very multi-generational family history of agriculture in our area, very strong community people. His wife is a nurse at the Wainwright health facility. It very much reflects what goes on in rural Alberta. They're here today to take the message home that I do show up occasionally to work, and I would really like that Dr. Lee Arthur and his daughter Brigit stand and accept the warm welcome of the Assembly.

1:40

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Egmont.

World No Tobacco Day

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about World No Tobacco Day. World No Tobacco Day is celebrated around the world every year on May 31. Although tobacco is a legal product, this annual celebration informs the public about the dangers of using tobacco and unites people around a common cause to work towards a tobacco-free world today and for future generations. This year's theme, Tobacco Health Warnings, will focus on health warnings on tobacco products that can motivate people to stop using tobacco.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta Health Services is hosting its annual World No Tobacco Day provincial celebration today. This conference offers an opportunity to hear from leading tobacco reduction specialists and also to celebrate the 2009 recipients of the Barb Tarbox award. Barb Tarbox, of course, was the antismoking crusader who spoke to more than 50,000 students about the dangers of smoking before she passed away from lung cancer caused by smoking in 2003.

The Alberta government maintains its commitment to reducing tobacco use in our province. With the Tobacco Reduction Act Alberta has had some of the strongest legislation controlling usage, display, and sale of tobacco products in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta Health Services continues to develop and review programs and services to reduce the usage of tobacco in

Alberta, help those who want to quit, and prevent young people from starting to smoke in the first place. The goal of achieving a tobacco-free Alberta is the responsibility of all of us individually. If you are a smoker, consider seeking help to quit. If you are a young person, don't start smoking in the first place and do all you can to discourage your friends from starting to smoke. All of these efforts will help us create a tobacco-free province and enjoy a healthier Alberta as a result.

Thank you.

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

Unsolved Murder Victims

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Martha and I are delighted to have our daughter, Jenn, back home for the summer after she spent this past school year studying in England, and I'm really looking forward to getting out to Victoria in a little over a week to spend a couple of days with our son, Scott, who decided that after three school years on the coast it was time for him to spend a summer there to fully appreciate living next to an ocean, big bodies of water being rather hard to find in his hometown of Calgary.

Our children are adults now and spend more of their lives under their own roofs than under ours, which is as it should be, but it doesn't change the fact that we miss them and look forward to the times we do have to spend together. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to imagine what it would be like not to be able to see them ever again, and I cannot imagine how much greater the pain of losing a child would be if that child had been murdered and, years later, the murder remained unsolved.

I understand that sometimes police cannot solve the case or that even when they're pretty sure they know who did it, they can't accumulate enough evidence to get a conviction. I understand that no unsolved murder case is ever closed but that they can go cold, that the file gets put away on a shelf pending the discovery of new evidence someday. The detectives move onto other cases they can solve, and, Mr. Speaker, the rest of the world moves on as well. But the case never does get cold and the pain never does go away for the unsolved murder victim's loved ones, and they need to know – we need to tell them – that we haven't forgotten them.

Mr. Speaker, we have the capacity under the Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act and the resources within the victims of crime fund, and I propose that the province make a commitment to the families of the unsolved murder victims to make a modest annual payment to them from a memorial fund every year until their case is solved. It's not meant to be a compensatory payout for their loss but a symbolic gesture to remind people like Steffi Stehwien that we haven't forgotten about her murdered son, Aaron, anymore than she has, that we share her pain, and to remind us of our duty to support the police in their efforts to solve these difficult crimes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Lago Lindo Community League

Mrs. Sarich: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to rise today to recognize the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Lago Lindo Community League, a dynamic community league in the city of Edmonton and in the constituency of Edmonton-Decore.

Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, in 1984, Edmonton was a city of 560,000 when the Lago Lindo Community League was formed. The Premier of the day was the Hon. Peter Lougheed. Laurence Decore, for whom my constituency is named, was Edmonton's rookie mayor

at the time. The Edmonton Oilers had just won their first Stanley Cup. Three Premiers, four mayors, and almost five Stanley Cups later Lago Lindo Community League and its countless number of volunteers are dedicated to serving all of the people in north Edmonton, including the neighbourhoods of Lago Lindo, Klarvatten, Schonsee, Crystallina Nera, and Joviz.

Through the Lago Lindo Community League their hall remains an essential gathering point for the community and others at large. For example, you will find preschools serving many local families, safety courses for children learning how to ride a bicycle, Red Cross babysitting courses for youngsters looking to enhance their skills and to earn some extra dollars, and numerous recreational and sports programs and events for children and youth. What would a community league be without a hockey rink? Lago Lindo Community League boasts one of the area's best outdoor rinks, with new polymer boards and a separate flooded area for recreational skating.

Mr. Speaker, our local community leagues in our communities are foundational for the role that they play in building strong communities, fostering relationships, and improving the overall quality of life for all those around them.

Lago Lindo Community League will celebrate this milestone and momentous occasion on June 26 to 28. I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all those involved in the continued development of the Lago Lindo Community League over the past 25 years and wish them continued success as they move forward into the future.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Calmar.

Milk and Liquid Cream Container Recycling

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta is committed to reducing waste wherever we can. One way to do this is to increase the number of beverage containers we recycle. Approximately 2 billion beverage containers are sold annually in Alberta every year. Of these, about 500 million containers end up in landfills each year. The provincial recycling rates for milk containers are of particular concern. Currently only 60 per cent of milk jugs and 22.5 per cent of milk cartons are returned for recycling. These numbers are far too low. That is why this government decided to incorporate milk containers into the deposit-refund system, and we are grateful to the dairy industry for their co-operation.

As of Monday, June 1, Alberta will be the first jurisdiction in North America to implement a deposit-refund on milk containers. The purchase of all ready-to-serve milk product containers will be affected, including fluid milk, fluid creams, whipping creams, buttermilk, and drinkable yogourt. The deposit will be the same as the deposits on similar-sized containers already part of the deposit program: 10 cents for containers one litre and under and 25 cents for containers over one litre.

With no net cost to consumers a deposit-refund helps encourage people to take the extra step necessary to return their empties for a refund. We know that most Albertans are supportive of this move. During consultations Albertans said that they would recycle more milk containers if they were part of the deposit-refund system. Adding dairy beverage containers to the deposit system is just one more step in building a culture of conservation in Alberta. We're very proud here in Alberta to be showing environmental leadership in this area and many others as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

High School Completion

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to highlight a recent Alberta Education initiative to invest \$4.2 million to help keep students engaged, supported, and motivated to stay in school. Through the province's recently announced high school completion framework, school jurisdictions will receive funding to help them identify barriers to completing high school and then develop plans and address the issues. Currently Alberta's five-year high school completion rate sits at 79.5 per cent. The province has a goal of increasing that result to 82 per cent in the next three years.

Mr. Speaker, finishing high school is an important step for young people to create a positive future for themselves, their families, and then their communities. There is no magic formula that's going to make kids stay in school. It is a complex issue. The high school completion framework tackles this complexity by focusing their various programs and initiatives into five categories: personalized learning, successful transitions, collaborative partnerships, positive connections, and tracking progress.

Community collaboration is at the heart of the high school completion framework. We need to work together to ensure that our children complete high school with the skills and knowledge needed to fully participate in the community and workplace now and in the future. Supporting those efforts as well as ensuring that we have the tools and supports needed at the provincial level will all make a difference one student at a time.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Question Period

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

Parental Choice in Education

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This administration has rebranded Alberta as backwards and intolerant. We had the chance to wipe away the stereotypes through the inclusion of sexual orientation in human rights legislation, but this Tory caucus could not stomach giving rights to gays and lesbians without some sort of appeasement. This is a shameful way to treat human rights, a sad legacy to leave to our children from the Premier and the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. To the Premier: why is the Premier reinforcing the stereotype that Albertans are backwards and intolerant with the passing of this parental opt-out clause?

1:50

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, once again, to reiterate the statement I made in this House some time ago, for an opposition member to rise in this House and make accusations of that sort, looking at the diversity of our caucus from the many ethnic backgrounds and religious backgrounds and colour and creed that have come to run as members for the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta and actually win quite a sizable majority, that tells me that it truly reflects Albertans, Alberta's wishes, their policies as we advance them here in the House. Once again, I find it regrettable that a member would point to members of this caucus in such a derogatory fashion.

Dr. Swann: Mr. Speaker, stifling education through parental opt-out will hurt no one more than our children and reflects a lack of trust both in the system and in the parents and in the children themselves. Why has the Premier chosen political opportunism to appease caucus members over what is best for our children's education?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, once again, in our caucus it's total input for all members. This is a decision that was reached by caucus. It's one that I firmly support. I along with all members of our caucus firmly believe in the basic rights of parents. I stand behind that decision, and I'm not going to waver from it. That's simply put. I can't say it as clearly as what I've just done now.

Dr. Swann: Well, there has never been any question about listening to the caucus. The question is: are you listening to Albertans? School boards, school associations, teachers, parents, religious and human rights groups, and students adamantly oppose this parental opt-out and have sent letters, contacted their MLAs, and have met with government officials, all to no avail. Why have you ignored our population, Mr. Premier?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, first of all, in a previous preamble he said that we were stifling education. That is totally wrong. Alberta is a province that offers the most choice in education, from public, separate education to charter schools to independent schools to home-schooling. In fact, in my visit to Munich we spent close to two hours with five senior cabinet members of government, and their number one question was: why is your education system so successful? How is it that your students are performing so well in comparison to many other jurisdictions around the world? I'm very proud of our education system and will also defend our education system anywhere, not only in this Assembly but anyplace around the world.

The Speaker: Second Official Opposition main question. The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Government Aircraft

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After a few drinks it is important not to drive home. This government obviously recognizes this because following the last three Progressive Conservative Association fundraising dinners for the Premier, this government's MLAs flew back to Calgary following each event on taxpayer-funded planes. To the Premier: please tell the House that it is not government policy to use taxpayer-funded planes to fly government MLAs home following Progressive Conservative fundraisers.

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, that is quite a serious accusation to make. I believe it would be very wise for that hon. member to withdraw that because I can tell you that we do have receipts of the costs of chartered aircraft to every Premier's dinner, whether it is in Edmonton or in Calgary or in Lethbridge or in Grande Prairie or in Fort McMurray and every second year in Medicine Hat. I don't know where the hon. member is coming from, but maybe a better choice of words would be better. We just went through an incident this week where you used very wise discretion as the Speaker of this Assembly, and I don't think those are appropriate accusations to make as we are working towards the end of, I think, a very successful session.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier please tell the Assembly who approved these taxpayer-funded flights?

The Speaker: Well, I think, hon. member, we just heard that there were no such things. We're going to have a point of order in here that is going to lead to some very difficult situations.

If the Premier wants to add something further, he can.

Mr. Stelmach: You know, I don't want to go down to the bottom of the barrel, but sooner or later – you know, in this Assembly in the last number of weeks we had serious accusations from the opposite benches. There are a number of them that I let go by, and some of them really hurt, especially when the leader of the third party referred to me as Stalin, something like: Stalinistic era brought by this government. Does he not know my background? Does he not know what that one individual did to millions of Ukrainians, how he starved them out? I let that go by. I'm not letting this thing go by. Either he apologizes or comes up with the proof. Enough is enough.

The Speaker: Okay. During that last interjection, hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, I saw you rise. You're rising on a point of order?

Mr. Mason: Yes.

The Speaker: Now, hon. Government House Leader, I also saw you rise prior to that. Do you want to rise on a point of order, too?

The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier table those receipts, please, that it was chartered?

Speaker's Ruling Questions about Political Party Activity

The Speaker: Hon. member, one of the purviews of the question period is that political party activities are not a purview of question period. There's no requirement for the Premier to table things that happened that had nothing to do with the government of Alberta.

Third Official Opposition main question, the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Victims Restitution and Compensation

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last fall this Assembly passed the Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act, which allowed for the seizure and sale of property obtained during the commission of a criminal offence and the distribution of these proceeds to victims of crime. Often the most profoundly affected, whose health, safety, and livelihood are compromised possibly forever, are the loved ones of unsolved murder victims. To the Premier: seeing that homicide investigations often do hit dead ends and may go unsolved for years, will you create a memorial fund under the Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act to provide a modest symbolic annual payment to families who are suffering through this experience?

Mr. Stelmach: I'll take the suggestion under advisement.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you to the Premier, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To the Premier again. Awards from the victims of crime fund to families who have lost a loved one because of a homicide are only available as a one-time, lump-sum benefit. I would ask that he would consider changing this restriction to allow family members to access a modest portion of the fund's \$50 million surplus as an annual award.

Mr. Stelmach: Once again, I believe he's giving some suggestions to the minister who's responsible. I'll take it under advisement.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Thank you again to the Premier.

This time to the Minister of Justice, if I may: can the minister provide – and if she doesn't have these numbers right at her fingertips, I would appreciate a written answer when she has the opportunity – the exact dollar value of all property seized to date under the Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act and the total amount made available to Albertans so far who have been victimized by crime?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is right; I don't have that information. But I will provide that to you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, followed by the hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Calmar.

Alberta Treasury Branches

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, the Alberta Treasury Branches' annual report yesterday confirmed why Albertans don't trust this government to manage their money. The ATB lost nearly \$225 million but still paid out \$25 million in bonuses for people responsible for the failure. What's worse is that this government stood by and watched while these executives used loopholes in their own rules to put money in their own pockets. How can the Premier condone \$25 million in bonus payouts to ATB bankers when they lost nearly a quarter of a billion dollars?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, the ATB operates at arm's length from government, and decisions about performance are the purview of the ATB board.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

2:00

Mr. Mason: Well, thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course, this government is responsible as the owners of the Alberta Treasury Branches and the people that appoint the board. According to ATB rules, if you lose money, you don't get a bonus, so the ATB brass simply didn't count the losses on bad investments like the mortgage scam in the United States. This is a scandal. To the Premier: will you do the right thing and hold the ATB brass accountable and take away their undeserved \$25 million in bonuses?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, the Alberta Treasury Branches board is separate. It's arm's length from government. They made the decision. This is based on whatever understanding they had for the year previous is my information. They've indicated that into next year they will be reducing all of the bonuses to senior executives at ATB, but this is based on the previous year's agreement.

