



Province of Alberta

The 27th Legislature
Fourth Session

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The Honourable Kenneth R. Kowalski, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of Alberta
The 27th Legislature

Fourth Session

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Mitzel, Len, Cypress-Medicine Hat, Deputy Chair of Committees

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Johnson, Jeff, Athabasca-Redwater (PC)	Woo-Paw, Teresa, Calgary-Mackay (PC)
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Kang, Darshan S., Calgary-McCall (AL)	Zwozdesky, Hon. Gene, Edmonton-Mill Creek (PC), Deputy Government House Leader

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Progressive Conservative: 67 Alberta Liberal: 8 Wildrose Alliance: 4 New Democrat: 2 Alberta: 1 Independent: 1

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Ron Liepert	Minister of Energy
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Hector Goudreau	Minister of Municipal Affairs
Frank Oberle	Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security
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Forsyth
Groeneveld
Johnston
MacDonald
Quest
Taft

Standing Committee on Community Services

Chair: Mr. Doerksen
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Benito
Bhullar
Chase
Johnston
Notley
Rodney
Sarich
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Standing Committee on the Economy

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Deputy Chair: Mr. Lund

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Hinman
Lindsay
Marz
Notley
Quest
Rogers

Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee

Chair: Mr. Mitzel
Deputy Chair: Mr. Lund

Blakeman
Hinman
Lindsay
Marz
Notley
Quest
Rogers

Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 12, 2011

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Good afternoon. Welcome.

Let us pray. As we conclude for this week our work in this Assembly, we renew our energies with thanks so that we may continue our work with the people in the constituencies we represent. Amen.

Please be seated.

Introduction of Visitors

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier. And happy birthday, by the way. [applause]

Mr. Stelmach: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your kind wishes. I wish to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly my family, and I'm going to go down in order of age: my wife, Marie; our son Les and his wife, Dr. Liza Stelmach, who is away; Ethan – give us a wave – Naomi; and then our son Terry. Seated next to him is our son Nathan with his wife, Carole, who is expecting in July, and, of course, our daughter Lynette with Michael. Her husband is working another shift at the Shell upgrader and couldn't be here. Thank you for all your support. Please give them a good traditional warm welcome.

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

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my great honour to be able to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the woman who has stood behind our leader, Dr. Swann, and her name is Dr. Laureen Ross Swann. Please rise, Laureen, so that I may pay you some tribute. This is a woman of incredible strength, tough-mindedness, intelligence, generosity, great loving spirit, and patience for Dr. Swann, for all members of our caucus, and indeed for the political underpinning and process that we have in this province. I introduce to you Dr. Laureen Ross Swann. Please join me in welcoming her.

Introduction of Guests

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Ouellette: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure I rise today to make a very special introduction to you and through you to all members of this Assembly. Most of my colleagues know the very special woman in my life. Ms Jan Tremblay is seated in the Speaker's gallery. We all know how busy our lives can be, and to have such tremendous support and encouragement behind us is what keeps us trucking every day. So I'd like to send a big thanks out to the one who keeps me smiling. Thank you very much, Jan, and I would ask you to rise so all my colleagues can welcome you.

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

Mr. Drysdale: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it is my honour and pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Legislature my wife, Sherry Drysdale. Sherry is an amazing woman, and I'm honoured to have her join us in the House

today as she wanted to witness our great leader's last day. Sherry is seated in the Speaker's gallery, and I would ask her to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Mr. Hayden: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure for me today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly an amazing class of students from the Veteran school. There are 21 students here with teachers and parent helpers. The teachers that are with them are James Matheson and Debbie Letniak. The helpers and parents are Marsha Tkach, Graham Schetzle, Darrel Durksen, and Melody Spencer. They're seated behind me in the gallery, and I would ask them now to rise and receive the welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Zwozdesky: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a great honour for me to rise and introduce to you and through you to all members here in the Assembly four very special representatives from the pharmacy industry who are seated in your gallery. I would ask each of them to rise as I call their name and to remain standing until we've had a chance to say thank you to them: Donna Galvin, president of the council of the Alberta College of Pharmacists, from Okotoks; Greg Eberhart, registrar from the Alberta College of Pharmacists, from Edmonton; Margaret Wing, CEO, Alberta Pharmacists' Association, from Edmonton; and Jeff Whissell, chair of the Pharmacy Centennial Committee, from Edmonton.

Mr. Speaker, 2011 is a very special year because it marks the 100th anniversary of regulated pharmacy practice in Alberta. I know that everyone here wants to extend along with me a very sincere congratulations first of all to the Alberta College of Pharmacists, secondly to the Alberta Pharmacists' Association, and, of course, to all pharmacists for a century of outstanding service to Albertans. They have risen, and I would ask all members here to please join me in a resounding thank you and a warm, heartfelt thanks for being here and for what you've done.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Advanced Education and Technology.

Mr. Weadick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly members of the southern Alberta irrigation districts. Representatives of the southern Alberta irrigation districts met today with myself, the hon. Minister of Environment, the hon. minister of agriculture, the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs, and the MLA for Cardston-Taber-Warner to discuss funding for infrastructure upgrades to the St. Mary River irrigation district system which would increase water storage and provide support for storm runoff during flood opportunities. I commend these gentlemen and am pleased to support them in managing their operations.

I would ask them to stand as I introduce them so that we can give them the warm round of this Assembly: Tom Crooks, general manager of the St. Mary River irrigation district; LeRon Torrie, chairman of the St. Mary River irrigation district; Keith Francis, main canal chair and chair of the Taber irrigation district; Kent Bullock, general manager of the Taber irrigation district; and Gord ZoBell, general manager of the Raymond irrigation district. They're seated in the members' gallery, and I'd ask that we give them the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Mr. Benito: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly three great members of the Filipino community: Rob Victoria, who is an insurance and investment consultant; Josephine Yee from Fat Jakks Asian Delight restaurant; and Phillip Aseron from Phillip Aseron financial services. They are seated in the members' gallery. I would ask that they rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Cao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all the members Mr. Patrick Cochrane, a STEP student working in my office for this summer. I've known Patrick since birth, and he's now a young, handsome, and scholarly student at Mount Royal University. He is the youngest son of my former neighbours, Mr. Dick and Mrs. Carla Cochrane. Please give him a great welcome to our Assembly.

1:40

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

Mr. Elniski: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions today. First of all, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you a gentleman who was my chief financial officer and a very strong supporter in the last provincial election campaign, Mr. Derek Tsang. With him today is his daughter, Ashley Tsang, who was my absolutely key and staunch youth member and recruiter. With them today is Miss Cassandra Hutchings from Victoria, British Columbia. I'd ask them all now to rise to please receive the traditional warm greeting of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, my second introduction today is of two people who, I'm sure, will be no strangers to this organization and certainly no strangers to the Progressive Conservative Party: Mr. David Despina, regional vice-president of the PC Party and a strong member of my board, and with him his mom, Mrs. Melida Despina, who is my board member and perhaps the person who has the greatest ability to tell me what she really thinks other than my mom. Both people are here today because they're very, very strong supporters of our Premier, and they've come here today to celebrate what may very well be his final day in this Assembly, so thank you very much. If they'd stand and receive the traditional greeting of the Assembly.

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

Mr. Oberle: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise today and welcome a large group of students from T.A. Norris middle school in Peace River, Alberta. They were running a bit late today, and I didn't get a chance to meet with them, so I'll take this opportunity to welcome them to the Legislature on this historic day and wish them all safe travels. I would ask that all the members join me in giving them the warm traditional welcome of the House.

The Speaker: Hon. members, this is a section of the Routine that normally provides for statements made by members of Executive Council and then responses as well. I'm going to exercise the privileges that I have vested in me as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to see two sections of tributes being provided today.

We have a unique situation in our province in that as we close this spring session of the Legislative Assembly and we look to the future, it appears that two of the leaders in the Assembly will not

be returning to the Assembly this fall, when it reconvenes, in their capacity as leaders of their respective parties.

I think it would be very appropriate today if we heard some comments from a number of speakers in this Assembly. For the first segment I will call on the hon. Premier of the province of Alberta, and then I will ask for someone from the Official Opposition and someone from the third party and someone from the fourth party to participate, and then I will call on the hon. Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations to begin a second segment.

Tribute to the Hon. Dr. David Swann Leader of the Official Opposition

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Mr. Stelmach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [applause] Thank you. I rise today in the Assembly to thank the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition for his many years of service to Albertans as the Leader of the Official Opposition. As we all know, the hon. Member for Calgary-Mountain View has announced that he'll be stepping down as leader of his party this fall – that sounds kind of familiar – and when he does, it will bring an end to this particular chapter of his life of public service even though he will run for re-election again in Calgary-Mountain View.