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, the fact is that bonuses are paid on a performance basis, and when the losses threatened to vaporize the bonus pay, the ATB brass moved the goalposts. This government is letting the bankers pay themselves four times more in bonus pay than the ATB made all last year. To the Premier: how can you justify allowing the brass to keep the \$25 million in bonuses when they only made \$6 million in profit?

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, most Albertans look at the Treasury Branches as a very solid institution in the province of Alberta. It is for a very good reason kept at arm's length from government so that it can maintain its independence and provide services to Albertans. By the numbers of Albertans that are signing up for services the Treasury Branches are offering, it's obviously very successful. They have reduced their bonuses to the senior executives by 50 per cent and to the junior executives by 25 per cent. They are still offering a record number of services. They have record deposits, record lending. Except for the asset-backed paper issue that many, many banks around the world were involved in, they have done a very good job of providing services not only to rural but to urban Alberta.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Drayton Valley-Calmar, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

Electricity Transmission Lines

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Energy indicated in the House yesterday that he is looking at additions or upgrades to the electricity transmission system. I'm sure the minister knows that this is certainly an emotionally charged issue. My first question to the minister is: how can Albertans be assured that these upgrades are really needed?

Mr. Knight: Well, certainly, Mr. Speaker, first of all, I think it's fair to say that the electricity utility system in the province of Alberta, including the generating and transmission of bulk electricity, is an enabler of development in this province. Albertans can be assured that in order for us to continue to develop, this is a basic requirement of that development. We have an independent system operator. The AESO is responsible for the operation of the grid and determining future need. Already we see demand creeping toward 10,000 megawatts, of which we have a capacity to supply about 12,000. We're coming very close to a point in time where these upgrades are absolutely necessary to continue Alberta's development.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister. We've had very few problems with the electricity system in Alberta to date. We certainly haven't had anything like the blackouts they've had in Toronto, for instance. So what's the rush? Why do we need to act so urgently?

Mr. Knight: Again, Mr. Speaker, the situation is quite plain, I think. There is a lot of lead time required in order to build these types of facilities. The system now is clogged to the point where it actually costs Albertans about \$250 million a year in lost power relative to congestion in the grid. It takes time to lead into this thing, so I think that the time to act is now.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, again to the same minister. I'm sure he's aware that some people believe there is a plan to export power from Alberta to the United States. What is this all about? Please explain it to us.

Mr. Knight: Well, Mr. Speaker, again – and I've answered this question a number of times – absolutely not. This has nothing to do with us as a province or the ratepayers in the province of Alberta being asked to or being involved in the export of electricity as a

commodity from Alberta. Certainly, there are opportunities in the future for the commodity to be exported. At that point in time, of course, people that are independent in the business, privately owned enterprises, will pay their own freight with respect to any export of power out of the province of Alberta.

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

Parental Choice in Education

(continued)

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alberta has attracted attention from our nation and from the world for all the wrong reasons. This government's \$25 million branding boondoggle will not erase the negative image this government's regressive position on human rights has created. Freedom to Fake, Right to Discriminate is Alberta's new tag line. To the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit: why are you enshrining the right to discriminate on the basis of religion, human sexuality, or sexual orientation in our public school system?

Mr. Blackett: Well, Mr. Speaker, as a black man who grew up through discrimination, why on earth would anybody right thinking believe that I would support discrimination? The Human Rights Commission: we have Bill 44 before us to help improve the administration of this worthwhile commission. We have put money towards it. We have put resources towards it. We have a leader in the hon. Blair Mason who is second to none. We will work on those things that will improve it and restore Alberta's confidence in the institution.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Chase: Thank you. To the hon. Minister of Culture and Community Spirit: I think you've been set up.

To the Minister of Education: other than your generic blogging, why have you remained silent on the erosion of our secular public school system by a faith-based minority?

An Hon. Member: He's not really black.

Mr. Blackett: You know, I guess I have been set up, sir. Mr. Speaker, my parents told me I was black, and I obviously . . . [laughter]

One thing that we know, Mr. Speaker, in the diverse caucus that we have – we have people of Ukrainian ancestry; we have East Indian ancestry, Chinese ancestry, Polish, German, the whole gamut. None of us are fooled into believing what we believe. We all come here with independent thought, and we should respect the fact that all Albertans, 3 and a half million people, have independent thought, and we should have the courage to be able to believe in what we believe in. It's a free and democratic society that we live in.

Mr. Chase: I certainly wish those wonderful statements were true, and unfortunately, Mr. Minister, I was attempting to ask a question to the Minister of Education. But great on you, leaping to your feet.

To the Minister of Education: why are you spending \$4 million on an Inspiring Education road show when Bill 44 clearly indicates how closed minded this government really is?

Mr. Hancock: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we're spending \$4 million on a road show, so the first part of the question is wrong.

What we're doing is going around talking with Albertans, having a dialogue with Albertans about the future of our education system in this province so that the children and grandchildren of this province can have the knowledge, skills, and abilities that they will need to participate in a global community and a global economy. That is very, very important work. We have an excellent education system today where people come from all over the world to take a look at what we're doing now, but we cannot rest on our laurels. We need to build that education system for tomorrow.

The comments that he made about Bill 44 and the School Act, where parents have the opportunity to determine whether they agree with the teachings about religion and teachings about human sexuality or whether they wish to do it themselves: that parents have the right on those sensitive issues to determine whether they're in alignment with what's being taught or whether they'd like to engage as a family in doing those teachings does not besmirch the excellent education system we have today nor the need to prepare for tomorrow.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Bow, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Electricity Transmission Lines

(continued)

Ms DeLong: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Electricity is something most of us just take for granted. We expect those lights to come on when we flip the switch. We all know that transmission infrastructure, including major power lines, are a necessary part of providing electricity to our homes, but that has also led to much discussion in our province about the process used to determine where this infrastructure goes. My questions today are to the Minister of Energy. Can the minister explain what his department is doing to proceed with electricity transmission upgrades in the province?

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Knight: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can. The provincial energy strategy, of course, indicated that the government of Alberta would take responsibility for planning a comprehensive upgrade to the transmission system. We will bring forward legislation to do just that. This government will be responsible for planning this publicly needed infrastructure just as we are responsible for planning highways, hospitals, and schools. Again I say: the time to act is now.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms DeLong: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: given that Albertans will have questions about this legislation, can he please explain why he is planning to bring it forward so late in the session?

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, we know that Albertans are going to have questions with respect to the issues, and that's why we're planning to bring forward some issues here next week. We want to make sure that Albertans have the opportunity to learn more about the issues over the summer. They can then have informed discussions, and there will be legislation that would be debated relative to the issues this fall.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms DeLong: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Assuming that we're unable to bury our major transmission lines as they do in other parts of the world, we can expect landowners to be concerned about overhead transmission lines. Is the minister planning to change the process that allows landowners to bring their concerns forward?

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear about this. Absolutely not. The system and the process that we use relative to where sitings occur and what will be built and the timing will not change. That is a process that's directed by the Alberta Utilities Commission. Input from landowners that are directly affected or directly affected Albertans is an essential part of the process. It's their mandate. It's legislated. That absolutely will not change.

The Speaker: It strikes me that that last exchange of questions and answers had to do with debate on a bill that has yet to be introduced. Perhaps it would be pertinent to have the bill introduced.

The hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, followed by the hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake.

Temporary Foreign Workers

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2004 this government imposed special provisions at the Horizon oil sands project. This special provision, called division 8, exempts the project from the Labour Relations Code's collective bargaining provisions. The Christian Labour Association of Canada represented the 132 Chinese workers who were cheated out of over \$3 million in wages at the same site. My first question is to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. If a collective agreement was in place, why was no one enforcing it? Thank you.

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, the claims of nonpayment were found out while we were interviewing the Chinese workers in the wake of the deaths of the two workers in April of 2007. That's when we found out that the payments were not made. We're doing regular inspections, and as of that particular time we started our actions to assure ourselves that the payments were made to the workers. Most of that money owing is for overtime or the extra time that the individuals had made on the job site.

Mr. MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I'm disappointed that he didn't answer the question. I'll try another variation of it now. Again, why did the government impose this division 8 deal at the Horizon site, which allowed the 132 temporary foreign workers from China to be exploited and cheated out of not only their overtime but their vacation pay and their regular pay?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, we did not allow anybody to be exploited and cheated. You know, our role is to assure that everybody who's working in Alberta gets their fair pay. The minute that we found out that those things were happening, we launched an investigation. As soon as there were some discussions that there was money missing, we did start trying to make sure that the individuals that are short of money will receive their due pay.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same minister: given that the collective agreement from the Christian Labour Association failed to protect these workers, given that employment standards failed to protect these workers, why did it

take so long for this government to finally find out that over \$3 million was owed to over 132 temporary foreign workers from China?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, this has been a very, very lengthy investigation. As I indicated, we found out following the investigations that were started in 2007. We identified the shortfalls. We are working on making sure that the individuals that were shortchanged their money are being identified. Since then we've introduced a number of measures to try and minimize that, including a strong advertising campaign to all of our workers in Alberta so that they know and understand their rights when it comes to the workplace.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Métis Settlements Funding

Mrs. Leskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government of Alberta provides Métis settlements with funds to support their ongoing operations related to governance, accountability, and sustainability. This support is very important to the two Métis settlements that are located in my constituency: the Elizabeth settlement and the Fishing Lake settlement. In addition to this funding I also know that while the government of Alberta and the Métis Settlements General Council currently have an interim funding agreement in place, the settlements are eagerly awaiting a more secure long-term funding agreement. To the Minister of Aboriginal Relations: when will the long-term funding agreement with the Métis Settlements General Council be concluded?

Mr. Zwodzesky: Mr. Speaker, concluding a long-term funding agreement within four Métis settlements in Alberta is part of the Premier's mandate letter to me. It's based around three particular pillars, which include effective governance, enhanced accountability, and long-term sustainability. Initial work on the long-term agreement has already begun. We do have a process in place that includes a groundwork committee that has been set up to look at the exact issues that would put credence to those three pillars, and we hope to have this all completed by early 2012 at the latest. It could be sooner.

Mrs. Leskiw: My next question is also to the same minister. What type of performance measures are tied to the current interim funding agreement, and what type of performance measures do you expect will be part of the long-term funding agreement?

Mr. Zwodzesky: Mr. Speaker, the performance measures that are part of the interim funding agreement are centred around the three pillars that I just mentioned. They include a vast array of accountability and performance measures such as policy reviews, criteria reviews, strategic plans, development plans, implementation plans, efficiency analyses, training plans for staff, conflict-of-interest policies, and so on. That's just to name a few. What the final document will look like could well be comprised of some of these or all of these or new performance measures as needed.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mrs. Leskiw: Thank you. My final question is also to the same minister. Given that our Métis settlements constitute a level of government that is similar to that of our municipalities, why are settlements then expected to provide performance reports on funds

they receive from the province while our municipalities are not? Why the selective treatment?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, it's not selective treatment. You could refer to it as special treatment that recognizes the unique relationship that the government of Alberta has with the Métis settlements. The funding that goes to the Métis settlements is governance-related funding whereas funding that goes to municipalities is not governance related per se; it's much more program specific. It's a whole different set of criteria and accountability frameworks. We recognize that the settlement councils are, by and large, younger governments, and we will get to the stage that we're aiming for in our targets and objectives within a couple of years.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Groundwater Monitoring

Ms Blakeman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Minister of Environment claimed that cuts to groundwater testing will not have short-term detrimental impact because "there is plenty of time for us to gather the information." The minister's opinion is not shared by the experts. In addition, the department chopped \$12 million from its overall budget without knowing what programs the money would come from. My questions are to the Minister of Environment. Now that we are two months into the budget year, would the minister explain exactly how the department will cut \$12 million from its budget?

Thank you.

Mr. Renner: Mr. Speaker, that question is entirely impossible to answer in the 35 seconds that the rules of the House allow for. Let me refresh this member's memory and remind her that we spent about three hours of quality time together over in the Annex about two weeks ago, and I think we went through a great amount of detail with respect to my budget. If there are some issues that are still unclear to her, then I suggest that she sit down with me, and we'll go over it in some further detail at the right time.

2:20

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Blakeman: Yes. Thank you. That is why I asked the question. You were not able to provide very much detail at the time, aside from what you'd cut. Thank you for the invitation.

The next question I have is: given that the budget cuts have reduced water monitoring, how does the minister expect water for life partners to increase their understanding of the state of Alberta's drinking water, aquatic ecosystems, and the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater resources?

Mr. Renner: Well, Mr. Speaker, the issue with respect to groundwater monitoring – and she referred to it in her preamble to the first question – is that the information that is garnered from monitoring of groundwater is accumulated over many, many years. When you are having a series of wells that are being monitored, you really don't garner the kind of information that you need over a period of one or two or even five years. It's when you start to compare long-term trends over 10 and 15 and 20 years that you can start to interpret that information. That's what I was referring to the hon. member by saying that whether we reduce the frequency of testing in these wells to annually or biennially, in the long-term it's not

going to have a fundamental impact on how we analyze that data 20 years down the road.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Blakeman: Well, thank you. Again to the same minister: given that the information is key to understanding the risks to groundwater, how can the minister know there won't be any detrimental effects if, in fact, the department's collection of information is skipping a few years in that cumulative effect?