The hon. member was first elected to this Assembly in 2004 and re-elected in 2008, and since 2008 he has been the Leader of the Official Opposition. Now, during his time as Leader of the Official Opposition the hon. member has shown himself to be an honourable, humble, and decent man. He is a man of deep religious faith, who is active in his church. That is something I understand, admire, and respect.

His career both inside and outside of this Assembly has shown him to be a man who has a heart for service, whether that was working in Africa in mission hospitals, doing public health work in the Philippines, raising issues of human rights across the globe, or serving the people of Calgary-Mountain View in this Assembly. He has spent much of his life in service to others, and we commend him for it.

Throughout his time as Leader of the Official Opposition, of course, we've always had some political differences and maybe have not seen eye to eye on many issues, but the hon. member has impressed me with his commitment to maintaining civil political discourse in the Assembly, and that gesture has been noticed and appreciated by me.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before about the sacrifices that all elected members make to sit in this Assembly. Sure, it's long hours, and many times we do it without complaint, but it is an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Alberta. We also know that the real sacrifices are made by our families. It is our spouses, children, grandchildren who truly have to sacrifice because of the long hours that we spend away from home and, really, a long time away from loved ones.

It is in that spirit that I'd also like to thank Dr. Laureen Ross. By the way, I can tell you how small Alberta is. I just found out from the hon. minister of finance that Laureen's dad owned a feed mill in Vermilion, and Dr. Ross and our daughter-in-law worked together in the same location in Calgary. So it is a small community of Alberta. We want to thank her for her continued support and dedication to her husband, who is an honourable member of this Assembly. We also want to thank their children and grandchildren for letting their dad, their grandfather serve in this Assembly.

I wish the hon. Leader of the Opposition a long life of health and happiness, and I urge all Members of this Legislative Assem-

bly to show their respect to the Leader of the Official Opposition for his service to Albertans. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: On behalf of the Official Opposition the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Ms Pastoor: Happy belated birthday, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Speaker, thank you to the Premier for those very kind words about a man whom I believe everyone in this Assembly and many, many more outside of these walls have come to admire. The Leader of the Official Opposition is known for his sincerity, his kindness, and perhaps especially his unparalleled commitment to public health and the environment. It's been said by many that perhaps the good doctor is one of those people that's too nice for politics although I think that in recent times we've seen the hon. leader toughened and honed by the crucible of question period, and certainly his language has grown a little saltier.

I've served with the hon. leader as an MLA since 2004, and over the years my admiration and respect for him have only grown, and I know my fellow Liberal caucus members feel the same. Once in a very long while you run into one of those truly great human beings, those people of integrity and principle who walk the talk. This man has travelled into hostile territory, risking life and limb to provide aid to some of the world's most desperate people. He put his own career at risk by speaking out for what he believed in. As a doctor and a humanitarian he has served more lives and in more places than anyone I have known. How lucky we are to have the privilege of serving with such a paragon of virtue, and I use that descriptor quite literally.

Albertans truly love and admire this man. I've seen it in their eyes, and I've felt it from their body language, from all strata of citizens and all ideologies and especially from anyone who has worked for him in his many roles. You even charmed me and reined me in, and that, sir, is no small feat.

My dear friend, it has been a tremendous honour to serve with you as a member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. You have been a credit to the office and an example to the countless Albertans who were looking for a different kind of politician. You gave us hope for democracy. Thank you for serving as our leader but, more importantly, as an example of honour and honesty in politics.

Thank you, Dr. Swann. [applause]

1:50

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

Mr. Hinman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also am honoured to stand on behalf of the Wildrose caucus and pay tribute to the outgoing Leader of the Official Opposition. There is no question that the hon. member is a dedicated leader who served his constituents with integrity and courage during his seven years here in the Legislature.

Even before he entered politics, the hon. member stood firm on his convictions in the face of hostile opposition. He continued in this manner first as an MLA and then as the Leader of the Official Opposition. His legacy to the next generation of Albertans as leader will be one of hard work, dedication, and commitment, and we would all do well to remember this as we work towards improving our great province.

Passionate? He embodies passion. His list of service is impressive, and we would all do well to follow his example and give and care so much for the causes that we each believe in. He truly is his brother's keeper and has always put others first.

On behalf of our caucus I wish the hon. member and his wife, Laureen, the very best in the years ahead. Godspeed. [applause]

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

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Official Opposition came to this House having already demonstrated in his life as a citizen and as a public servant a commitment to speaking up clearly and courageously about things he believed to be important even if they were not always popular, and he has continued to do that here.

He has brought his passion about good health care in the province to debate in the Legislature and has been relentless in raising this issue. His training and experience as a physician have served him well in this regard, as his knowledge of anatomy has served him well in question period.

His personal integrity is unquestioned, and I admire his conviction that Alberta would be a better place if the government listened more to people's concerns. I thank him for his openness to work with other parties and members in the opposition to find common ground and to allow us to be more effective in challenging the government. Mr. Speaker, I've also noticed that the Liberal caucus Christmas videos have become much funnier under his leadership.

As I well know, leading an opposition party in Alberta is difficult and sometimes frustrating, and he has acquitted himself very well in this regard.

I want to thank Dr. Swann and his wife and his family for their collective contribution to public life in our province, and I want to particularly thank him as an Albertan who has acted selflessly and spoken articulately through the years. My best wishes are with him for what lies ahead.

Thank you. [applause]

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

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My friends, thank you so much for these kind remarks on all sides of the House. Serving as Leader of the Official Opposition has been a supremely rewarding and challenging and humbling experience. When I think about how fortunate I've been to be elected to represent my fellow citizens in this great democracy, one thing comes to mind. We are all called to be leaders at times, and part of leadership is recognizing that this is service, public service. In a democracy every voice counts, and every voice must be heard.

During my time as leader I've tried to listen to Albertans, all Albertans, including the hon. members across the way. Sometimes I didn't like what they were saying and I didn't agree with what they were saying, but that's the heart and soul of democracy. We argue passionately because we care passionately about Alberta, and we struggle together to chart the best way forward for this society in this new world.

Through all of the trials and tribulations I've enjoyed and endured this House, and through it all my family has stood beside me. I want to acknowledge their perseverance and help. My long-suffering wife, Laureen, is here today, a wife of 32 years, the unsung hero of my life. As they say, behind every successful man is a surprised woman. No, she's not an unsung hero. She's a saint. She's always wanted to be a saint. She achieved it in my lifetime. Thank you so much, Laureen, for sticking with me through all of this. I'm standing here in front of all of Alberta saying: I love you. [applause]

Thank you again, to the Premier, to the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, my colleague, to the leaders of the Wildrose and the New Democratic parties, and to all of you for your good wishes to Laureen and me and our family for the future. [applause]

Tribute to the Hon. Ed Stelmach Premier of Alberta

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations.

Ms Evans: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Albertan, our beloved Premier, on this the last day that he will stand in this Assembly as leader of our government.

The hon. Premier was elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party on December 2, 2006, and was sworn in as Alberta's 13th Premier on December 14, 2006. Prior to election as leader he served as MLA, Minister of Transportation, of Agriculture, of Infrastructure, and of International and Intergovernmental Relations.

He has earned the respect, admiration, and, yes, the love of his caucus. His integrity is beyond reproach, and his wisdom, compassion, and service to Albertans have been acknowledged by those here and far beyond our borders. People are impressed by the depth of his knowledge on many diverse subjects, and when they meet him face to face, all come away touched by his kindness and humility.

The Premier is very proud of his roots as the grandson of Ukrainian immigrants. We know of his love for his family: his wife, Marie, his three sons and his daughter, his joy with their spouses, and his pride in his four grandchildren. His decision to run for the leadership of the PC Party was inspired in part by the birth of his grandson Ethan, which solidified his desire to create a better Alberta for future generations.

He loves his farm, and we all know he wasn't too happy to give up his cattle when he became leader although he had long lamented that Marie likely had more experience in calving in recent years than he did.

Just as the Premier has made an indelible mark on our province, so too has his bride. Marie has been an active member of her community and enthusiastically accepted various positions with dozens of agencies across Alberta from the Canadian Red Cross to Kids Kottage. She accompanied our Premier everywhere and has been an angel among us. We will always remember the kindness and compassion of Marie Stelmach, Alberta's first lady. Thank you, Marie. Thank you. [applause]

2:00

There's not time here today to put into words what the Premier has done for Alberta. He did not seek applause or accolades; he just worked to make Alberta better, to make it stronger, and to keep us all safer. His vision is reflected in each advance that he led, a vision that in the case of the Premier's Council for Economic Strategy stretches out 30, 50, even 100 years from now, a bold idea that has sown seeds for the way Alberta could be with courageous leadership in the future. He wasn't satisfied with doing things by halves. He bravely pushed an agenda of positive change, doing more in his tenure than many leaders before him.

Since 2007 the Premier has carried out his duties in this House and attended over 1,400 events and delivered more than 1,240 speeches. He's travelled to every corner of this great province, including places no Premier in recent memory has ever been, places like New Norway, Carstairs, Wembley, Ainsworth, and several more like Beaverlodge and my hometown of Stavely, Alberta.

His support of rural Alberta and agriculture reflects the enormous pride in our farmers and ranchers. Consider also what he's done for education. He championed a five-year funding deal for teachers that further removed the unfunded liability of pensions and allowed for the focus to be on students and classrooms.

His bold vision for infrastructure was based on the belief during the economic downturn that it was the right time to build and to keep Albertans working. Under his leadership new schools, hospitals, health facilities were opened across the province, and our universities, colleges, and technical institutions grew both in size

and reputation. We built more kilometres of roads and highways, many built through an innovative P3 model, something this Premier initiated with great resistance from others. He did it, and he brought it in to better connect our communities.

It was the Premier's vision for Alberta's future that led to Alberta Innovates, a system focused on solving the world's biggest problems with the best in research and innovation. As we see more growth in our knowledge economy, we will be seeing this Premier's legacy in action.

During the recession, when some called for deep cuts to social programs, the Premier was committed to preserving and growing the programs that protect Alberta's most vulnerable citizens. He passionately believed that every Albertan should have a home, a place to live in dignity. Today almost 4,000 more Albertans live in an affordable home and are receiving the support and the treatment that they need.

The Premier's vision for strong communities is reflected in the huge success of the safe communities initiative and increased support for the RCMP. He empowered local governments with the municipal sustainability initiative, the biggest boost local councils have ever had to fund their priority infrastructure projects. Our Premier also saw the soft spots in our fabric and reinforced support for communities with the greatest stress, Fort McMurray and Wood Buffalo, with the oil sands secretariat and a provincial energy strategy. In times of natural disasters he was there with dollars and moral support.

The Premier has challenged Albertans to define balanced and far-sighted policies for sustainable, environmentally superior resource management, and that's why we became the first jurisdiction in North America to limit carbon dioxide emissions through legislation and place a levy on carbon produced by the industry, resulting in year-over-year reductions in GHG emissions and over \$250 million to support cleaner technology. His commitment of \$2 billion to carbon capture and storage has been a world-class initiative, and the subsequent bitumen royalty in kind and value-added strategy will be meaningful for jobs for Albertans in the future as we continue to be a first-class world energy provider, a supplier, and a responsible environmental steward. Well done, Premier.

The Premier recently released the first of several regional plans that define lands for conservation and policies for the responsible management of industrial sites, and his love of the land and deep-rooted respect for landowners have guided this process and will set Alberta's land stewardship apart from all other jurisdictions well into the future.

One of the greatest challenges this Premier faced during his tenure was dealing with the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. He displayed fiscal fortitude and developed policies to drive productivity and competitiveness so that today we're better positioned for the next boom.

The Premier has aggressively defended and advocated for Alberta's oil sands, and he introduced the concept of streamlining applications for responsible oil and gas projects. He's developed and nurtured relationships with elected officials and decision-makers to protect Alberta's energy exports to the U.S., including bringing U.S. Senators, White House officials, and legislators to Alberta to tour the oil sands.

He undertook international trade missions to China, India, and Europe to advance Alberta's trade and investment goals and has been a strong advocate for a new pipeline to the west coast that will greatly expand our markets. Mr. Speaker, right here at home the Premier championed the New West Partnership, an historic agreement between Alberta, B.C., and Saskatchewan, to create the largest barrier-free trade and investment market in Canada: 9 million people, \$555 million.

Canadians have benefited from the dedication and vision of our Premier, as have the brave men and women, so near and dear to his heart, who serve in Canada's armed forces.

Within months of taking the leadership helm, the Premier went to work on initiatives to promote open, democratic debate and to increase transparency in this Legislature: four new all-party legislative policy committees, new conflict-of-interest legislation, and an established lobbyists' registry.

Mr. Speaker, a unanimous vote taken by our opposition in a private caucus meeting has been leaked to me. It has been confirmed that Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has voted the hon. Premier the best dressed in this House. Their only question, confirmed to me, was: why has our Premier never appeared on the cover of *GQ*? A unanimous vote really is something to pay attention to, so we did.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I will remember these things and more about our Premier: his special grin, his famous giggle, his brave defence of what he believed was right. He never flinched when a flurry of attacks came his way. I know he truly loved people, all people in this House, particularly when we sought higher ideals for those we serve. Politics has a way of changing people. Not our Premier. He entered public life with integrity and honesty as his moral compass.

As this session of the Legislature winds down, we're all too aware that the next time we gather in this Chamber, it will be without the leadership of our friend, our Premier. I know I speak for everyone in expressing my deepest gratitude to our hon. Premier for all he has done. What an incredible honour it has been for me and for all of us to be a part of his team.

Mr. Premier, your mother and father must be so proud. You have honoured the name, the family name of Stelmach. We wish you, our leader Ed, full speed ahead and, in your words, safe travels.

Thank you, and God bless. [Standing ovation]

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

2:10

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, on behalf of the Official Opposition I'd like to extend my thanks and congratulations and best wishes to the Premier and his family. This man has devoted his life to public service. I think it's safe to say that I and all Albertans respect and admire the Premier's dedication.

When I was elected leader of the Alberta Liberals back in December of 2008, I knew that one of my very first jobs had to be to sit down with the Premier and hammer out a deal to clear the air in the Legislature. The Premier and I had a positive meeting about decorum and mutual respect and how the people of Alberta look to their representatives as role models. We agreed that from that moment forward Albertans would bear witness to a new atmosphere of respect, attacking issues, not people, and co-operation where possible. I enjoyed the consent of my caucus and pledged to end the traditional heckling, name-calling, and use of colourful metaphors, fondly referred to in *Hansard* as interjections.

If the members will turn their gaze to the ceiling of this hallowed Assembly, they might catch a glimpse of the stained glass window with rainbows and unicorns that has graced our presence since the Premier and I hammered out this accord, an historic accord to be sure. Well, at least that's how I wish things had turned out. As you know, Mr. Speaker, our good intentions lasted about five minutes. By the end of this session I surprised myself by hurling an anatomical reference across this aisle. How easily the passion of politics changes us.

In all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, while I may disagree with many of the decisions of the Premier, I've never once doubted his desire to lead Alberta into a better future. As a fellow grandfather and Christian and traveller on this Earth we have shared experiences that have helped us find common ground despite our differences, including his recent celebrated prayer breakfast.

I've been very moved by the Premier's obvious love for his family and for all Albertans. I'd like to think that I could call him up sometime and discuss the issues of Alberta. I hope he would be comfortable calling me up as well.

Premier, I hope that you and your wonderful wife, Marie, and all of your family have a wonderful future in your postpolitical years. Postpartisan years or postpolitical years? I pray for you all. A healthy and joyous retirement.

Thank you on behalf of the province. [applause]

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

Mr. Hinman: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I enjoyed that, and I think we know who won that deal that they made.

I am pleased to stand here today on behalf of the Wildrose caucus to share a few words about the outgoing Premier. Mr. Speaker, leading this great province is indeed a tremendous privilege, something I know this Premier recognizes and did not ever take lightly. His time as Premier should serve as a reminder of the great challenges and personal sacrifices high office presents to those who hold it. This Premier served during a very interesting economic time in Alberta's history. Never did we doubt his intent in doing what he felt was right.

There is no one in this House, Mr. Speaker, who would claim that the Premier's job is easy. In fact, it may be one of the most difficult jobs that there is, and we hold the highest respect for this office.

When we talk about the sacrifices the Premier has made during his time in office, we cannot forget about his family, who also endured many challenges to support him through periods of emotional highs and lows, especially when he was required to be away from them. This bears heavily on loved ones, and for this sacrifice we will always be grateful. A simple thank you to his family is not enough, but I am sure the many fond and good memories will be.

To Marie: you have served this province with dignity and class. We wish you and your husband all the best in your lives after politics.

Thank you, Mr. Premier, and your family. God bless. [applause]

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

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join with others in this House and in the province to thank the Premier for his years of public service both municipally and here in the Alberta Legislature, and in particular for the heavy responsibilities he's carried in recent years as Premier. Although we were often in adversarial positions on debate around public issues in the province, I respect his energy and dedication to the things he believes in and his willingness to speak up and to work hard for them.

Public service is vital to the strength of a democracy, and we need models of people who are prepared to step forward and do their part. This Premier has been a role model for our youth in terms of the kinds of commitments that are necessary for our society to work well.

The Member for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville came into the Premier's office with an activist approach to his duties. He had things he wanted to get done, Mr. Speaker. The Premier was not content to let the province run on autopilot. He sought to find a

positive role for government, one which would support safer communities and economic prosperity. He was willing to tackle difficult problems despite political risks. Although we differ on many of the policy decisions by his government, he saw that issues like natural resource royalties, infrastructure, health care, and homelessness are important questions that could no longer be ignored, and he tackled them without hesitation.