Mr. Renner: Well, Mr. Speaker, let's remember that most of the issues that we're dealing with with respect to groundwater are to determine the connectivity between groundwater and surface water: if we have pressure on our surface water, is that going to affect the availability on groundwater? The reverse is also true: if we put undue pressure on groundwater, is that going to have an unanticipated negative effect on surface water? I use as an example the experience they had in Australia. When they used too much surface water, they found that they were severely affecting the groundwater that's available.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, followed by the hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake.

Parental Choice in Education

(continued)

Ms Notley: Mr. Speaker, by acquiescing to the religious right, this Conservative government is steamrolling the American fundamentalist concept of parental rights into our human rights code. Bill 44 is making Alberta a laughingstock. To the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit: why has the minister surrendered to the religious right and ignored the wishes of the majority of Albertans by moving ahead with Bill 44?

Mr. Blackett: Mr. Speaker, the only embarrassment that we have in Alberta is that we have members of the opposition who can't once stand up and say one thing positive about this province that they live in. That's the embarrassment. There are over 600,000 students in this province, and they have parents, and parents are also representative of this province. They have beliefs that could be on the left side of the spectrum, the right side of the spectrum, or in the middle of the spectrum, but one thing they all believe in: they are the ones responsible for the education and the upbringing of their children.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, this government need look no further than Winnipeg to see how backward Bill 44 is. If it were law in that province, the teacher who scrubbed swastikas – by the way, a religious symbol according to the parents – off the arm of a little girl could face prosecution before a human rights tribunal. So why is the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit pushing a law that could protect the right of anti-Semitic parents to teach their children hatred before protecting the ability of teachers to fight against it?

Mr. Blackett: Mr. Speaker, thank goodness Albertans are educated people. The hon. member should read the legislation before she comments on it. It's absolutely – absolutely – ridiculous and irresponsible to go on with this line about what we are going to do to these people. How is that helping anybody in Alberta, going on with this irrational fear of what will happen? Parents will be notified of the three areas with respect to human sexuality, sexual orientation, and religion and will have their chance to opt out. Many of

them probably won't opt out, and that is what it's all about. I don't see where this bogeyman is. Up there? Over there? It's absolutely ridiculous.

Ms Notley: Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister talks of so-called parental rights, but I'm concerned about children's rights to a balanced, expansive education that includes learning about all of our human rights code. Now, American leaders of the religious right must be so proud of their allies across the floor. This government is muzzling our teachers and threatening them with tribunal hearings if they dare speak of evolution or sexual orientation to children. How can the minister justify a law that encourages intolerance under the pretense of parental rights?

Mr. Blackett: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member preaches intolerance because she believes her view, her narrow-minded view, of the world is the way that it should happen: their narrow-minded view and that propagated by the media is the way that we should raise our children. Parents have the temerity, the audacity, to say: I should be involved in that decision-making process. Well, our government stands firmly behind Bill 44. We stand firmly behind parents. We stand firmly behind family values and our communities that made this province what it is today.

Commercial Fishing Quotas

Ms Calahasen: My constituency is blessed to have almost every economic advantage, from oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining, to sport and commercial fishing. Due to the world's economic situation some of these industries are experiencing hard times. Sometimes our own government policies or regulations can also create problems for these industries. One of these is commercial fishing, more specifically with regard to fishing quotas in zone E. When a commercial fishery is open for whitefish, the incidental harvest of for-sport fish can result in the fishery being closed before the whitefish quota is reached. It happens more often than not. My question is to the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development. What can your ministry do to make zone E commercial fishing quotas more fair?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Dr. Morton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member for Lesser Slave Lake for advocating on behalf of her commercial fishermen. We've met with those fishermen recently and reviewed the issues there. We understand the problem occurs, as she has explained. There is a quota set for both the target fish, usually whitefish, and the nontarget fish. When too many of the nontarget fish are caught, then the zone gets closed, the area is closed. We meet with the commercial fishermen every year to discuss options and to discuss ways to try and maximize their harvest while at the same time protecting the sustainability of the nontarget fish, and we'll continue to meet with them.

Ms Calahasen: The livelihoods of these commercial fishermen are at stake because of a quota policy that appears to be applied differently. To the same minister: is the sport fishery being managed in favour of the commercial fishery?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Dr. Morton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer is no. We have to manage our fisheries for all species to ensure sustainability.

It is true that the quota for zone E has been changed recently, but as I said earlier, these quotas are reviewed every year based on data from the previous years. Again, I can assure the Member for Lesser Slave Lake that I'll ask our biologist to meet with the commercial fishermen to review the situation and see what we can do for next year, but I have to emphasize that the bottom line is the conservation of all fish stocks.

Ms Calahasen: I'd love to be at that meeting, Mr. Speaker.

I'd ask the same minister. The commercial fishermen of zone E have also been concerned about ad hoc restrictions which impact their industry, as I indicated. To the same minister: how do officials decide whether to close a commercial fishery earlier, and what do they use to do that?

Dr. Morton: Mr. Speaker, the quota for nontarget species in all zones is set before the season begins between zero and 25 per cent, and then there is a monitoring of the catch during the season. As fishermen approach the quota on nontarget species, our biologists meet with the commercial fishermen and discuss alternative ways to reduce the nontarget catch so they can continue to catch the whitefish. The fact remains, however, that once the quota of nontarget fish, the sport fish is met, the season has to be closed.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall, followed by the hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks.

Government Aircraft (continued)

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Alberta government aircraft passenger manifest, after the Premier's dinner two separate planes left Edmonton City Centre Airport just before 10 p.m. heading back to Calgary. For these two different flights two different reasons were given. To the President of the Treasury Board: what was the supposed news conference or event that one of the planeloads of Tory MLAs was attending in Calgary after the Premier's dinner at 10:30 at night?

2:30

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, every Thursday the government flies MLAs and ministers back to Calgary every week that we sit. That has happened continually. We have never been asked before if that's an appropriate use of government aircraft. It leaves depending on when we're done with our House sitting, and it depends on how the members can align to get the various planes to go. Some may go earlier; some can go later.

As to the exact reason for them going and to what particular event, I'll have to check the records, but the hon. member will know that every flight and every manifest is put on the website for all Albertans to see.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the manifest it says that the purpose of the flight was to attend meetings and a news conference with government officials. To the President of the Treasury Board again: what were the meetings with government officials about that the other planeload of Tory MLAs had in Calgary after the Premier's dinner at 10:30 at night?

Mr. Snelgrove: Boy, it would be pretty clear to me that if it said that they were going to attend meetings, he could ask them what their

meetings were for. Mr. Speaker, as much as I'd like to know – actually, I don't have any interest in knowing. These people in this government are incredibly busy. Many people will know that many worked here Tuesday night until 3:30 in the morning. Several of the ministers were in Medicine Hat by 8 o'clock the next morning or into Calgary. We can't do it without transportation, without airplanes. The hours they put in, the meetings they attend, the people they meet in Alberta: probably second to none.

So trying to raise some kind of issue around the fact that we occasionally have very successful Premier's dinners around Alberta – and our party is very successful at separating our party from the government. It may cause them a little bit of jealousy that they can't seem to interest anybody in Alberta to jump on their bandwagon. The airplanes this government uses are published transparently monthly, and any other questions they have around it are absolutely inappropriate.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not about jealousy; it's about accountability. I think the MLAs seemed to be especially busy on the Premier's dinner night.

To the President of the Treasury Board again. One of the government MLAs apparently brought along a family member on one of these flights. What is the policy for the government MLAs taking spouses or family members on the government airplanes?

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, we have a very, very clear and published document and priorities for how the planes work. The Lieutenant Governor is first and his family and aides. The Premier is second. Cabinet and MLAs follow in order of the urgency of the trip that they're trying to do. We believe very strongly that the sacrifices many MLAs make are enough that if we can accommodate a family member joining them that is not replacing or displacing anyone on an airplane – flying with an empty seat to the same place makes no sense. If we can accommodate a family member, a spouse in air transport that is going already and not displacing any other members, then we're happy to do it. It's very little return for the time that these hon. members spend working on behalf of Alberta.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Strathmore-Brooks, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View.

Safe Communities Initiatives in Brooks

Mr. Doerksen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government's safe communities initiative is working proactively on the enforcement side of crime reduction but also on the prevention side. Last week I had the pleasure of welcoming the chair of the Safe Communities Secretariat, the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General, to Brooks to visit my constituency. My first question is to the hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General. How is Brooks contributing to the overall strategy of the safe communities initiative?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think Brooks is a wonderful example of a community that represents where Alberta is at this year, 2009, and this century. It's a traditional rural community that's introduced industry. There are a lot of new people coming to Brooks. Brooks as a community has given a lot of thought to how they want to build their community, include new people in their community, and define their values as a community. I was fortunate enough to be able to go to announce the SuperKids project, which is

a safe communities innovation fund partnership between the RCMP and the town of Brooks to ensure that they're able to talk to kids about what it means to be a wonderful citizen in their community.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Doerksen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the positive assessment of the community of Brooks.

What kinds of issues is this project specifically addressing in the community?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The SuperKids program is a partnership that was launched within the community in partnership with the RCMP. What the RCMP and schools do is go out and talk to kids about what their responsibilities are as citizens. They do something which is quite interesting. They give children tickets, but they give children tickets for good behaviour. If kids are riding bikes with their helmets on, wearing their seat belt, picking up garbage, crossing the street at pedestrian walks, then the RCMP reward them for that work. The important part of the work is not the rewarding for positive behaviour, but it's the opportunity to have a conversation with young Albertans about what it means to be a contributing member to society.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Doerksen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second supplemental to the same minister. The safe communities initiative fund supports a range of projects in communities. I'd like to know: what will be the other opportunities for other communities to also participate in this initiative across the province?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Ms Redford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The safe communities innovation fund is an opportunity for us to celebrate the work that communities are doing around this province. It's a \$60 million fund over three years. There will be three opportunities for communities to apply for funding. There are some projects that are big, some that are small, but the most important thing about these projects is that they are demonstrations of partnerships between organizations and communities that want to do good work and to support initiatives that are already happening in communities.

SuperKids in Brooks is one example of that. We have programs in Edmonton and Calgary where the police are partnering with social workers to work in schools. We also have projects that are dealing with domestic violence. We're helping kids identify the risks that could come to their lives if they got involved in drugs. But, Mr. Speaker, they are community driven. It is not government telling communities how to make their communities safe but government supporting communities in important work that they recognize needs to be done.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Montrose.

Chiropractic Services

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta Health Quality Council reports that nearly a million people sought chiropractic care last year. Low-income Albertans are particularly affected by the delisting recently of this service and are already the

largest users of our health care system. It's obvious to Albertans that the minister of health has no idea of the consequences his decisions have on the people of Alberta. To the minister: where does the minister expect those who can no longer afford chiropractic services to take their medical problems?

Mr. Liepert: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition used a phrase that said that chiropractic services are largely used by low-income Albertans. I'm not sure who he's been talking to, but the Chiropractic Association of Alberta tells me that about 90 per cent of people who use chiropractic services are not low-income Albertans.

Dr. Swann: I actually said that the poor are the largest users of the health care system, Mr. Minister, not of chiropractic services.

My second question to the minister: will the minister table the medical evidence that was used to determine that chiropractic services should be delisted?

Mr. Liepert: Mr. Speaker, again, how can the hon. leader make a statement that says that low-income Albertans are the largest users of the health care system? I mean, you know, it destroys the credibility of his question in any case.

Dr. Swann: Clearly, the minister isn't willing to answer the questions.

Did the minister perform a cost-benefit analysis to assess the demands that will result on the health care system from delisting chiropractic?

Mr. Liepert: Mr. Speaker, we have a number of services that are provided in Alberta that the government does not fund. As I've said in many instances in this Legislature, we had to make some tough decisions. I think, obviously, the Liberals today are in a spending mood; today is not a savings day. But this government has a consistent policy. We brought in a budget. We had to ensure that our budget was prudent in these days of economic restraint. What we've done is made some tough decisions, and unlike the Liberals we're going to stand by our decisions.

The Speaker: Hon. members, that was 90 questions and responses today. To five members: we were unable to get to you.

In a few seconds from now we'll continue with Members' Statements in the Routine.

2:40

Members' Statements

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Aboriginal Peoples

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. June is aboriginal month, and since 1996 June 21 has been celebrated as National Aboriginal Day. As most of the celebrations will happen while the Alberta Legislature is in recess, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize the First Nation, Métis, Inuit, and nonstatus indigenous peoples of Alberta.

We all know that aboriginal peoples were the first to inhabit the territory that we now share with them and that our history together has been a troubled one. While small steps forward have been made towards reconciliation and appropriate recognition, we have a long path yet to travel. Aboriginals still suffer a much higher rate of poverty, don't get the same educational opportunities, and are the

victims of racism and discrimination. Because of this, they are overrepresented in our jails and underrepresented in governing bodies such as this.

Thankfully, in recent history the Supreme Court of Canada has recognized the unique status of our aboriginal peoples and has forced Parliament, Legislatures, developers, and other bodies to consult with them on issues that impact on their traditional territories and on their interests. While we have seen progress on this front, all too often their concerns are still, effectively, ignored at the expense of unfettered development.

As our society becomes more urbanized, many aboriginal people are migrating to our cities, where they are experiencing new and unique forms of discrimination, both overt and systemic. In centres such as Edmonton 50 per cent of the aboriginal population has less than a high school education. This naturally leads to greater poverty, which contributes to greater discrimination. We need to do more to support aboriginals working to break this cycle.

But aboriginal month and National Aboriginal Day do not exist merely to highlight the negative. They are also important opportunities to celebrate the rich culture of these peoples and their contributions to Canada and Alberta. Our visual arts, our dance and theatre, our spiritual world view, not to mention our knowledge of the land and our system of law and order all have been deeply impacted by Alberta's original peoples. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

Today I want to say thank you to the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and best wishes for National Aboriginal Day.

The Speaker: Hon. members, on that last member's statement, just to advise all hon. members, on Monday next, June 1, there will be a special event here in the rotunda of the Legislative Assembly at 12:15 to commemorate aboriginal peoples month.

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Elniski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll follow much the same process as I did yesterday. I'd like to table 20 copies and the appropriate number of copies of letters from Albertans expressing their concerns about the fate of the City Centre Airport.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Danyluk: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to table the appropriate number of copies of my response to a question raised in this Assembly by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar relevant to Municipal Affairs hosting expenses at the AAMD and C spring and fall conventions.

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

Ms Woo-Paw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the appropriate number of copies of a publication by Plan Canada entitled *Welcoming Communities: Planning for Diverse Populations*, published by the Canadian Institute of Planners, supported by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleague the Leader of the Official Opposition I have a number of tablings. The first is from Ken Markkula with concerns about the WCB that he feels have been ignored by the Premier.

The second is from Gayle Simonson, who objects to Bill 44.

The third, again tablings for the Leader of the Official Opposition, from Steve Schembri, with concerns about AIMCo's investments in Precision Drilling.

Two petitions: one not in order to receive a presentation but one specific to the Alberta pharmaceutical strategy for seniors with people objecting to that and asking the government to scrap it.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table four more constituent letters from individuals expressing frustration with Bill 44. Connie Jensen writes: "It is unfortunate that students have to continue to pay for the narrow mindedness and short sightedness of a government that is fuelled by expediency and ignorance." Doug Germaine writes: "This blatant filtering of public education by the Alberta government is an attack on a child's right to an open and diverse education." Frank Durnford writes: "Bill 44, as it stands, simply institutionalizes intolerance and ignorance." Nancy Lowery writes: "Tolerance comes from exposure to different ideas, views and experiences."

My second tabling, Mr. Speaker, has to do with the decertification of child and youth care workers in Alberta. The letter is addressed to the Premier and was sent by Holly Heffernan, president of the Calgary and District Labour Council Women's Committee. Holly writes: "We are asking your government to reverse this decision and to work with CYCAA to ensure the best possible care is available to our children and youth."

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got five copies here of Alberta government aircraft passenger manifests to support concerns I raised during the question period, so I'm tabling those five copies.

Thank you.

Projected Government Business

The Speaker: The Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. According to Standing Order 7(6) I would now ask the Government House Leader if he could share with the Assembly the projected government business for the week commencing June 1, assuming there's government business on the evening of Monday the 1st.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. On Monday, June 1, 2009, we do anticipate an evening sitting, and although I always list these in the order of the number of the bill as per precedent, the timing of how they come up I will comment on as well.

Monday at 7:30 in Committee of the Whole Bill 32, Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act; and Bill 42, the Gaming and Liquor Amendment Act, 2009. For third reading Bill 23, Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 25, Teachers' Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 27, Alberta Research and Innovation Act; Bill 29, Family Law Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 30, Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 33, Fiscal Responsibility Act; Bill 44, Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 45, Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2009; and Bill 52, Health Information Amendment Act, 2009.

Now, I just would comment that we anticipate scheduling first at 7:30 Bill 25, the Teachers' Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2009, in order that members who have declared a conflict of interest, as a number did at Committee of the Whole, might be able to arrange to have it dealt with in an orderly time frame there.

On Tuesday, June 2, in the afternoon we anticipate second readings of Bill 46, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act; Bill 48, Crown's Right of Recovery Act; Bill 49, Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2); Bill 50, Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009; and Bill 51, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009; and third readings of Bill 32, Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act; Bill 34, Drug Program Act; Bill 35, Gas Utilities Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 36, Alberta Land Stewardship Act; Bill 42, Gaming and Liquor Amendment Act, 2009; Bill 43, Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2); and Bill 41, Protection for Persons in Care Act. In the evening under third reading the same list as I mentioned for the afternoon.

Wednesday, June 3, in the afternoon in Committee of the Whole Bill 46, Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act; Bill 48, Crown's Right of Recovery Act; Bill 49, Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2); Bill 50, Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009; and Bill 51, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009.

Thursday, June 4, 2009, in the afternoon third reading on those that I just mentioned in Committee of the Whole for the day before.

As is always the case, of course, Mr. Speaker, it would all be as per the Order Paper. I would indicate to hon. members that I mentioned Bill 43, the Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (No.2), in a number of spots, but my anticipation is that that one will be called first at 7:30 on Tuesday to accommodate members who may have to declare a conflict of interest as per the letter that the Speaker tabled earlier.

So that would be Bill 27 being first at 7:30 on Monday and Bill 43 being first at 7:30 on Tuesday.

2:50

The Speaker: Hon. members, two issues with respect to points of order. First of all, the Government House Leader.

Point of Order

Allegations against a Member

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In question period today, as you and all members are aware, there was a question from the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall to the Premier relative to flights on government aircraft, specifically referencing the flights on government aircraft, as I understand it – and I don't have the Blues; although I'd asked, they're apparently not available as yet – to and from Premier's dinners, which are a party function.

It's under section 23(h), making allegations against another member; (i), imputing false or unavowed motives to another member; and (j), using abusive or insulting language. The Premier actually responded to the first question, indicating that government planes were used for government business. The hon. member, then, in his second question, as though he had not heard the answer to the first question, basically, went on to say – and I don't have the exact wording of the question – again that government aircraft would be used for party business.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is a very serious allegation to be made. The Premier made it very clear. We do not use government planes for party business, and that, I think, was clarified in a subsequent series of questions later on in question period. I can tell you that I've had the honour and privilege of flying back and forth to attend Premier's dinners across the province, and I can tell you that the

nature of the aircraft that are used – let me just say that they are charter aircraft, and they are not government aircraft. In flying back and forth to many of those dinners, not all, unfortunately, I can assure the House and the Speaker that when the Premier said that the party uses charter aircraft to go to Premier's dinners, he's absolutely correct in that. The flights back from those dinners are on planes other than government planes.

The specific point of order that I'm raising, however, Mr. Speaker, revolves around the admonition that you've often given the House, and that is that we are to take what we say in this House and to believe the word of hon. members. The Premier in his first response clearly indicated that we do not use government aircraft for party business and that we do not use government aircraft for Premier's dinners, that we charter aircraft to do that.

Now, the hon. member persisted in his question even after that response by the Premier. It was totally inappropriate to do so. There are other ways of asking questions. In fact, he came back later on in question period and asked questions of the President of the Treasury Board in a different manner, which allowed the President of the Treasury Board to clearly enunciate government policy. But I would ask that the hon. member be admonished for his first series of questions and be asked to apologize to the House for that series of questions in that he very clearly did not listen to the response, continued to cast aspersions on the Premier and, quite frankly, on all members of this House who attend the Premier's dinners on a regular basis.

I would suggest as well that if he had any question or concern about whether there is an appropriate separation of government and party that those are questions that have an appropriate way for both investigating and pursuing, and it's not to raise them on the floor of the House, to cast aspersions in a form of drive-by smearing, to make those public allegations without backing them up in any way or without having the courtesy of listening to the answer and then rephrasing subsequent questions if necessary.

The Speaker: The hon. Official Opposition House Leader.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to respond to the point of order that has been raised by the Government House Leader. I believe that there is no point of order here. Essentially what we have is that the job of the Official Opposition is to ask the government questions that meet the criteria and parameters that are laid out in our various parliamentary books, which I believe in this case he did. Quoting from *Beauchesne* 409: "A brief question seeking information about an important matter of some urgency which falls within the administrative responsibility of the government or of the specific Minister to whom it is addressed, is in order." I've checked, you know, and we didn't ask if something was correct in a newspaper. We didn't seek a legal opinion. It wasn't sub judice. So the question was in order.

I have the question as the member read it. In fact, it is not specific to any given member. The provisions of Standing Order 23 as the Government House Leader read into the record, you know, are about casting aspersions on a specific member or making allegations against another member or unavowed motives to a member, and the language that the member used in his questions was not specific to any given member. I believe that the opposition should ask questions about circumstances which appear inconsistent, and that is certainly what was going on here today.

So we have a question, and like my colleague the Government House Leader I don't have the benefit of the Blues, but I'm sure that the Speaker does. The question as written was: "Please tell the House that it is not government policy to use taxpayer-funded planes

to fly government MLAs home following Progressive Conservative fundraisers." That's a pretty legitimate question, and the Premier did not exactly answer that question, but he did make a statement on the general topic.

Now, the Government House Leader has made much of the fact that the Member for Calgary-McCall then went on and asked a question that he felt shouldn't have been asked. It was a follow-up question and related specifically back to the theme of the questions. The Government House Leader seemed to be saying that the member didn't listen. Well, frankly, it's hard to listen in here sometimes. I actually can recall an exchange between myself and another minister of the Crown yesterday, I think, in which I thought I had pretty good articulation and enunciation, but my colleague across the way didn't hear the question. Of course, we are all adhering to a 35-second rule, so for a member to stand up and say, "I didn't quite hear you; could you repeat it?" that's it. We've lost our opportunity to use that particular moment to ask a question. It happens all the time in this House. We need to be a bit forgiving. As I say, it can indeed be noisy.

The second question as written here was: "[Could] the Premier please tell the Assembly who approved these taxpayer-funded flights?" That is quite a legitimate question.

Mr. Hancock: Not when it didn't happen.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre has the floor.

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much. The final series was in fact reflecting exactly back on what the Premier had said, and there was a request to provide the receipts showing that, for which the Speaker corrected and admonished the member.

I believe that under these circumstances there is no point of order. There was certainly no attempt to cast aspersions. The language here has been pretty careful, to say: "Here's a situation we've noticed. We have flight manifests." In teeny tiny print, I might add, Mr. Speaker. It's clearly laying out that flights left from Edmonton city centre going to Calgary. The purpose that's listed on the flight manifest is to "attend meeting(s) with government officials." It contains a mix of people – ministers and government MLAs – some of whom live in Calgary, some of whom do not. The purpose, as I said, was to attend a meeting. It's charged to Executive Council, and it did, indeed – the itinerary said that they left at 9:50 p.m., but they actually left at 22:47. Anyway, there are two flights that go off containing a variety of passengers. To us this coincides exactly with the date of a party function, and I think that it is perfectly appropriate that the Official Opposition would question and ensure that these two things were not related. That was the reason for asking the question.

As the government member mentioned, there was a second set of questions on exactly the same theme, in which we followed up to specifically question what was the government policy on members.

3:00

The Speaker: Well, let's just deal with the point of order.

Ms Blakeman: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I would argue that there has been no violation under 23(h), which is what was specifically mentioned here. It was a question that was asked and the government clearly feels was answered.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Additional comments with respect to this purported point of order?

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. To be clear, why it became inappropriate in the supplementary is the fact that the hon. member would know that if it was a government plane, there would be no receipt. It would be on the government logs. If it was a charter airplane, it would be a party charter airplane, and it would not be under the purview of this Assembly. So to continue to cast aspersions that we are misusing government aircraft and that because there is not the presentation of receipts, therefore it must be real – it was definitely made to try and cast aspersions to bring disrespect to the House, to the Premier, to government, and it is well outside of what should be accepted in here.

The Speaker: I'm not going to go on all afternoon with this thing. I can wrap this up in a moment.

The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity to the point of order.

Mr. Chase: Just very quickly, with regard to the tabling it clearly states Alberta government flight logs at the top. It was based on the fact that this was logged . . .

The Speaker: There is no tabling. We're talking about – sorry. Sit down, please. We're not talking about any tabling; we're talking about a point of order here. There has been no tabling involved. Something on the point of order.

Mr. Chase: Yes. With regard to the point of order the documents that the questions were based upon were based upon the Alberta government . . .

The Speaker: Well, I'm sorry. I've got to repeat it again. There are no documents. We only have the text of the session. That's all. No document.

Does anybody want to say something more on the point of order? If not, I'm kind of dealing with this matter. We have business to do here this afternoon.

Okay. There's an ambience in this place. There's a mood in this place. It's been a trying week for some. It's been a tiring week for others. There's sensitivity with respect to all sorts of things. But let's really hear and listen to what the *Hansard* Blues say happened here today.

The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall, after a prelude about drunken drivers and drinking and driving, says, "To the Premier: please tell the House that it is not government policy to use taxpayer-funded planes to fly government MLAs home following Progressive Conservative fundraisers." Correct question. In order. Nothing wrong with the question. The response from the Premier:

Mr. Speaker, that is quite a serious accusation to make. I believe it would be very wise for that hon. member to withdraw that because I can tell you we do have receipts of the costs of chartered aircraft to every Premier's dinner, whether it is in Edmonton or in Calgary or in Lethbridge or in Grande Prairie or in Fort McMurray and every second year in Medicine Hat. I don't know where the hon. member is coming from, but maybe a better choice of words would be better.

And then there's something further about an incident this week. Okay. You judge the response.

Then the Member for Calgary-McCall comes again. "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier please tell the Assembly who approved these taxpayer-funded flights?" At which point in time the Speaker interjected.

Well, I think, hon. member, we just heard there were no such things.

We're going to have a point of order in here [because] that is going to lead to some very difficult situations. If the Premier wants to add something further, he can.

The Speaker should not have said the last thing. That would have negated the second point of order we are going to have.

Then the third question came about when the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall said: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier table those receipts, please, what was chartered?" The Speaker interjected and said:

Hon. member, one of the purviews of the question period is that political party activities are not a purview of question period. There's no requirement for the Premier to table things that happened that had nothing to do with the government of Alberta.

And we went on.

That's a legitimate question that was raised. Whether or not the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall heard the answer that came from the Premier, he certainly could not be led to believe the question of receipts or no receipts, and he wouldn't know, as per the explanation given by the hon. President of the Treasury Board, why the government could not charter aircraft as such. So it seems to me that the questions were quite legitimate.

I go back to where I started: the ambience on the fourth day of the week at the end of a session, mood, a lot of anticipation, thinking ahead of oneself, a trying week, a tiring week, and perhaps oversensitivity. That is not a point of order.