The Premier experienced some difficult challenges in his term. The significant economic downturn sidelined a number of plans and projects. It enabled the oil industry to blame the royalty regime for the economic problems in the oil patch when all along it was world oil prices that were really the culprit.

I want to pay tribute to the Premier's understanding of the legitimate and important role of the opposition. Under his leadership the role of the opposition was expanded, and its resources were increased.

Mr. Speaker, it's also important to express our deep appreciation for Marie Stelmach and her contribution. Her role is perhaps less visible than that of the Premier, but it is very important nonetheless. I want to thank her and her family for their contribution not only in support of the Premier but their own contribution to our public life.

I thank the Premier for his commitment to this House and to democratic government and to the people of our province. I extend my best wishes on behalf of my caucus and all New Democrats for some more peaceful yet no doubt very productive days ahead.

Thank you. [applause]

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier of the province of Alberta.

Mr. Stelmach: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm truly humbled and moved by the kind words, and I really appreciate each hon. member for all the statements made. Thank you to the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations. Actually, I've got to mention this. When I first became minister, it was international and intergovernmental affairs, and I said: I'm not going to be responsible for affairs travelling around the country. We changed it to relations.

We all serve in this Assembly with the same goal, and that's really to ensure that the next generation enjoys a better life, a better quality of life even though all of us, especially my age, the baby boomers, have enjoyed an incredibly good life in the province of Alberta and the country of Canada. We were born and raised in good families, a stable economy, had electricity and running water. Well, not for the first two years, I think, did we have running water. But it was a good time because there were no external factors that played an important role in changing our quality of life in this country. The world is changing, and it's changing quickly.

I know that as elected members we all come here together: different ideas, different perspectives. We debate them. We may not agree at the end of the day on the decisions being made, but it is democracy, and as the Leader of the Official Opposition mentioned, it's really our role to represent our constituents and bring their views forward here and make a decision.

2:20

Being elected to office, obviously – and we all agreed on that – requires very strong family support. I'd like to thank Marie for her patience and support. [applause]

I'm going to share a little story that not too many people in this Assembly know. There are not too many people that have been married since August 11, 1973. And, remember, you only forget your anniversary date once. We first met at a wedding. Believe it

or not, to show our love I used to pick her up in a one-ton Chev truck. Can you imagine anybody going to pick up his girlfriend in a one-ton Chev truck today? Maybe in the movies but not in real life. Also, to all of our children, who have all become very responsible citizens and are raising children of their own. Many of those years, unfortunately, as we all know as elected members, we're not there for them, but certainly Marie was.

It has been an honour and a privilege in this Assembly to represent my constituents. I have many fond memories of working in this House and also the late nights, you know, just working with all of the elected members both in opposition and in government.

The goals achieved by all of us in this Assembly, not just the Premier but all of us in this Assembly, are outstanding. I'm proud of a number of things, obviously, but first and foremost is the diversity of this Legislature, the people coming here from different backgrounds, different cultures, different colours, different countries. It speaks well for Alberta. [applause] Quite frankly, it is one of our greatest strengths because if we reach out to other markets, especially in Asia and South America, the representation that we have in this Assembly is going to help us access those markets and stabilize and cement a good quality of life for the next generation. [A baby chattered] I think Naomi is saying that I'm talking too long.

I also want to thank my staff. Some have been with me for 18 years, some for 18 months, but we have established more than a working relationship. It is like a family. We took care of each other. If I could just mention one person in the audience, Bev Homeniuk, who has been there from day one in the Vegreville constituency.

It wasn't easy. I remember, Mr. Speaker, in 1993, when we were making the changes, it was very difficult sitting in the office listening to people coming through when we were making significant changes, many times in the lives of many Albertans, to ensure that we worked toward balanced budgets and, of course, ensuring that we had a better quality of life.

There are two measurements, as far as I'm concerned, in political life. These are, perhaps, my measurements. One is to have your family at your side when you leave politics, and the other is to have your personal integrity. I think, Mr. Speaker, those are two very important measurements for all politicians either in this Assembly or across this great country to measure up to.

I just want to thank everybody for the kind words. We've together helped make a much stronger Alberta, and for that I am very proud of the contribution of everybody here.

Thank you so very much, and God bless. [Extended standing ovation]

The Speaker: You know, one of the options on a day like today is just to recognize the hon. Government House Leader, pass the motion, and we all go. Alas, I believe we're going to now move to the Oral Question Period.

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: I'll call on the hon. Leader of the Official Opposition for the first Official Opposition main question.

Patient Advocacy by Health Professionals

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lest this be confused for a baby boomer love-in, we'll get back to business. I'll challenge the Premier. I will step down if you do. [laughter] Well?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier?

Dr. Swann: No, that wasn't my question.

The Speaker: We do have a 35-second rule.

Dr. Swann: Albertans are concerned about health care. I thank the Premier for calling the Health Quality Council to review, and I agree that the Health Quality Council should review issues around emergency room wait times and cancer care. The Health Quality Council cannot, however, address the issue of intimidation of our health care workforce. Will the Premier call a public inquiry on the allegations of intimidation in our health care system?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, as I noted just a few minutes ago, I have great respect for this hon. member, and I know he brings great passion to this Assembly for all health care providers in the province and for all Albertans. He has done his job thoroughly and professionally.

I just want to reassure him that, yes, the Health Quality Council will continue to review waiting lists, improving cancer care, looking at other strategies to improve the delivery of health care in the province. I am confident that the review is independent. It will be thorough. I also as the Premier look forward to the interim reports that will come forward and to the final reports. I have great confidence in the Health Quality Council.

Dr. Swann: Given that key physicians have indicated that they're unwilling to participate in the Health Quality Council review, will the Premier concede that the Health Quality Council might not be able to give a full account of intimidation within the health care system?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Health Quality Council will do a good job in listening to all physicians or those that, you know, have alleged to have been intimidated. I think what we want to hear from everyone is: come to the Health Quality Council, explain the different situations, talk about how to improve the system. If there is intimidation anywhere, I'm sure that physicians that are on the Health Quality Council together with the good legal counsel that they have will bring about a good report and deal with this matter. I know the president of the AMA is travelling, talking to physicians. I do know that in putting those two together with the Health Quality Council, we will have a good report. We'll deal with this issue in all fairness to physicians.

Dr. Swann: Well, let me try a new tack, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier encourage his successor to listen to the 30,000 health care professionals and call a public health inquiry to restore confidence in our system?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, I will encourage my successor to ensure that Albertans have a good, publicly funded health care system and to continue on the good work that has been done in this Assembly by all parties: a five-year funding commitment, ensuring that we have very strict rules in terms of waiting lists, meeting the new guidelines. I'll also ensure that my successor maintains the commitment I made in 2008 to train more doctors and nurses, and we are meeting those goals by 2012. No problem about it at all.

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

Surgical Wait Times

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the minister of health. A tale of two cities' surgery wait times can best

be described as, quote, the best of times and the worst of times. End quote. Where knee replacement surgery is done within 19 weeks in Bonnyville, it takes 69 weeks in Medicine Hat and 74 weeks at the Misericordia hospital in Edmonton. This is unacceptable. To the minister: how can patients have confidence in the health system when so much rests upon where they live in the province?

2:30

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, I suspect it depends much more on the severity of their need and on the consultation that they've done with their specialist. Let me just assure everyone that province-wide the wait times for hip surgery, for example, have been reduced by at least four weeks. There is a way to go yet, and we're aggressively pursuing that. The wait for knee operations has also been reduced by approximately four weeks. There are some challenges, obviously, but as we add more physicians and more specialists into the system, which we're doing, I think that people will start to see faster access and far greater reductions in wait times.

Dr. Swann: Well, Mr. Speaker, the current target for knee replacement wait times is 42 weeks. Why is it acceptable to this minister of health that this target is being nearly doubled in major cities, including Medicine Hat and Edmonton?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's not at the acceptable level yet, but that's why we have under this Premier the fastest and most aggressive responses by budget, by plans, and by performance measures to health care in all of Canada. That's a legacy to the Premier we just saluted. We're making a difference, but it doesn't happen overnight, and I'm sure the hon. member would respect that.

Dr. Swann: Well, respectfully, yes, Mr. Speaker. The mismanagement of our health care system in Alberta has provided us the worst wait times in Canada in cataract surgery, in one case up to six years. What does the minister say to those losing their vision?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, actually, we've been looking at this issue quite a lot lately. I can tell you that we've added I think it's another 3,000 or so eye procedures just over the last short while to try and shorten some of those lists. But the discussion that we have to have with the ophthalmologists – and we're doing that – is: when is it that somebody formally and technically goes onto a wait-list versus a reservation list? That is something that is not easily answered, as we have all found, but improvements are being made, and wait times are coming down in the right way. The trend is in the right way, hon. member.