Now, hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, on your point.

Point of Order Factual Accuracy

Mr. Mason: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise under Standing Order 23(h), when a member "makes allegations against another Member," and 23(i), "imputes false or unavowed motives to another Member." The Premier used words to the effect that I had called him a Stalinist. This came out of the question that we just dealt with from Calgary-McCall. It was a bit of a diversion; the Premier wanted to stand up and talk about something that happened quite some time ago. The Premier was quite wrong in suggesting that I had called him a Stalinist. I've got the *Hansard* here of March 9. I said, "Rural Albertans are furious that a rural Premier and his cabinet would propose such a Stalinist law. To the Premier: why won't you admit that this policy tramples the land rights of rural Albertans?"

I did not call the Premier a Stalinist, but I called the bill such. This was actually subject to a public clarification in the form of a letter to the editor in the *Edmonton Journal* on March 27 written by the chief of staff for the NDP opposition caucus. It states there:

Mason absolutely did not accuse Premier Ed Stelmach of being a Stalinist. Mason characterized Bill 19 as such, for its authoritarian provisions allowing government to trample the land rights of rural Albertans without compensation or defined right of appeal.

Mr. Speaker, I will always stand up when someone puts words in my mouth and says that I said something that I did not actually say.

Now, having said that, the Premier has also stated that those comments caused him personal hurt. You know, this might be a bit of an unusual situation, where I'm standing up making a point of order to insist on my right to be quoted accurately and correctly and, at the same time, to make an apology to the person whom I'm raising the point of order against. It was not my intention to cause the Premier or any other member or any other person personal pain or hurt as a result of that statement, and I want to apologize to the Premier for doing so.

You know, when I feel an apology is required as a result of my behaviour or what I say, I don't need to be compelled to do it, but I do ask, Mr. Speaker, that you recognize, in fact, that I've been again misquoted by the Premier and had words ascribed to me that I have not uttered. You know, I want to reiterate that I find that unacceptable. I believe that it's contrary to the rules of this Assembly, and I think that the Premier needs to deal with that appropriately.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. An interesting point of order. First of all, I would like to thank the hon. member for acknowledging that his words could be hurtful to the Premier and to others and for making the apology. I appreciate that, and I'm sure the Premier will appreciate that. I would also appreciate it if the letter, whether over the signature of the chief of staff – I forget the title – or whether over the hon. member's signature, was tabled in the House. That would be quite an appropriate thing, too, to clarify.

3:10

It is very clear that on both March 9 and March 4 – on March 9, as the hon. member indicated, on page 275 of *Hansard* it refers to a comment by the member that “rural Albertans are furious that a rural Premier and his cabinet would propose such a Stalinist law.” Now, the hon. member can parse that however he wishes, but I think most ordinary readings of that and most people hearing it would hear it in the manner that the Premier heard it. That is referencing the Premier and his cabinet as Stalinist. In fact, if that was not the case, there would not have been a rationale or reason for the NDP chief of staff to write a letter of clarification to the *Journal*. By the very fact of having written the letter of clarification, they clearly understood that the ordinary person hearing that comment and reading that comment would understand what the reference was or at least, even if that reference wasn't intended, what would be heard.

The second reference that I would refer to is on March 4 at page 221 of *Hansard* where the same hon. member indicates that “this government is proposing a bill that gives them unprecedented power . . . Joseph Stalin would be proud.”

Again, language is very important. Language is, in fact, critical to what we do. While we all try and use language which is very expressive and we all try and make our point in very memorable ways, we also have to be careful because certain things in world history carry a great deal of hurt and emotional baggage. References to the Holocaust being tossed around can be very hurtful. References to Hitler. These are things that people hold close to them. These are things that have created great hurt to many peoples in the world and should not be used lightly.

I would suggest that “Stalinist” used in any fashion like that very clearly references to people what was referred to. I would suggest that the way in which it was used on both of those occasions would cause that kind of understanding among people hearing it as to exactly what was being said.

Again, I would end by saying that if that was not the case, there would have been no need for a letter of clarification to the *Journal*. The appropriate thing to do would have been to bring a letter and table it in the House to say: “This was said. It's been misunderstood. It's not what I intended. I apologize for it, and here's a letter saying so.”

I think it's very commendable of the hon. member. I won't comment on the language in which he couched it, but the apology itself, obviously heartfelt. I appreciate that; I think that's commendable. But, in fact, the reference by the Premier was also quite understandable.

I think that's been clarified now by the hon. member's point of order and the context in which he's put it. I think that should end the matter.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very briefly I'd like to make the point that I think the language at the time, when the statements that are being discussed right now were made by the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, two months ago now,

is not actually the issue right now. The issue here is that today the Premier characterized the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood as having called the Premier a Stalinist. That is the issue here today. The point that the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood is trying to make by referring to those previous statements is that that is not what those statements said at the time.

Now, there's been a lot made about the reaction to those statements at the time. As you, yourself, Mr. Speaker, have said in the past, the appropriate response then would have been to raise the point of order over those statements.

As well, with respect to the letter to the *Journal*, the reason the letter was sent to the *Journal* was because it was correcting a mischaracterization and a misreporting that occurred in the *Journal*. It makes perfect sense that the effort was made as soon as possible to correct the record when it was reported inaccurately. That is what the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood did at the time, and that is what the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood is attempting to do now. It is using the tools available to us as members of this Assembly in the House to correct the record where it is possible to do so. It's on that basis that we are asking the Speaker to rule and to request that the statement be withdrawn.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity on this point.

Mr. Chase: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I understand from a number of comments that you have made to me over the last five years the importance of discretion. I also understand the sensitivities associated with ethnicity and race. I'm very aware of that. But sometimes those sensitivities can be simply diversions. If, for example, a member had referred to the Pol Pot regime or Ho Chi Minh or Benito Mussolini, somebody who had some ethnic connection by marriage or by birth could potentially rise up and say: you're defaming me; you're defaming my connection; you're not being sensitive. If somebody called me a wild Irishman, I would actually be proud of that connection, but the point I'm making – and I think you made it earlier with your other comments – is that let's not let the end of a session interfere with trying to whiteout history. Maybe we have to be careful in terms of our historical references. Maybe we should be using words like totalitarian or draconian or autocratic. But I look forward to your explanation.

The Speaker: Well, hon. members, we've had a tradition of decorum in this Assembly for a great number of years. As an example, a quick look at our *Hansard* basically indicates that since 1987 we've had 14 documents with 21 references to the word “Stalin” used. It depends to a great degree on what the context of it all is, how we're going to deal with it.

Secondly, there are many, many references that we can follow, too. It's the context of everything else. But one thing is true in this Assembly going back a long time. There are certain words that because of the sensitivity of the placement of the individuals in history basically have been withdrawn as the result of a request by certain members or others.

As an example, the word “Adolf” was used on March 3, 1994. One member referred to another member and called him Adolf. That word was withdrawn at the request of the member. On May 27, 1988, the Deputy Speaker in committee basically ruled that it was improper to make disparaging remarks about a foreign head of state when a particular member said, “Ayatollah Khomeini to write a book on religious tolerance.” The word “communist” has been ruled out. One member accusing another member of being a card-carrying commie was considered to be inappropriate. Just less than two years ago the Deputy Speaker, the hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, when he was in the chair, caused a member to withdraw the

following statement, “The Progressive Conservative Party is becoming partially communist,” in the context of which it was raised and which it was used.

Now, we have a lot of other expressions, too, that we don’t allow. We don’t allow words like coward and cowardly and what have you and all the rest of that.

3:20

Today here’s what was said midway through what the reference was from the Premier:

There are a number of them that I let go by, and some of them really hurt, especially when the leader of the third party referred to me as Stalin, something like: Stalinistic era brought by this government. Does he not know my background? Does he not know what that one individual did to millions of Ukrainians, how he starved them out? I let that go by. I’m not letting this thing go by. Either he apologizes or comes up with the proof. Enough is enough.

Well, I’ve sat in this House, and I’ve certainly heard the words “Stalinistic era” used by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood in certain questions and documents in recent days. I’ve never heard, however, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood refer to another hon. member in this Assembly as Stalin. I’ve not heard that used, and it’s not clear to me that, in fact, anybody is suggesting that he did use it. But the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood is denying it and basically saying: I never used it against an hon. member, and I didn’t do that against an hon. member.

I’ll go back to what I said before. There’s a mood, there’s an ambience, there’s a tiring, trying environment that does not bring out the best of everybody. I think that it’s inappropriate for one member to suggest that another member called him that if he didn’t, and I think it would be appropriate for the Premier to reconsider accusing another member of calling him Stalin if he didn’t. I understand the sensitivity. I understand as well the comments put forward by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood, who offered an apology. I heard that apology this afternoon for sensitivities. I heard the hon. Government House Leader stand up and say: well, that was interesting, this whole point of order with respect to all of this. I find this not trying. I don’t find this tiring. I just think that we can do better.

We’re now going to move on to Orders of the Day.

Orders of the Day

Government Bills and Orders Third Reading

Bill 37

Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2009

Mr. Snelgrove: On behalf of the hon. Minister of Finance and Enterprise I’d like to move third reading of the Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2009.

The Speaker: Should I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 37 read a third time]

Bill 38

Tourism Levy Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the hon.

Minister of Finance and Enterprise I move third reading of Bill 38, the Tourism Levy Amendment Act, 2009.

The Speaker: Shall I call the question, hon. members?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 38 read a third time]

Bill 39

Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2009

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. Minister of Finance and Enterprise I would like to move third reading of Bill 39, the Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2009.

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

Mr. Mason: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I think things started to go just a little fast here, so I want to get up and speak to this because I think, you know, it’s important that we don’t miss opportunities because things are going so fast and you’re trying to find your page and just in case some members wanted to have a chance to speak to this.

Mr. Speaker, generally, we’re supportive of the bill. I think that there are some concerns, of course. The section regarding search and seizure without warrant: the officer currently has to believe on reasonable and probable grounds that a contravention of the act has taken place and getting a warrant would cause delay that might lead to the loss or destruction of evidence. The bill would change this section so that the officer only has to have reasonable grounds for that belief. Well, that’s, you know, a bit of a concern that I wanted to highlight.

I think the provision for increasing a penalty on money owing to the Crown because of neglect, carelessness, or wilful default or fraud or evasion – the penalty is raised from 25 per cent of the amount owing to 50 per cent – is probably something that’s good. Fines are increased, and I think that’s something that we support as well.

Overall, Mr. Speaker, I think the bill makes positive changes. We think it’s important for taxes and fines to keep pace with the times so that they continue to act as sufficient deterrents. It’s important for the government to be able to properly enforce the collection or remittance of tobacco taxes so that no one is profiting unfairly from the illegal collection or failure to remit tax.

Mr. Speaker, there is plenty of evidence that raising tobacco taxes is the single most effective way for government to discourage their citizens from smoking. These taxes also need to keep up with wage increases in order to be effective. In 2008 Alberta had some of the most affordable cigarettes in Canada when the price of cigarettes was compared to the average wage. Since we’ve recently had a further increase to our minimum wage, from \$8.40 an hour to \$8.80 an hour, it’s imperative that taxes rise, too.

The Campaign for a Smoke-Free Alberta has been advocating for tobacco tax increases. A letter they sent to me on November 7, 2008, claims that Alberta’s \$2.25 per pack increase in 2002 contributed to a reduction in tobacco sales of 24 per cent in 2003. So this can go a long way towards decreasing the amount that Albertans smoke.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say in reference to this issue generally that it’s interesting that the government is always prepared to raise sin taxes, particularly when we talk about tobacco and liquor, but not corporate taxes. In fact, the government has repeatedly reduced the effective rate that large corporations pay on their profits at a time

when some companies in Alberta even in the last couple of years were making annual profits that exceeded the entire domestic product of some countries. The fact is that the government is always willing to bear down on people who smoke or drink or whatever but not really go after the big money. I'm not saying that we don't want to increase taxes in these areas, because of the deterrent effect, but I do want to highlight the government's drive to reduce corporate taxes as a source of revenue.

The other point that I'd really like to make is that it's unfortunate that the increases in taxes on cigarettes are not being allocated towards reducing smoking in our society and to help people quit smoking, desist. It is, in fact, a cash cow as far as the government is concerned, and I believe that we should be spending more of that increase on tobacco reduction strategies. Simply raising the taxes is not a sufficient effort on the part of the government to control the use of tobacco.

With that being said, Mr. Speaker, I do want to indicate that we think the increases in tobacco taxes are appropriate, and we will support Bill 39, the Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, as a result. Thank you.

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

3:30

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to get on the record about this bill at third reading. We have had the opportunity to discuss this at second reading and in committee stage. We feel that it's a good bill. We're going to support it. Sometimes brevity is the soul of wit, and you need not say a lot about legislation that the government has essentially gotten right. So there you go.

The Speaker: All right. Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available if there are questions or comments with respect to that lucid presentation by the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie. Nobody wants clarification that the government did good or anything like that?

Okay. We'll go on. The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

Mr. Chase: Thank you. I'll be very quick. When this was in Committee of the Whole, I asked a question with regard to the potential hypocrisy of the government raising the tobacco taxes, which I firmly agree with, but also at the same time investing in the heritage trust fund to the tune of \$600 million. If Bill 39 is looked at by itself, there isn't a problem. But the government is, as far as I know – and I would love to be corrected; I hope this is not the case because I believe in ethical investing – also talking about launching a lawsuit against tobacco companies to recover health costs. If this is the case, then we have to make sure that our own cage is clean, so to speak, before we go after the tobacco companies, which, as I say, it appears that we're still investing in.

Also, the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood pointed out the importance of using the revenue that is generated from this sin tax for proactive, preventative measures. I would echo those concerns and hope that part of this money that is increased will go directly to AADAC, which is now under the central health board's responsibility, and that we would be using some of this money to advertise and have public school programs for children discouraging tobacco use.