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

Water Marketing

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Alberta will face tough choices about water use in the coming years, but those choices should in no way include foreign ownership. This government has already sold our oil, and now it is flirting with foreign companies to sell our water. It's a very dangerous game, keeping the option of selling Alberta's water on the table. To the Minister of Environment. The minister says, "Not on his watch," but his watch could be over soon. So where is the proof that our water is protected? Where is the legislation? Where is it written that you cannot sell our water?

Mr. Renner: Mr. Speaker, any suggestion that water would be sold – and I'm not suggesting it; this member is, so let me make that abundantly clear – would require changes to our legislation. Those changes would have to be approved by the members in this House.

Ms Blakeman: No, it doesn't. The minister can do it himself.

Back to the same minister. Given that selling our water to foreign companies is contrary to action on conservation, what exactly was the minister suggesting when he stated in reference to the Nestlé comments that the formation of a market is an option?

Mr. Renner: Mr. Speaker, I was referring to some of the documents, that have been part of the public domain for some time now, from three very qualified organizations within the province of Alberta that suggested that there may be some components of water allocation that would rely on certain aspects around a market-based system. But let me make it very, very clear that that doesn't apply to water that is necessary for maintaining a healthy aquatic ecosystem, and it doesn't apply to water that would be used to maintain human life and human needs within this province.

Ms Blakeman: Even an Alberta market still doesn't protect us.

Back to the same minister. Given that defining water in legislation as a public good would provide some protection against the sale of our water to foreign companies, why haven't the minister and this government taken that very simple step?

Mr. Renner: Mr. Speaker, we have been talking now for some time about having a very honest-to-goodness public discussion around water allocation. The fact, whether this member wants to admit it or not, is that we have a fully allocated system in southern Alberta. That means that no new licences can be issued. There must be a process that we can agree upon to transfer some of these existing licence holders to new licence holders. That is something that Albertans need to have a discussion on, and this member doesn't want that discussion to take place.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Land Stewardship Legislation

Mr. Boutilier: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the government sent out a press release bragging about their amendments to Bill 36. The same day Rick Orman, a respected former PC cabinet minister, launched his leadership bid on a promise to repeal that very bill. He said that the law was unacceptable. Both Gary Mar and the former Justice minister have also promised to scrap the bill if they become Premier. To the Sustainable Resource Development minister: do you agree with what your potential future bosses are saying?

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, there is no answer for me to give with respect to a question like that.

Mr. Boutilier: I'm not sure if that's a yes or a no.

Given the sheer number of lawyers from across the political spectrum who've spoken out against Bill 36 – Keith Wilson, Gary Mar, the former Justice minister, the members for Edmonton-Strathcona and Calgary-Buffalo, and my colleague from Airdrie-Chestermere – why are you ignoring such a broad base of legal opinion?

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, I can tell you one thing. I have spoken to literally hundreds of Albertans across this province, and I have

not found one – perhaps there's one – that disagrees with the fact that this is a busy province, a busy landscape, that we are growing by leaps and bounds, and this planning is forward-thinking. On behalf of the Premier I'm proud to stand here and say that we will continue with this project.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Boutilier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that PCs only speak out against Bill 36 and Bill 10 once they announce their leadership bids, and when they do, it's simply to say that they'll get rid of it, will you at least do your caucusmates a favour and your future boss a favour and, in fact, repeal the bill in this House yourself?

Mr. Knight: No.

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

Water Marketing (continued)

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The chairman of Nestlé has admitted that the for-profit market his company is discussing with the government to create a market will pit the water demands of big oil against the water needs of farmers and small business. He ought to know, Mr. Speaker, since he's also on the board of ExxonMobil. Will the Minister of Environment admit to Albertans that his government has gone behind the backs of Albertans to work with huge corporations to lay the foundation for a Nestlé-Tory water market that will benefit foreign multinationals at the expense of Alberta farmers and small businesses?

Mr. Renner: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I indicated that I don't recall ever having a meeting with Nestlé to discuss anything that remotely resembles what this member is talking about. I asked my staff to go through my itineraries for the past two years. They confirm that I have never had such a meeting. So I say once again: put the conspiracy theories away. They don't exist. There are no such discussions taking place.

Mr. Mason: Well, then I'll go to the Premier because I think he might know. Given the fact that the chairman of Nestlé says that it has been in water market talks with this government and given that the minister has contradicted himself daily on the sale of Alberta's water, will the Premier agree to release all documents relating to its secret talks to enter into a Nestlé quick water market?

Mr. Stelmach: Mr. Speaker, we'll release any documents the hon. member wants because there aren't any. There wasn't any meeting. Once again I'll make it very clear as someone that speaks in the Assembly who grew up in rural Alberta and is a farmer at heart that our water is not for sale. It's for growing our food in this province. It's for our generation.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Premier's own council on economic development just released a report last week calling for the creation of a water market, how can the Premier stand in this House and tell us that there's not going to be any sale of water?

Mr. Renner: Mr. Speaker, again, most times the opposition tend to use the newspaper as their source of information and research.

In this case I wish the member had actually done that because, in fact, there was a story in the newspaper yesterday that talked about the fact that the gentleman in question was participating in a discussion that was hosted by the water institute. The water institute, as members have berated me on recently, was a free-standing institution within the province. That institute has become part of Innovates. They didn't like that. Maybe now they'll think better of it.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Livingstone-Macleod, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo.

2:40

Crime Prevention

Mr. Berger: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday the Premier announced the release of the Alberta crime prevention framework, which is being described as a strategic road map for crime prevention. My first question is to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Since the safe communities initiative was introduced in 2007, why did it take over three years to produce this framework?

Mr. Olson: Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct in that the framework does flow out of a report from a task force in 2007, but it's not as if nothing has been done in the interim. Lots of action has been taken in terms of getting tougher on crime but, at the same time, taking a broader approach to fighting crime. I want to say that this all is mandated by the Premier, and as a new minister I'm very proud to have inherited the responsibility for moving this initiative along. It speaks to the Premier's vision for fighting crime on a long-term basis.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Berger: Thank you. My first supplemental is to the same minister. What assurance can you give Albertans that this approach will be successful?

Mr. Olson: Well, as I was saying, this is a long-term approach. Many of the initiatives that are being undertaken speak to getting to the roots of crime rather than just trying to put more people in jail. We're not afraid of putting people in jail, but in the long term we need a more nuanced, holistic approach. So there are many elements to this such as mental health, housing, literacy, many other things that we are attacking, and they are going to pay dividends in the long term.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Berger: Thank you. My third question is to the Solicitor General. What has your ministry done over the past three years to support the Premier's safe communities initiative?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Oberle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to inform this House that the safe communities initiative has absolutely shaped and will continue to shape and guide my department for years to come. There were immediate changes: the Premier's initiative to hire 300 officers; we've added 110 probation officers; and we've integrated traffic sheriffs with the RCMP. A number of initiatives.

Going forward, Mr. Speaker, under the law enforcement framework we're producing infrastructure for a modern enforcement fleet with an API3 computer network, the radio network. We formed ALERT, ASIRT, a new college, and now we're ready to sign the RCMP contract.

Mr. Speaker, my department is focused on safe and secure communities, just as our Premier has been for his entire tenure.

Education Funding

Mr. Hehr: Well, Mr. Speaker, this government first claimed that there wouldn't be cuts to education, then they said the cuts would be isolated, and then they said the cuts would be covered by utilizing their reserve funds. However, the truth is that this government has significantly cut funding, which will result in teacher layoffs, larger classes, and special-needs kids going without the supports they need. All the while this government stands by like a deer caught in the headlights, unwilling to act to correct their mistake. Accordingly, will the minister restore the grant funding to school boards in order that children will receive the quality education that they deserve?

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, this government never said that it was going to cut funding to education. In fact, this government increased funding to education by 4.7 per cent this year, to \$6.4 billion, which by any measure is a substantial amount of investment in the children of this province. Yes, when we brought the budget out, we indicated that we were increasing the per capita grant per student. We maintained the class size grant although we reformulated that to focus on K to 3, where it makes the most difference. Yes, we had to do away with some of the grants which were not achieving their purpose. Yes, that goes to the bottom line of school boards, and certainly it makes it difficult for school boards this year. Yes, it's going to have an impact, but we should be able to get through this year with our class size policy intact and, certainly, continue to have the best education system in the world.

Mr. Hehr: Well, given that Alberta has the highest dropout rate of any province, would the minister not admit that his cuts to grants, that have resulted in larger class sizes and fewer teachers in the classrooms, will not help him in eliminating this deficit?

Mr. Hancock: Mr. Speaker, under this Premier's leadership this government has invested significant millions and millions and millions of dollars in class sizes over the last number of years.

Mr. Hehr: Under this government the minister has admitted that they're \$110 million short this funding year. Will the government commit to restoring this funding to adequately fund our school kids?

Mr. Hancock: Every year this government looks at how much we need to invest to make sure that every child in this province has the opportunity to be the best that they can be and to maximize their potential.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill, followed by the hon. Member for Lethbridge-East.

Economic Competitiveness Initiatives

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last three to five years we've seen significant changes across the world and have found out that here in Alberta we're not immune, but I would say: in what other place would you rather live? My question is to the Minister of Finance and Enterprise. Competitiveness is key for jurisdictions who want to continue to grow and thrive. What has this government been doing to enhance the competitiveness of our economy?

Mr. Snelgrove: Well, Mr. Speaker, internally Alberta businesses are among the most efficient and the most competitive in the world. We needed access to the world. Under this Premier's leadership he initiated the New West Partnership, that brought together our neighbours from each side, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, a population of 9 million hard-working people who together will have access to world markets with our very competitive business environment.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is to the Minister of Energy. Given that not long ago oil prices were in a free fall and that natural gas prices continue to be in a prolonged slump, how are we managing to stay competitive in increased drilling activity, jobs, and mineral rights leases?

Mr. Liepert: Mr. Speaker, shortly after the economic downturn in 2008 under this Premier's leadership we commenced something called the competitiveness review. There were two main recommendations that came out of that. As you remember, earlier this week in this House I tabled the work that's going to be done on regulatory streamlining. Under this Premier's leadership we changed the fiscal regime to the point now where last year we had record land sales in this province, we have almost a record number of wells being drilled, and the future in this province when it comes to competitiveness in the oil and gas industry is bright indeed.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My second supplemental question is to the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. We have a responsibility to Albertans, especially those with lower incomes and special needs and other vulnerabilities, to ensure that they have the same quality of life as all Albertans.

The Speaker: Yeah. But you can't have a preamble.

Mr. Fawcett: What is the minister doing to help these Albertans?

Mrs. Jablonski: Mr. Speaker, every day this government is helping to support thousands of Albertans. I want to express my deepest appreciation for our Premier, who has made the support of Albertans in need and the most vulnerable a priority for this government. Alberta Supports is a visionary idea that is people-centred and provides a one-stop shop for information and supports in 34 programs and 120 services for Albertans. The official launch of Alberta Supports was just five months ago, but already we've had over 6,000 visits to the web portal and 25,000 calls monthly.

Though we're saying goodbye to our Premier, Alberta Supports will be his lasting legacy.

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

Continuing Care Costs

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Johanna Darwish was a resident of the Lynwood nursing home from 1994 until her death in '06. While preparing her estate tax returns, her son and executor, James, realized that the monthly accommodation charge Johanna had been paying was \$800 higher than the price of her food, rent, and common area costs. Today we've learned that the Supreme Court of Canada sees the merit in the class action that

James and approximately 14,000 long-term care residents have brought. To the Minister of Health and Wellness: why must Albertans sue this government in order to get justice for those who built the province?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, obviously, the Supreme Court's decision will have to be reviewed, and it would simply be inappropriate for me to comment on anything that is before the Supreme Court. I think members here all understand how the rules work.

Ms Pastoor: I think that I'd like to know how we got to this point.

What guarantee can the minister provide that seniors in this province will not in the future be thus exploited?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, no one is exploiting anyone here. What we're doing is bringing in the most aggressive, the most robust health action plan, a vision and a dream and a commitment of our Premier, to improve services for seniors in their own communities, and that's what we're focused on doing.

Ms Pastoor: What should Albertans be expected to pay for continuing care for their aging loved ones? What should they be paying for?

2:50

Mr. Zwozdesky: Well, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of different packages, if you will, that apply in different circumstances. That is something that is available simply by contacting whichever particular long-term care facility or continuing-care facility you might wish to explore. In many cases it will cover some issues pertaining to medical needs, and others are to living and health-style needs. So it's all there. It's all available if you wish to look at it, and if you need help finding it, I'll be happy to assist.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-East, followed by the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Affordable Housing

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, the economy is bouncing back, and an increase in rental rates is sure to follow. My questions are for the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. The minister should be old enough to remember the last boom. I would like to ask him what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the housing built over the past three years stays as low-income housing.

Mr. Denis: Well, I want to assure the member, Mr. Speaker, that I am, in fact, old enough to remember the last boom. I'm sure this member is old enough to remember the first sitting of this Legislature about a hundred years ago.

I want to say that capital grants from my ministry, in fact, do provide for lower rents for 20 years, and our rents are 10 per cent below market rent for lower income Albertans but also 20 per cent for Albertans who have been homeless. Admittedly, we all have a long way to go when it comes to affordable housing and homelessness, but I am proud of our efforts, and I can assure you that we are on the right track as this program was started by the Premier in 2006.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I always say, older is wiser.

My next question is to the same minister. When external pressures such as condo conversions return and affect the rental market again, what checks and balances are in place to ensure that recipients of housing funding use it appropriately?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Denis: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Older is often wiser, yes, but there are exceptions to every rule, I would remind this member.

I want to assure this member that all of our construction contracts work on a draw basis, so the money isn't provided right up front. It is provided over a period of time; it is staggered. If the expectations pursuant to the contracts are not actually adhered to as required by the contract, what ends up happening is that we can withdraw all or part of the money. That doesn't often happen, but that's important for good management of our tax dollars.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Amery: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question is to the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. With our seniors' population expected to exceed 500,000 by 2016, how are we going to meet the increased need for affordable supportive living accommodations?

Mrs. Jablonski: Mr. Speaker, under the direction of this Premier we've had a long-term commitment to affordable supportive living housing for our seniors, providing over half a billion dollars for 10,000 spaces. One of the strongest visions that our Premier has expressed many times is to ensure that every senior in Alberta has a choice to remain close to family and friends in their own community when they need to go into continuing care. The Premier's passion for his own family has driven his vision of keeping spouses and families together even when the time comes for continuing care.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank this Premier for having the vision to prepare for the future.

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

Motor Vehicle Registry Database Access Fee

Mr. Hinman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government's current deficit is abysmal, and downloading their deficit onto municipalities and taxpayers goes against the Premier's promise not to raise taxes. The current budget raises taxes by jacking fees from 20 to as high as 300 per cent. Every time Albertans go to the registry this year, they'll be paying a lot more to help cover the government's excessive spending. To the Minister of Service Alberta. Your estimates show that you'll bring in an extra \$77 million this year. How much of this is in the form of fee increases, and how much, in particular, is there in the new licence fee to charge municipalities for the lookup?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, it's going to bring in about \$83 million, of which \$12 million will affect municipalities, with a \$15 fee for searches for delinquent photoradar and red-light tickets.

Mr. Hinman: To the same minister. Given that you are estimating \$12 million in revenue for this new fee, will you please explain to

the police and municipalities why your database is so outrageously expensive to run? It's starting to sound like a gun registry.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess at the end of the day it's really important to have technology to support the police in the work that they do. This is a system that runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We have to ensure that it's there for the police to use when they need it, so we want to make sure that the information is updated and kept there. We know that the access to information there is strictly to do with delinquent bills.

Mr. Hinman: That's ridiculous: a \$12 million increase in one year. Given that you are saying that it costs \$15 to get a name and an address and that Calgary has to pay a \$7 million tax per year to use your system, how are the people of Calgary-Glenmore not to conclude that your government is once again downloading the cost of your incompetence onto cities, police forces, and individual Albertans?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. Klimchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the \$15 fee it's very important that we make sure that access to the licence plate information is given to the police on a timely basis when tickets are sent out. That's why it's there. We also know that, again, going back to the system, it's the integrity of the system. We have not had a fee increase for nine years, so it's about taking the time now to do it and do it right.

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

All-terrain Vehicle Safety

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every summer the use of ATVs causes too many accidents, injuries, and tragic deaths. A recent study estimates that injuries related to riding ATVs cost the Alberta health system more than \$6 million a year. To the Minister of Transportation: why hasn't the minister, at the demand of health specialists and off-roading groups, implemented the much-needed legislation on mandatory helmets and banning drinking and driving?

Mr. Ouellette: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt the hon. member is right that at this time of the year you get a lot more people out enjoying the wonderful province that we have here and the nature that we have here, and they go out and ride their ATVs. There's a lot more to this than just passing a law to say: you have to wear a helmet. When people are out there drinking and driving, which nobody condones, which nobody should be doing, do you think that because there's a law that says, "Strap on a helmet," they're going to do it? There's a lot more to it, and education is the answer.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think education is not working. To the minister again: why hasn't the minister initiated education programs and legislation specifically designed to target ATVs' more at-risk group; that is, 18- to 19-year-old men?

Mr. Ouellette: Well, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of programs going on. In fact, tourism is doing a pilot project in the schools right now for students from grades 1 to 12 to make sure that we're

testing new ATV safety materials. We have more manuals coming out. We work every day trying to figure out what type of education will work. But let me tell you that a lot of ATVs are being ridden on private land, and we have no jurisdiction on that land.

The Speaker: The hon. member, please.