The government's step of putting the cigarettes behind curtains was a very good first step. Increasing the tax is a good second step. Now we need to take the third and the fourth and the fifth steps; that is, get out of the business of investing in tobacco and apply the revenue that we've received towards proactive, healthy living and public education.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.
Shall I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 39 read a third time]

Bill 40

Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you. On behalf of the hon. Member for Calgary-Nose Hill I'm pleased to move third reading of Bill 40, Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009.

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

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is again another one of those bills that we've talked about at second and in committee. It's a straightforward bill. It makes a couple of changes: ensures eligibility for the Alberta tuition credit, parallels eligibility for the federal tuition credit, and makes changes to ensure that our dividend tax credit is administered in accordance with the existing government policy. It is straightforward, and we have no problems with it. We will be supporting this bill.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Additional speakers?
Should I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 40 read a third time]

Bill 10

Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act

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

Mr. Dallas: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to move third reading of Bill 10, the Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act.

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

Mr. Chase: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Sorry to keep you confused as to who was going to jump up on this particular bill.

We are supportive of the direction this bill is taking. We have pointed out in other bills that involved not only assisted living but long-term care that there is a tremendous shortage of qualified staff. It's not out of negligence or deliberate neglect, but seniors continue to suffer whether they're in the assisted living complexes or in the long-term care.

Currently there is a lawsuit that has been allowed to go forward against the government by seniors who feel that the 40 per cent increase that occurred approximately six or seven years back was unfair, so it's very important as we move ahead with legislation that we're not disadvantaging any seniors.

The supportive living is absolutely essential. As I noted in debate last night with regard to a seniors bill, keeping seniors in their homes and supported as long as we can is the way to go. Organizations which the government, to its credit, supports such as Meals on Wheels are ways of keeping seniors not only in their homes but connected. Therefore, in supporting this Bill 10, I would just

encourage the minister to look at the vulnerability of seniors and what is best for them, that being to support them within their homes with the types of nurse practitioners, whatever it may be, regular visits to help them maintain their dignity and also their home.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Others to participate? The hon. Member for Calgary-Currie.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm supportive of this legislation, too. I think it does move in the right direction, with note to what the Member for Calgary-Varsity said.

With your permission I'm just going to veer – I don't know – I hope not off topic, Mr. Speaker. This brings up something that I would like to get on the record, which is that not only do we need more affordable and properly licensed and regulated and managed assisted living facilities in this province, but it's become clear to me in conversations that I've had with seniors across my constituency and, you know, across the province that we need to move on from here. This may be a good start, but it's only a start. We need to move on from here with a much more comprehensive continuum of housing for seniors.

I mean, most seniors, Mr. Speaker, want to remain as independent as they can for as long as they can, but one of the inescapable facts is that very often as we age, we do have to move from our own home into some kind of assisted living or designated assisted living or increasingly higher levels of care. Each one of those moves can be incredibly disruptive and incredibly hard on a single senior or a senior couple. Sometimes it separates a couple of seniors, and that can be very, very hard as well.

We need to be starting to wrap our heads around now, not only for the sake of our own aging parents but for our own sakes not all that many decades down the road, a better designed continuum of seniors' housing that allows seniors the ability to go from essentially independent living in, say, an apartment, a suite of their own in a seniors' complex, with meal privileges if they wish to take advantage, with full kitchens for most of the time when they don't want to, on through, you know, a little higher level of care, on through some care that's starting to approach long-term care, right up to the point where some of us are going to need to spend our final months in a dementia ward. Those housing types need to be located in close proximity to one another so that we can move as effortlessly and with as little disruption as possible from one type of housing to another as we need to.

3:40

I just wanted to get that on the record because I'm certainly hearing that from a great number of seniors who I've been talking to. I thought this might be a good time, with your co-operation and permission, Mr. Speaker, to allow that to happen.

That said, I'll take my seat and see if others want to join the debate or if we should call the question.

The Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available.

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 10 read a third time]

Bill 11 Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Berger: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the hon.

Member for Whitecourt-St. Anne I rise today to move third reading of Bill 11, the Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2009.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to speak in support of Bill 11. This bill proposes a more punitive penalty for fishery violations and power to the courts to include penalties that bind offenders to return fisheries to their healthy state.

Alberta's fish stocks have been declining steadily since 2000. The main reason for this has been overfishing and loss of fish habitat due to rapid development. Bill 11 hopes to address the issue of overfishing by introducing punitive measures to discourage overfishing. In the event that anglers are charged under the Fisheries (Alberta) Act, strict penalties are introduced. Essentially, this serves as a great deterrent.

The fish resources of Alberta are limited in diversity and abundance by the small amount of suitable habitat due to the relatively small amount of surface water. Surveys in Alberta have indicated that about 800 lakes and 1,500 streams have a self-sustaining sport fish population. An additional 300 ponds are stocked regularly with trout to expand fishing and harvest opportunities. There are going to be economic benefits to sport fishing in Alberta.

The act addresses the deficiency in the existing act, namely the lack of punitive actions sufficient to deter violations of licence provisions. A good measure in this bill is dealing with the punishment of bad land-use practices that have caused the destruction of fish habitat.

Ultimately, these amendments to the Fisheries (Alberta) Act are long overdue as fish stocks have been in decline for years. We are glad to finally see some action taken to protect Alberta's fish population.

One factor that should also be considered is the enforcement of these measures; in other words, more fisheries officers to ensure compliance and enforce the act. Without this element these changes will not be as effective.

For those reasons I'm supporting Bill 11, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Chase: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly. You may have gathered this, but I'm extremely proud of my father, Bryce Chase, and his connection with the Sarcee Fish and Game Association as well as the Alberta Fish and Game Association. Father, as well as planting literally thousands of caraganas around sloughs and lakes for bird and wildlife habitat protection, has also spent a tremendous amount of time dumping stumps into lakes for fish feeding areas.

One of the activities that the Sarcee Fish and Game Association takes on each year is a physically handicapped fishing derby. Father has taken along individuals in wheelchairs, individuals who were in need of assistance due to visual impairment. Rain or shine these annual fishing derbies in stocked ponds have been a highlight for these individuals.

I thank the hon. sponsor of this bill for bringing it forward. Obviously, protecting our wildlife, whether they be in streams or in the forest, is absolutely essential. And I thank the minister of sustainable resources for the monitoring that his ministry does.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. Shall I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question

[Motion carried; Bill 11 read a third time]

Bill 12
Surface Rights Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod.

Mr. Berger: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise this afternoon to move third reading of Bill 12, the Surface Rights Amendment Act, 2009.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to speak in favour of Bill 12, brought forward by the Member for Livingstone-Macleod. The intent of the bill is to simplify the processes the board uses to resolve disputes and to implement more informal, flexible forms of dispute resolution. Amendments are included to allow the board to have a more efficient process to manage its workload. As the workload with the board has been going up, I think this bill will go a long way to addressing that concern, and I think the board will be able to speed up the hearing process.

This bill is intended to deal with administration procedures and effectively streamline them in order to more expeditiously resolve surface rights disputes. This is a very important bill as it relates to the compensation for landowners who have resource activity on their land. Any changes to it must be carefully considered and must achieve an optimal balance between the rights of landowners and the rights of operators.

I think this bill is a step in the right direction, and for those reasons I think I'm going to be supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Additional members to participate?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 12 read a third time]

Bill 13
Justice of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Egmont.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to support Bill 13, the Justice of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009. Bill 13 will improve the judicial system and the court efficiency by providing justices of the peace with more flexibility and options. The Justice of the Peace Amendment Act will permit a sitting or presiding justice of the peace to serve past age 70 up to a maximum age of 75 or until his or her original 10-year appointment expires, whichever occurs first.

Currently the Justice of the Peace Amendment Act authorizes justices of the peace to be appointed for a 10-year term. The act also contains a provision for mandatory retirement at age 70. Bill 13 will change this and will ensure that experienced justices of the peace who want to and are capable of serving part-time or full-time in their capacity for their full 10-year term are not prevented from doing so because they've reached the age of 70. It will also ensure consistency with similar provisions pursuant to the Provincial Court Act,

applicable to judges and the Court of Queen's Bench Act, applicable to masters in chambers.

The amendments in Bill 13 will improve the efficiency of Alberta courts and, most importantly, increase Alberta's access to justice.

It is now my pleasure on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General to move third reading of Bill 13, the Justice of the Peace Amendment Act.

Thank you.

3:50

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-McCall.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to speak in support of Bill 13, brought forward by the hon. Member for Calgary-Elbow. Under the current act justices of the peace are appointed for a term of 10 years but cannot sit past age 70 even if their appointment hasn't expired. With this bill I think the proposed amendments would allow a justice of the peace to sit past age 70, up to a maximum age of 75 or until his or her appointment expires, whichever occurs first. The proposed amendments would be consistent with provisions of the Provincial Court Act applicable to judges and with provisions in the Court of Queen's Bench Act applicable to masters in chambers.

This bill will likely have an almost entirely positive effect on the administration of the courts. Similar amendments, as mentioned above, were used to overhaul the rules of appointment terms of masters in chambers last sitting. For those reasons, we support this effort to ensure the smooth operation of the courts and career security for Alberta's justices of the peace. This problem was, you know, known for some time, and I'm glad the government is moving to address this problem.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Additional participants?
Shall I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 13 read a third time]

Bill 14
Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mr. Knight: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, it's a pleasure for me to move third reading this afternoon of Bill 14, the Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act.

As we have all come to understand, this \$2 billion investment by the government, the province of Alberta on behalf of all of the people of Alberta and most certainly, I think, people of Canada, is a very clear signal of our commitment to the responsible development of Alberta's resources. Mr. Speaker, CCS, of course, is a technology that has been proven in places around the world, most particularly in Canada, and I would like to again reiterate that this is our support of the science of solutions.

Carbon dioxide is not just created by industry. We also know that our normal course of daily living generates a certain amount of CO₂ emissions and perhaps, in some circumstances, Mr. Speaker, the largest amount. They're not the sole responsibility, these CO₂ emissions, of industry alone. We believe that everyone must do their part to reduce emissions. This particular piece of legislation of the province of Alberta and our support for carbon capture and storage funding is done, I think, on behalf of Albertans to indicate, of

course, that we realize that each Albertan needs to play a role. By this support, we are doing so.

Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Chase: Thank you very much. I just want to share our support for this particular bill. We do realize that the government has to take the first step in terms of initiating exploration and improvement of carbon sequestration technology. I'm extremely pleased that the government has seen fit to support the University of Calgary's Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy, which does a tremendous amount of the postsecondary research on carbon sequestration. As the hon. Minister of Energy noted, we have examples such as the Weyburn field in our neighbouring province of Saskatchewan, which sequesters CO₂ through a pipeline from North Dakota.

We know that the technology is one of the tools in terms of a cleaner atmosphere. We're going to be in a position where, hopefully, the Alberta government, our federal government, and the governments of the United States will be able to figure out what is best individually and collectively for us. There will be discussions in the future about carbon capture, and then comes the somewhat muddying of the waters, where it's not only carbon capture, but it's trade as well.

I want to put it on the record that I am hoping that the trading that is done is of an internal Alberta nature, in the same way that I'm hoping that bitumen upgrading will primarily be done in the province of Alberta so that we can get the best advantage from the risk that we are taking. I just want to put it on the *Hansard* record that we are supportive of the sustainable development of the oil sands – we see the advantages to Alberta for years to come – but we want there to be a very measured balance between the economy and the environment. The economy can be sort of a short-gain circumstance, but if it causes long-term pain in the form of reclamation or water pollution, then we have to re-evaluate the methodology we use for our exploration, and now we have to look at sequestration.

I mentioned sort of lining up with our national government and lining up with the States, but we also have a responsibility to line up with the world. Currently Alberta's cost per tonne is valued at \$15, and the European average is \$30. I know that the hon. Minister of Energy will be representing Alberta's interests. But in protecting Alberta's interests, we also have to work in a collegial, collaborative, global fashion to make sure that Alberta is not only a leader in terms of the technology associated with carbon sequestration but is working in concert with the rest of Canada, the United States, our neighbour and major trade partner, and also the world in general. We realize that we have to eventually move beyond our nonrenewable resource dependency on oil, in its various forms, and natural gas and that what happens now in terms of our planning and our preparation will be key to Alberta's success and sustainability.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is on the debate, not 29(2)(a), right?

The Speaker: This is on the debate.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. I just want to, very briefly, Mr. Speaker, get back on the record, you know, comments that echo, I think, what I said at second reading stage. Carbon capture and storage is a good idea. It is the centrepiece of the government's attempt to avoid the

consequence of carbon pricing on a national or international level. That in and of itself may or may not be a bad thing. I'm not sure that it is a bad thing.

However, I still have concerns about all of our eggs or far too many of our eggs being in this one carbon capture and storage basket in terms of how we're going to tackle climate change and carbon emissions in the province of Alberta. Whether we get the chance, as the hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity is hoping, to do an internal cap and trade arrangement or whether we get caught up, advisably or otherwise, in a North America-wide cap and trade arrangement, I think that we are going to find ourselves dragged to a position where we have to have more tools in our box than just carbon capture and storage. There are other opportunities in terms of encouraging energy conservation, which I think is the single biggest one that we should be going hard on.

With that in mind, I would reiterate that while there is this commitment in principle to the original \$2 billion that was going to be put towards the Green TRIP initiative, we are not at \$5 million in the budget this year. We're not in practical terms acting on that commitment to nearly enough of an extent. I think that we need to work hard on the issues of public transportation, improved rapid transportation, energy conservation, some good strategies to retrofit – I gather the Member for Edmonton-Centre was laughing about something else.

4:00

Ms Blakeman: Yes. Totally.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, she was. Because I was serious.

Ms Blakeman: Absolutely.