Mr. Kang: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister again: given that this issue has been raised many times in the last years, why isn't the minister acting to prevent these personal tragedies and this economic burden on our health care system?

Mr. Ouellette: Mr. Speaker, we are acting. We're acting by trying to educate people. We talk about it every chance we can. I want to give this hon. member kudos for bringing it forward in this Legislature. That's another way that people can hear that: "You know what? We're in ATV season. Let's be safe. Let's make sure our children are safe, and let's make sure that they obey the rules that are already there."

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

Municipal Sustainability

Mrs. McQueen: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former municipal leader I have to say that no celebration of the Premier's accomplishments could be complete without acknowledging the Premier's dedication to strong and sustainable communities. To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: what are you doing to support the long-term viability and sustainability of municipalities in Alberta?

Mr. Goudreau: Mr. Speaker, the government under our Premier's leadership has consistently demonstrated its commitment to building today for Alberta's tomorrow. The Premier initiated the \$11.3 billion municipal sustainability initiative, a fund that has so far put \$3.1 billion towards infrastructure and operating projects. Projects are chosen by municipalities, enabling them to build yet a much stronger Alberta. Albertans across the province are today enjoying new recreational facilities – roads, bridges, fire halls, just to name a few – thanks to the vision of our great Premier.

3:00

The Speaker: The hon. member, please.

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister: can the minister tell the House how the Premier's leadership has contributed to developing a strong strategy to plan for essential infrastructure and attract investment, in particular in the capital region?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Goudreau: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past few years the Capital Region Board has achieved great co-operative success on a historical long-term growth plan for the capital region. Just ask any member of the board. This could not have been accomplished without the guidance and direction of our Premier. The board is doing game-changing work on a number of regional opportunities that will benefit not only residents in metro Edmonton but all Albertans now and for many, many years to come. Many mayors thank me for that type of work.

The Speaker: The hon. member, please.

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is to the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. Under Premier

Stelmach's leadership what is your ministry doing to deliver on the Premier's commitment to building strong communities?

Mr. Blackett: Well, Mr. Speaker, there's a long list of accomplishments that our department has in fulfilling the Premier's commitment to families and communities: creating the Spirit of Alberta, our province's cultural policy with the four pillars of access, capacity, excellence, and cultural industry; providing a unique Alberta community spirit program that gave enhanced tax credits and donor dollars to 5,000 organizations, \$53 million for voluntary, not-for-profit groups; strengthening our Human Rights Commission so that new Canadians can feel welcome in their communities; having Alberta Arts Days, that provide arts and entertainment and family-building activities through 681 events.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview.

Surgical Wait Times for Children

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As its March 2011 performance report shows, Alberta Health Services continues to struggle unsuccessfully with reducing wait times for surgeries most important to aging Albertans: hip replacements, knee replacements, and cataract removal. Meanwhile there's a population for which delays in receiving surgery have dire, lifelong consequences. To the minister of health: what proportion of patients on the province's surgical wait-list are children?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, I don't have an exact number, but I can tell you that what is probably more important right now is that those children who require the service are getting it within the recommended wait time. The last time I visited this issue, I believe I was told that they are.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm disappointed because I gave these questions to the minister ahead of time expecting to receive answers.

Given that a study recently published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* found that 27 per cent of patients 16 years of age and under received the procedures they needed well past pediatric Canadian access targets for surgery, what is the minister doing to reduce children's wait times specifically?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Mr. Speaker, it's true that the member did provide the questions a couple of hours ago, but it's just impossible to amalgamate as much information as would be required here within a couple of hours.

The short answer is that children are in fact receiving the care that they need within the appropriate time. In fact, 72 per cent of children do receive their surgeries within the recommended time frame. Alberta's two pediatric hospitals are also participating in the Canadian pediatric surgical wait time project, which will offer unprecedented access to data of the kind that he seeks.

Mr. Chase: Given that plastic surgeries such as that to correct cleft lip and palate are among the surgeries accounting for the highest percentages completed past target and given that cleft lip and palate surgeries must be performed at a critical developmental period in order to ensure optimal speech, can the minister tell us how long on average the wait time in Alberta is for cleft lip and palate surgery?

Mr. Zwozdesky: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, with a couple of hours' notice it's difficult to get something very, very specific and

that precise. But I would give the hon. member some credit for raising the issue because it will allow us to tell all Albertans that 63 per cent of the Stollery patients, for example, who are children, receive the surgery within the recommended target time. The national average is 25 per cent, so we're far, far ahead of the national average in that respect for.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar.

Capital Infrastructure Funding

Mr. Vandermeer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Premier's leadership Alberta has seen its infrastructure investment grow to unprecedented levels. Can the Minister of Infrastructure explain why government has taken this approach?

Mr. Danyluk: Mr. Speaker, the Premier's vision and our mission has been to improve infrastructure across Alberta, a bold yet prudent approach. The Premier recognized the need to improve infrastructure, to address the infrastructure deficit, to address the pressure stemming from the incredible growth. In the midst of the global economic downturn our investment in infrastructure allowed us to capitalize on lower costs and to keep people working. Since the Premier took office, nearly \$34 billion has been invested in capital projects.

Mr. Vandermeer: To the same minister: can you please provide more examples of where these investments have occurred?

Mr. Danyluk: Mr. Speaker, we are investing more than twice as much on infrastructure than any other province, and we are making a real difference in health and education and safety for Albertans. We are building 50 kindergarten to grade 12 schools, which means close to 16,000 spaces; more than 90 new post-secondary projects, 13,000 spaces; and currently 46 health facility projects are under way.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Vandermeer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is to the Minister of Transportation. Given that an effective transportation network is very important to this province, can the minister tell us what has been accomplished under this Premier's leadership?

Mr. Ouellette: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to talk very, very fast because this Premier has accomplished so much that it's going to be hard to get it all in. I want to say that this Premier has always realized that transportation is the backbone of our economy and just how vital it is to Alberta's continuing prosperity. That's why this government has invested \$19 billion in transportation in this Premier's tenure. This ongoing investment in all corners of this province has kept people working and positioned Alberta to meet future challenges, supporting industry and, of course, amazing communities. There is so much more.

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

School Transportation Funding

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Premier, this afternoon I would like to ask the finance minister for a few dollars for some school boards that are struggling across the province. My first question is to the minister of finance. Given that school boards, including

Aspen View public schools, are having a great deal of difficulty making ends meet because the cost of gasoline and diesel is rising so rapidly, can the government please find some money so that those budgets can be adjusted to reflect those increased costs?

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, one thing that we've learned from this Premier is that we listen to Albertans. The hon. member raises a very good point. We entrust the most precious commodity in Alberta every day to our school bus operators, and we want them to have the resources to provide safe transportation to their schools. I know they have been in touch with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Transportation, and we will do what we can to ensure they continue to provide that very necessary service to our children.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the minister of finance. Aspen View public schools calculates that they need an additional \$317,000 to ensure that they can fully and safely transport their students. Will this government commit this afternoon to making the financial adjustment so that this can happen?

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, one thing that we learned is that prices can go up and down quite rapidly. We've had a very, very steady hand on the financial purse strings of this province by a Premier who said: don't panic. We don't change everything after first-quarter results. We don't change everything after second quarter. We'll report it. We will watch the fuel prices. We will see if they stay at this high level all year long. Remember that two years ago they went from \$34 a barrel to \$147 a barrel in eight months. So prices can go down, and we need to look at it in the total year.

3:10

The Speaker: The hon. member, please.

Mr. MacDonald: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that this has been done before whenever fuels costs have increased and that it's not unusual for this government to give contract increases – and I'm looking at the *Alberta Gazette* from last month, where we have seen a \$6.4 million increase in contract amounts – if we have this money set aside for these contract amounts, surely we can find some money for school boards that need a few dollars.

Mr. Snelgrove: Mr. Speaker, one thing that you need to do when you're dealing with large projects or anything is risk management. No one is going to accept long-term contracts if there aren't modifiers in the contract that reflect changes to the cost of doing business. That's just good business for both parties. We respect the work the bus drivers do, we understand the challenges that the school boards are faced with, and we will work with them on a go-forward basis.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Hays, followed by the hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka.

Education Funding (continued)

Mr. Johnston: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the current session comes to a close and the Premier enjoys his last day in the hot seat, I think it's a good time to recap some of the important issues that were raised in this House over the last few months and years. One topic that has gotten a lot of attention is education, education in our

schools and in our postsecondary institutions. Education is a key to our success and our continued prosperity both as a province and as individuals. To the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. We know that Alberta can't rely on its nonrenewable resources forever. What steps are being taken to build our human resources and foster a more sustainable and diversified knowledge base?

The Speaker: The hon. minister, please.