Mr. Taylor: You know, on some good strategies around retrofitting houses, especially, because there's a tremendous amount of energy wastage and contribution to the carbon footprint there, on conservation strategies across the board: I think that's where this government really should be focusing in addition to the carbon capture and storage. I believe that there's more that we can do to encourage the development of alternative energy forms as well. Even though I recognize that we're not going to replace oil and gas or anywhere near that in the short term with renewables, with alternative energy sources, we must be starting down that road and working on the technology now.

I firmly believe that we achieved a status before the economy went south on us as an oil and gas superpower in this province. I firmly believe that going forward we need to establish and reaffirm our status in Alberta for the rest of the world as an energy superpower. We need to be good at all forms of energy: at the technology, at the knowledge, at the ability to sell that technology and sell that knowledge around the world, at the ability to sell other forms of energy around the world as well. Energy is our lifeblood. It has been conventional energy up until now and, increasingly, nonconventional oil and nonconventional gas. We need to ensure as we go forward that we continue to have energy in some form or other, in many forms, as our lifeblood, and we need to be producing it in an environmentally responsible way. We need to be leaders. We need to be leaders at all times in all forms of energy and energy conservation.

I would simply urge that the government not stop here at carbon capture and storage as the one magic trick that they have for dealing with global warming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. Calgary-McCall, do you want to participate under Standing Order 29(2)(a)?

Mr. Kang: No, I don't.

The Speaker: Any questions or comments?

Then the hon. Member for Calgary-McCall to participate in the debate.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two billion dollars is a big investment. I don't think any jurisdiction in the world is putting that kind of money towards carbon capture and storage, and I think we could be the leaders in this. Environment and energy development go hand in hand, and we could be the leaders if we balanced the two.

I think the flip side right now is that the government is entirely relying on this technology to provide not as much as GHG reductions. They're just in the planning stages. I think much more needs to be done. We should spread it around to have the efficiency savings. Maybe we should commit to retrofit homes with new windows, new furnaces, public transit initiatives, and incentives for green energy development. I think we can only be the leaders if we do all that.

I think the world is looking at us. Like the Member for Calgary-Currie said, we are an energy superpower, and when the economies of the world come back – India and China, all those countries – they will be looking to us for energy, and I think we should be ready and prepared to cash in on that boom. If our environment suffers at the cost of energy development, I don't think that would be good, sensible long-term planning. We should be leaders in this technology, and we can sell this technology to every other country in the world.

I will give you the example of New Delhi. Things were really getting way out of hand because, you know, it was very, very polluted, and the government decided to do something about it. They banned all the diesel vehicles from certain areas of the city, and they banned all those small autorickshaws. Because the government had the will, they cleaned up the environment in no time in New Delhi. Before, it was very hard to breathe. People were using dust masks. They were using bandanas. They were covering their noses and mouths. You know, when one got home, the dust mask was all black outside. When you go out now, that problem is not there anymore. I think that with that kind of money going towards cleaning up the GHG, we should go further to be leaders in the world on saving the environment.

You know, I think those concerns should all be addressed. I think we could be a leader in the technology. We can sell that, and we can all benefit. Our coming generations will benefit from this. It's a very good step in the right direction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. members, Standing Order 29(2)(a) is available. Additional speakers? Should I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 14 read a third time]

Bill 16 Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays.

Mr. Johnston: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move third reading and provide a brief summary of Bill 16, the Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009.

Section 25(3) of the Peace Officer Act ensures that only fully sworn police officers can call themselves constable or special constable. Auxiliary constables are not fully sworn police members. They have limited authority granted to them under the Peace Officer Act. The intent is to establish clear, distinct identities for sworn officers and auxiliary constables and keep the term "constable" exclusively for sworn officers. However, complying with section 25(3) would require police services with auxiliary programs to change their auxiliary constables' uniforms and insignia, creating extra costs for those services.

Mr. Speaker, this was never the intent of the Peace Officer Act, and these extra costs would be especially burdensome in these uncertain economic times. This proposed amendment would allow police services to ask the Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security for an exception to this section of the act. They could then use similar but not identical uniforms and titles for both sworn and auxiliary constables, who attend scenes together. Passing this amendment will ensure that police services with auxiliary police programs do not have to use limited budget dollars to make changes to the uniforms and insignia. There are no costs to government related to this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I move third reading of Bill 16, the Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009. Thank you.

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

Mr. Chase: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In support of Bill 16, the Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009, yesterday I put on the record how pleased I was with the co-ordination between conservation officers, Sustainable Resource personnel, sheriffs, RCMP, and I need to include in that list the peace officers/special constables because what I am seeing, to my great delight, is a greater co-ordination of services. I had asked previous questions of the Solicitor General about how individuals could potentially transfer from force to force and what type of training would be required to do that transferring.

4:10

Under the auspices of Bill 16, if you'll permit, Mr. Speaker, I want to send out a large bouquet of congratulations and good wishes to Rick Gardner, who is based, I believe, out of Red Deer, and he is in charge of the sheriffs program for southern Alberta. Rick Gardner has got to be the greatest advocate for the sheriffs department possible. He spent a tremendous amount of time with me over the phone clarifying a ticket that a constituent of mine had received, and he has had a tremendous amount of previous policing experience with the Calgary police force, just an absolute great fellow doing a wonderful job. He assured me that while it appeared that the sheriffs' training in the first hand was somewhat limited, when that training is combined with on-the-job mentorship with RCMP officers and senior officers, that combination is a tremendous asset both on the highways and in the wilderness areas.

I am supportive of Bill 16 and its intent of clarification of special constables and their designation as peace officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Additional comments? Shall I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 16 read a third time]

The Speaker: Just a comment. Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, seek some advice with respect to a comment you made just a few minutes ago when you said that you called a police officer in this province to seek advice on behalf of a ticket that had been received by a constituent of yours. Get some advice with respect to that matter, please.

Bill 20
Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Egmont.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I've listened over the course of the debate on Bill 20, the Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009, to some of the input received during second reading and Committee of the Whole. I'm confident this legislation will further help Albertans to provide for themselves during their senior years.

A lot of people don't understand exactly how the Civil Enforcement Act works. The Civil Enforcement Act actually provides for relatively few exemptions if there is a judgment against someone. For example, if I had a second vehicle, say a blue van, at my place, that could easily be seized. The proposed amendments would change the law so that creditors don't have access to funds in a noninsurance RRSP, a deferred profit savings plan, known as a DPSP, or a registered retirement income fund, known as an RRIF. It would also exempt RDSPs from creditors, encouraging families of persons with disabilities to plan for the future needs of a disabled family member. Mr. Speaker, this bill also provides opportunities to increase the individual's independence, which is consistent with this government's goal of independence for all Albertans.

It's now my pleasure, therefore, to move third reading of Bill 20, the Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009. Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I hadn't, I'll admit quietly, been paying an incredible amount of attention to this bill, but I'm paying a lot more attention to things that have to do with RRSPs these days, so that kind of caught my attention. I started to go through the bill, and indeed I have learned a few things recently.

Therefore, I and my colleagues have been supportive of this bill as it's moved through the various stages and will continue to be supportive of it in third reading. It does help us harmonize with the rest of Canada. I think this is one of the suggestions that has flowed from the Uniform Law Commission. They've recommended a redefinition of the scope of garnishment and moving away from the sort of old definitions and concepts of debts and accruing due and substitutions. I mean, you get into a lot of legal-beagle language here, but essentially it's recommending that a debtor's property, subject to specific and principled exceptions, be left alone.

What we need here, what I need here desperately – this provides creditor protection of retirement savings to noninsurable registered retirement savings plans. My understanding is that the federal legislation, the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, excludes certain classes and types of property that could be claimed by a trustee through a litigation process. So under the auspices of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act those properties that are exempt under provincial statutes are taken by the federal statute.

Prior to this the only forms of retirement savings plan that were generally exempted from execution by creditors under Alberta law were pension plans or insurable RRSPs. The life-insured forms of RRSP insurance products that were previously exempt in that they're

essentially life insurance contracts have been addressed through the Insurance Act.

We've got a Uniform Law Commission that's recommending this. When we look across the country, we're looking at Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Newfoundland that have similar legislation. I think that as we as legislators look at the ability of government to provide for people in retirement years, we can clearly see a need for individuals to be having more of their own savings to be able to use for retirement. Fair is fair here. We need to try and enable that and encourage it as much as possible. So when you see legislation like this, you understand that it is signalling to people: please, you know, save your own money in RRSPs, and we'll do our best to make sure that that isn't swept away from you except under truly exceptional circumstances. That's what I'm seeing in this legislation, so I'm happy to support it today.

There are a number of other sort of administrative parts to this, but essentially it's creditor protection for the noninsurable kinds of registered retirement savings plans. So it sounds good to me.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Other participants?
Shall I call the vote?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 20 read a third time]

Bill 24
Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Mitzel: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today on behalf of the hon. Member for Battle River-Wainwright to move third reading of Bill 24, the Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009.

Provisions in Bill 24 will allow Alberta to better prepare for an outbreak of a highly contagious livestock disease and respond to emergency situations quicker and more effectively to protect both animal and human health.

There's been vigorous debate in second and Committee of the Whole, and I look forward to the support of members of this bill.

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

Mr. Chase: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a major stretch, but because you had concerns with regard to me contacting a sheriff with regard to a ticket, I was not arguing the nature of the ticket. I was asking for clarification of the laws around the physical condition of a driver's licence. That information was provided, and I was appreciative of that information.

[Motion carried; Bill 24 read a third time]

4:20 **Bill 26**
Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009

Mr. Mitzel: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise today to move third reading of Bill 26, the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009.

The amendments contained within the bill address certain challenges in enforcing and administering the Wildlife Act. Since this bill was introduced on March 10, we've had good opportunity for constituents to contact us on the amendments. I heard their input, answered their questions, and I thank them for their input.

Bill 26 is important to everyone who cares about wildlife. The

amendments also allow us to address some of the challenges associated with ensuring wildlife are secure.

I ask the Assembly to support Bill 26, the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009.

Ms Blakeman: I'm remembering this one now. This is the bill about: if you have captive wildlife and they get away from you, this allows the Crown, I think, to charge back the costs of capturing them and euthanizing them. No. He's shaking his head.

An Hon. Member: That was pulled.

Ms Blakeman: That was pulled. I'm not reading all the amendments. Oh, dear. I'm so sorry.

We have been supportive of this act. I'm remembering my colleague talking about this. The purpose of the Wildlife Act was to strengthen the provisions relating to possession of and commerce in animals. Yes. I've got that right. Does that still include recovering costs from owners on Crown actions? No, that was the part that was pulled. Okay. [interjection] Say it again.

Mr. Hancock: Section 4 was deleted.

Ms Blakeman: Oh, yes. Okay. That's the section I was talking about. Okay. Good.

We're certainly supportive of enhancing powers of wildlife officers and enforcement provisions and giving the courts more authority to order compensation to property victims stemming from damages as a result of offences under this act. Yes, indeed. I'm tracking this one. Good.

I actually have no notes on any real concerns that we had raised. There are certainly more punitive measures that the court can impose, so we expect it should be more of a deterrent on activities such as poaching and illegal exporting of wildlife and wildlife parts. I mean, I think what we're interested in is that there's protection for the staff that we have out there and that they have the tools, both statutory and physical, that they need to do their jobs but also that we are doing everything we can to discourage poaching. I think there are always two parts to poaching: one is just sort of stripping off the prize parts that you want and leaving the carcass there, which is appalling on its own, but then also the sort of exporting of those parts. Anything that we can do to give our wildlife officers better tools on that and to be able to deter illegal hunting I am very keen on.

At this point on behalf of my colleague the Member for Calgary-Buffalo, who is our SRD critic, I am very happy to support third reading of Bill 26, the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009.

[Motion carried; Bill 26 read a third time]

Bill 28 Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mr. Knight: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure for

me to rise this afternoon and move third reading of Bill 28, the Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009.

Thank you.

Ms Blakeman: Loquacious in his explanations as always. Thank you to the Minister of Energy.

The Official Opposition had been supportive of this, particularly because we were seeking clarification around regulatory powers and orphaned facilities and wells. But this, essentially, is around facilitating bitumen royalties in kind. Surely, we do not refer to this by the acronym BRIK. I hope not.

Two impacts of the bill: one is changing impacts of the Oil and Gas Conservation Act with regard to the orphan well fund, and the second is facilitating the taking of bitumen royalties in kind, which then requires changes to a number of other acts, so we end up with an omnibus bill that actually then has to go forward and make adjustments in a number of other bills. So we're into a number of things like the Natural Gas Pricing Agreement Act and several others, according to a quick read-through that I've had of this bill.

My colleague the Member for Edmonton-Riverview and our critic on energy has been on the record a number of times talking about our support for the bitumen royalty in kind program and process. We think we should be passing legislation that facilitates that system coming into play.

I'm never happy about omnibus bills because it's always possible as you go through these things that you can make a mistake. It just gets more complex when they're an omnibus bill, and we no longer are allocated the additional time in debate to talk about them. But we did put a number of our concerns on the record and received some responses back.

The instruction that I have from my colleague is to be supportive of this bill in third reading. It's possible some of my other colleagues have some additional comments. If not, thank you very much for the opportunity to indicate our support for Bill 28 at this point.

The Speaker: Others to participate, or should I call the question?

Hon. Members: Question.

[Motion carried; Bill 28 read a third time]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the hour I move that we adjourn until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 1.

[Motion carried]

The Speaker: Just my final reminder to members that at 12:15 in the rotunda on Monday there'll be a special little event with respect to aboriginal month in Alberta.

Have a great weekend. Get some rest.

[The Assembly adjourned at 4:28 p.m. to Monday at 1:30 p.m.]

Bill Status Report for the 27th Legislature - 2nd Session (2009)

Activity to May 28, 2009

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 Employment Standards (Reservist Leave) Amendment Act, 2009 (Stelmach)

First Reading -- 6 (Feb. 10 aft.)
Second Reading -- 90-93 (Feb. 17 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 503-4 (Mar. 19 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 583-84 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c4]

2 Lobbyists Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)

First Reading -- 9 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 93-94 (Feb. 17 aft.), 121-23 (Feb. 18 aft.), 212-14 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 575-79 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 609 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c5]

3 Credit Union Amendment Act, 2009 (Berger)

First Reading -- 17 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 123-24 (Feb. 18 aft.), 202-03 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 579-80 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 609-10 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 1, 2009; SA 2009 c3]

4 Post-secondary Learning Amendment Act, 2009 (Bhullar)

First Reading -- 17 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 124 (Feb. 18 aft.), 353-56 (Mar. 11 aft.), 585-86 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 680-83 (Apr. 16 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 912-15 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c11]

5 Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (Griffiths)

First Reading -- 17 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 125 (Feb. 18 aft.), 214-15 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 506-07 (Mar. 19 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 585 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c6]

6 Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Amendment Act, 2009 (Forsyth)

First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 356-60 (Mar. 11 aft.), 586 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 633-38 (Apr. 14 aft.), 861-65 (Apr. 28 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 899-900 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c12]

- 7 Public Health Amendment Act, 2009 (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 437-38 (Mar. 17 aft.), 439-40 (Mar. 17 aft.), 586-87 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 865-70 (Apr. 28 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 900 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c13]
- 8 Feeder Associations Guarantee Act (\$) (Groeneveld)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 203-08 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 580-83 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 610 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cF-11.1]
- 9 Government Organization Amendment Act, 2009 (Campbell)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 360-61 (Mar. 11 aft.), 587-88 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 895-97 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 915-17 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c9]
- 10 Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act (Dallas)**
First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 361-62 (Mar. 11 aft.), 588 (Apr. 8 aft.), 889-91 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 920-21 (Apr. 30 aft.), 980-83 (May 5 aft.), 1118-20 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1407-8 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 11 Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2009 (VanderBurg)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 362-63 (Mar. 11 aft.), 891-92 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 983 (May 5 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1408-9 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 12 Surface Rights Amendment Act, 2009 (Berger)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 383-85 (Mar. 12 aft.), 892-95 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1120-21 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1409 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 13 Justice of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)**
First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 385 (Mar. 12 aft.), 895 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1121-22 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1409 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 14 Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act (\$) (Knight)**
First Reading -- 138 (Feb. 19 aft.)
Second Reading -- 208-10 (Mar. 3 aft.), 884-89 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 921-22 (Apr. 30 aft.), 1114-18 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1409-11 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 15 Dunvegan Hydro Development Act (Oberle)**
First Reading -- 105-06 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 210-11 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 504-06 (Mar. 19 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 584-85 (Apr. 8 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 20, 2009; SA 2009 cD-18]
- 16 Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009 (Lindsay)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 385-86 (Mar. 12 aft.), 919-20 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1122 (May 12 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1411 (May 28 aft., passed)

- 17 Securities Amendment Act, 2009 (Fawcett)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 386-87 (Mar. 12 aft.), 622-26 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 737 (Apr. 21 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 917-19 (Apr. 30 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c14]
- 18* Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement Implementation Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Stevens)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft.)
Second Reading -- 211-12 (Mar. 3 aft.), 349-52 (Mar. 11 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 381-83 (Mar. 12 aft.), 446-54 (Mar. 17 aft., amendments agreed to), 472--81 (Mar. 18 aft.), 482-83 (Mar. 18 aft.), 574-75 (Apr. 8 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 604-09 (Apr. 9 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 20 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force April 20, 2009; SA 2009 c7]
- 19* Land Assembly Project Area Act (Hayden)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft.)
Second Reading -- 438-39 (Mar. 17 aft.), 626-33 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 683-90 (Apr. 16 aft.), 737-53 (Apr. 21 aft., amendments agreed to), 770-84 (Apr. 22 aft.), 797-806 (Apr. 23 aft.), 857-61 (Apr. 28 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 897-99 (Apr. 29 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 cL-2.5]
- 20 Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 161 (Mar. 2 aft.)
Second Reading -- 767 (Apr. 22 aft.), 1265 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1329 (May 26 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1412 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 21 Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2009 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 283 (Mar. 9 aft.)
Second Reading -- 377-80 (Mar. 12 aft.), 386 (Mar. 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 440-43, 454 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 468-71 (Mar. 18 aft.), 481 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 23, 2009; SA 2009 c2]
- 22 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2009 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 344 (Mar. 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 380-81 (Mar. 12 aft.), 386 (Mar. 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 443-46, 454 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 471-72 (Mar. 18 aft.), 481-82 (Mar. 18 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 23 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 23, 2009; SA 2009 c1]
- 23* Municipal Government Amendment Act, 2009 (Danyluk)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 735 (Apr. 21 aft.), 1195 (May 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1329-30 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)
- 24 Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009 (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 303 (Mar. 10 aft.)
Second Reading -- 735-36 (Apr. 21 aft.), 969-70 (May 5 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1246 (May 25 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1412 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 25 Teachers' Pension Plans Amendment Act, 2009 (\$) (Evans)**
First Reading -- 283 (Mar. 9 aft.)
Second Reading -- 767 (Apr. 22 aft.), 970-72 (May 5 aft.), 1105-06 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1167-69 (May 13 eve., passed)

- 26*** **Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009 (Mitzel)**
First Reading -- 303 (Mar. 10 aft.)
Second Reading -- 736 (Apr. 21 aft.), 1265-68 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1330-31 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1412 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 27*** **Alberta Research and Innovation Act (\$) (Horner)**
First Reading -- 466 (Mar. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 767-69 (Apr. 22 aft.), 1003-06 (May 6 aft.), 1094-98 (May 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1170-73 (May 13 eve.), 1229-40 (May 25 eve., passed with amendments)
- 28** **Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (McFarland)**
First Reading -- 467 (Mar. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 769-70 (Apr. 22 aft.), 1006-07 (May 6 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1246-49 (May 25 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1413 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 29** **Family Law Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 851-52 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1268-69 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1358-60 (May 27 eve., passed)
- 30** **Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2009 (Drysdale)**
First Reading -- 401 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 736-37 (Apr. 21 aft.), 1269-73 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1360-63 (May 27 eve., passed)
- 31** **Rules of Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Denis)**
First Reading -- 402 (Mar. 16 aft.)
Second Reading -- 852-53 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1273-75 (May 26 aft., passed)
- 32** **Alberta Public Agencies Governance Act (Horne)**
First Reading -- 467 (Mar. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 853 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1275-80 (May 26 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1363 (May 27 eve., adjourned)
- 33** **Fiscal Responsibility Act (Evans)**
First Reading -- 545 (Apr. 7 aft.)
Second Reading -- 853-54 (Apr. 28 aft.), 972-79 (May 5 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 998-1003 (May 6 aft.), 1109-14 (May 12 eve., passed)
- 34** **Drug Program Act (\$) (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 882 (Apr. 29 aft.)
Second Reading -- 979-80 (May 5 aft.), 1014-15 (May 6 aft.), 1194-95 (May 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- (May 27 eve., passed)
- 35** **Gas Utilities Amendment Act, 2009 (McFarland)**
First Reading -- 591 (Apr. 9 aft.)
Second Reading -- 854 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1280-81 (May 26 aft.), 1344-45 (May 27 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- (May 27 eve., passed)
- 36*** **Alberta Land Stewardship Act (\$) (Morton)**
First Reading -- 818-19 (Apr. 27 aft.)
Second Reading -- 882 (Apr. 29 aft.), 1134-40 (May 13 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- (May 27 eve., passed with amendments)
- 37** **Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (\$) (Evans)**
First Reading -- 701 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 854-55 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1106 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1187 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1406 (May 28 aft., passed)

- 38 Tourism Levy Amendment Act, 2009 (Evans)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 855 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1106 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1187-88 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1406 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 39 Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (Evans)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 855-56 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1107-08 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1188-90 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1406-7 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 40 Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009 (Brown)**
First Reading -- 702 (Apr. 20 aft.)
Second Reading -- 856 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1108 (May 12 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1190 (May 14 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1407 (May 28 aft., passed)
- 41 Protection for Persons in Care Act (Brown)**
First Reading -- 766 (Apr. 22 aft.)
Second Reading -- 856 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1345-50 (May 27 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- (May 27 eve., passed)
- 42 Gaming and Liquor Amendment Act, 2009 (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 734 (Apr. 21 aft.)
Second Reading -- 857 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1350-58 (May 27 aft., passed)
- 43 Marketing of Agricultural Products Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2) (Griffiths)**
First Reading -- 850 (Apr. 28 aft.)
Second Reading -- 883 (Apr. 29 aft.), 1149-53 (May 13 aft.), 1155-61 (May 13 eve., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- (May 27 eve., passed)
- 44* Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Amendment Act, 2009 (Blackett)**
First Reading -- 850 (Apr. 28 aft.)
Second Reading -- 883-84 (Apr. 29 aft.), 1007-14 (May 6 aft.), 1036-38 (May 7 aft.), 1140-47 (May 13 aft.), 1161-66 (May 13 eve.), 1173-74 (May 13 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1283-84, 1294-1329 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)
- 45 Electoral Boundaries Commission Amendment Act, 2009 (Redford)**
First Reading -- 933-34 (May 4 aft.)
Second Reading -- 1098-1103 (May 12 aft.), 1147-49 (May 13 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1240-46 (May 25 eve., passed)
- 46 Gunshot and Stab Wound Mandatory Disclosure Act (Quest)**
First Reading -- 966 (May 5 aft.)
- 47 Appropriation Act, 2009 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 1049 (May 11 aft.)
Second Reading -- 1085-94 (May 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1166-67 (May 13 eve.), 1169 (May 13 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1190-94 (May 14 aft.), 1195 (May 14 aft., passed on division)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force May 26, 2009; SA 2009 c8]
- 48 Crown's Right of Recovery Act (Liepert)**
First Reading -- 1049 (May 11 aft.)
- 52* Health Information Amendment Act, 2009 (Rogers)**
First Reading -- 436 (Mar. 17 aft.)
Second Reading -- 436 (Mar. 17 aft., reinstated), 437 (Mar. 17 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Health), (May 25 aft., reported to Assembly)
Committee of the Whole -- 1284-94 (May 26 eve., passed with amendments)

- 201 Traffic Safety (Vehicles with Unlawfully Possessed Firearms) Amendment Act, 2009 (Hehr)**
First Reading -- 106 (Feb. 18 aft.)
Second Reading -- 165-76 (Mar. 2 aft.), 284-86 (Mar. 9 aft., defeated on division)
- 202 Municipal Government (Municipal Auditor General) Amendment Act, 2009 (Johnston)**
First Reading -- 138 (Feb. 19 aft.)
Second Reading -- 286-96 (Mar. 9 aft.), 406-08 (Mar. 16 aft., referred to Standing Committee on Community Services)
- 203* Local Authorities Election (Finance and Contribution Disclosure) Amendment Act, 2009 (Johnson)**
First Reading -- 251-52 (Mar. 5 aft.)
Second Reading -- 408-16 (Mar. 16 aft.), 829-31 (Apr. 27 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1053-64 (May 11 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1209-15 (May 25 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (May 26 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2009 c10]
- 204 Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing Act (Blakeman)**
First Reading -- 498 (Mar. 19 aft.)
Second Reading -- 831-32 (Apr. 27 aft.), 934-41 (May 4 aft., defeated on division)
- 205 Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure (Third Party Advertising) Amendment Act, 2009 (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 649-50 (Apr. 15 aft.)
Second Reading -- 941-46 (May 4 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 1215-22 (May 25 aft., adjourned)
- 206 School (Enhanced Protection of Students and Teachers) Amendment Act, 2009 (Forsyth)**
First Reading -- 621 (Apr. 14 aft.)
- 208 Life Leases Act (Mitzel)**
First Reading -- 1208 (May 25 aft.)
- Pr1 Beverly Anne Cormier Adoption Termination Act (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft.)
- Pr2 Caritas Health Group Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 (Elniski)**
First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft.)
- Pr3 Les Filles de la Sagesse Act Repeal Act (Dallas)**
First Reading -- 376 (Mar. 12 aft.)

Table of Contents

Thursday, May 28, 2009

Introduction of Guests	1391
Members' Statements	
World No Tobacco Day	1392
Unsolved Murder Victims	1392
Lago Lindo Community League	1392
Milk and Liquid Cream Container Recycling	1393
High School Completion	1393
Aboriginal Peoples	1401
Oral Question Period	
Parental Choice in Education	1393, 1396, 1398
Government Aircraft	1394, 1399
Victims Restitution and Compensation	1394
Alberta Treasury Branches	1395
Electricity Transmission Lines	1395, 1396
Temporary Foreign Workers	1397
Métis Settlements Funding	1397
Groundwater Monitoring	1398
Commercial Fishing Quotas	1399
Safe Communities Initiatives in Brooks	1400
Chiropractic Services	1400
Tabling Returns and Reports	1401
Projected Government Business	1402
Government Bills and Orders	
Third Reading	
Bill 37 Alberta Corporate Tax Amendment Act, 2009	1406
Bill 38 Tourism Levy Amendment Act, 2009	1406
Bill 39 Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2009	1406
Bill 40 Alberta Personal Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009	1407
Bill 10 Supportive Living Accommodation Licensing Act	1407
Bill 11 Fisheries (Alberta) Amendment Act, 2009	1408
Bill 12 Surface Rights Amendment Act, 2009	1409
Bill 13 Justice of the Peace Amendment Act, 2009	1409
Bill 14 Carbon Capture and Storage Funding Act	1409
Bill 16 Peace Officer Amendment Act, 2009	1411
Bill 20 Civil Enforcement Amendment Act, 2009	1412
Bill 24 Animal Health Amendment Act, 2009	1412
Bill 26 Wildlife Amendment Act, 2009	1412
Bill 28 Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2009	1413

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