Mr. Weadick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to thank this hard-working member for that great question. As important as our natural resources are, this Premier has always said that the most important thing in this province is our human resources. Everything that he has pushed for and supported is investing in our human resources. Within Advanced Education and Technology we have grown Campus Alberta and created new opportunities for young people, and the vision for Alberta Innovates came from this Premier. This is creating a world-class innovation opportunity and education opportunities for our young people.

Mr. Johnston: My first supplemental to the same minister: what are we doing to ensure that Alberta is educating enough of the skilled tradespeople? We need to take our ideas, apply them, build them, and put them to good use.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Weadick: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again we see that Alberta under the leadership of this Premier is starting to grow again, and we're seeing enhanced opportunities within the province. It is creating shortages of some workers. We see that looking into the future, we are going to need to train more, but we are doing that. With only 10 per cent of Canada's population here in Alberta, we are training 20 per cent of the apprentices. So we are doing the job. This Premier has created an opportunity for us to train the young people that will be needed to grow Alberta into the future.

Mr. Johnston: My last question is to the Minister of Education. What is the minister doing to ensure that we have a basic education system that will provide our children with the essential skills and learning opportunities they need to contribute to our province and a knowledge-based economy when they graduate?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Hancock: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under this Premier we resolved a long-standing unfunded pension liability, which led to a five-year agreement and the best relations with teachers and the best relations with school boards that this province has ever had so that we can spend the time talking about the future of education, which we've done and we're implementing.

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

Support for Agriculture

Mr. Prins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear a great deal about promoting Alberta's oil and gas sector around the world, but we often forget that this province was built on and still has strong roots in the agricultural community. When you get outside the big cities, it becomes abundantly clear how important farming is to our province. In fact, there's an old saying that says: if you eat, you're involved in agriculture. That really is all of us. To the Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations: how important is farming to our overall economy, and is she working with the agricultural community to increase their presence internationally?

Ms Evans: Mr. Speaker, our Premier has in fact opened up a lot of those markets, insisting that we pay attention to over 77,000 Albertans involved in agriculture. To do this, we have been doing more for Beijing and beef, we've been doing more in South Korea to press the case for Alberta beef, and we've even got beekeepers in Falher that are selling more honey in Japan because of the work there. There is a myriad of examples that I could use where we have increased our exports, and \$7 billion of our exports are agriculture related.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Prins: Thank you. My second question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. What new markets hold the most potential for Alberta's agricultural products?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Hayden: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number, but as the Premier said to me, it's not enough that we have the lowest tax rate both personally and businesswise and the highest investment in education and health care per capita of anywhere in the nation. We need to go out and get more markets so we can maintain that position. The Premier said to me: "There are 400 million Chinese under the age of 17. If we can just feed them a hamburger, away we go." The Premier said to me that there are a hundred million people in India that speak English. We need that market, too.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Prins: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is to the Premier. How is Alberta working in partnership with other provinces to increase market access?

The Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Mr. Stelmach: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, a historical agreement with the provinces of British Columbia and Saskatchewan, which was referred to earlier as the New West Partnership, is co-ordinating and harmonizing all of our transportation routes and also working collectively to ensure that we have the pipeline capacity to the west coast, which will ensure greater access to Asia. I just think of the Premier's missions that we had. Shanghai: we now have opened an office that is jointly staffed by the three provinces. We're continuing to support the office in Beijing and have a new one to establish in India. These will all ensure that we have market access well into the future for the next generation. [Standing ovation]

The Speaker: Hon. members, that concludes the Oral Question Period for today. Eighteen members were recognized and 108 questions and responses were dealt with.

We now come to that point of the day under Standing Order 7(7), which says, "At 3 p.m. the items in the ordinary daily routine will be deemed to be concluded and the Speaker shall notify the Assembly." The Speaker chose not to interfere with the section in the Routine known as the Oral Question Period but now must ask the question. If we are to continue to conclude the Routine, we need unanimous consent of the members to do so. If we do not get unanimous consent, we hear a motion, and we go home. Just so you all understand this.

[Unanimous consent granted]

Members' Statements

The Speaker: We will now proceed with Members' Statements. Happy birthday to the hon. Member for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, who will be the first.

International Day of Families

Mrs. Leskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to rise and recognize Sunday, May 15, as International Day of Families. Strong, healthy, and nurturing families are the foundation of vibrant communities in this great province of ours. This year's theme for International Day of Families is Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion.

With 10 per cent of children and youth in Alberta living in low-income households, we know that many families are facing significant challenges that affect their well-being. This government is committed to working with its community-based partners to ensure that families have the support they need to overcome those challenges and reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, creating strong families takes many hands working together. Everyone can lend their hearts and hands, either by supporting or volunteering with agencies that assist families in need.

I rise today not only to recognize International Day of Families and the importance of families in our great province but also to encourage all of us Albertans and all of us here today to celebrate and spend time with our own families this Sunday.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

3:20 Reliance on Nonrenewable Resources

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the next year Albertans will have the responsibility of making a choice between a green, progressive, forward-looking plan or a brown, backwards approach to Alberta's future.

A few days ago the Premier's Council for Economic Strategy issued a report that paints a bleak and unsustainable vision for the future. While Alberta is blessed with nonrenewable resources that have brought us great wealth, it is evident that carbon fuels are not the future. Yet this out-of-touch, out-of-ideas government endorses a brown future for Alberta.

The Premier's economic strategy turns Alberta down a reckless and unsustainable path, relying heavily on coal to power our future economy. The proposed centre for global energy's mandate is to make high-carbon energy more acceptable to foreign markets. They want to increase the use of coal as a power source. The idea that the PCs convince the world to keep using high-carbon fuels when it's already moving on to other alternatives is a disastrous economic future in the making. If Alberta goes down this path, promoting instead of moving away from high-carbon energy, this province will be left behind. This PC government is swimming against the tide of history.

Alberta's NDP wants to see this province become a source of solutions to climate change. Alberta can tap its vast stocks of natural gas, a cleaner fossil fuel, to phase out coal-powered plants and begin cutting emissions. Alberta has a wealth of renewable energy sources that we can develop and perfect: the winds of the foothills, our abundant solar energy, the geothermal energy beneath our feet.

Further, we have immense water resources, but those resources are under threat from climate changes as nurturing glaciers recede and dry up. Yet the Tories talk about opening a water market that could see our water exported. The economic council backs them,

and the head of Nestlé, who also sits on the board of Exxon Mobil, is already talking with the PCs to get it under way. What it will do, in fact, is pit farmers against major oil companies, cities against industries, raise the cost of drinking water, and potentially send our water out of the province. The free market has its place managing an essential resource for life like... [Mr. Mason's speaking time expired]

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

Red Deer College Athletics Leadership Fund

Mr. Dallas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Athletics are a key component of a vibrant college life, providing students with physical, social, and leadership opportunities. At Red Deer College an athletics leadership fund is being established with the goal of creating sustainability for athletic programs. The athletics leadership fund is a new initiative to provide teams, athletic programs, and student athletes support and resources that are sustainable year after year.

An exceptional donor, Doug Quinn of Quinn Pumps, has directed \$250,000 to this exciting new initiative. Along with Jeremy Jablonski, chair of the fund committee, Melody Davidson and Mike Babcock believe in the initiative and support the committee as honorary co-chairs. They contribute valuable experience, Melody Davidson as head scout of Hockey Canada's women's national team programs and Mike Babcock as former RDC hockey coach and current head coach of the Detroit Red Wings.

Student athletes contribute to community spirit as they display leadership on campus and throughout our province, within their present teams, and in the future as employees, business owners, and leaders in our communities.

I am proud of Red Deer College athletes, coaches, and students as well as the athletics leadership fund committee for their excellence in representing Alberta values and their commitment to helping build a strong and bright athletics future for all generations.

Thank you.

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

Health Inspection Regulations

Mr. Bhullar: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to get on the record the fact that I believe our Public Health Act and, specifically, the regulations in the area of swimming pools, wading pools, and water parks as well as the food regulations are suffering from some challenges in which the Pizza Police and, in consultation with the Premier, the Perogy Police, quite frankly, are creating an adversarial relationship with community groups, with restaurant owners, with business owners. We have not been able to identify if this is an issue of application of regulations or if this is an issue of the regulations themselves. Therefore, at this point I would ask the Minister of Health and Wellness to indeed look into this matter, perhaps take a look at whether some revisions to the regulations are in order so that our community groups and our business owners are not subject to so many stringent, unrealistic obligations when they're putting on community events.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Cassandra Budd

Mr. Benito: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize both an outstanding individual and a wonderful scholar-

ship program. The Persons Case scholarship program was established in 1979 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Persons Case, which allowed women to be considered persons under legal doctrine in Canada. These scholarships are funded by the Alberta heritage scholarship fund and are presented by Alberta Children and Youth Services. They are awarded to Alberta students each year whose studies and career goals contribute to the advancement of women or those studying in fields deemed non-traditional for their gender.

One such scholarship was awarded to a constituent of mine in Edmonton-Mill Woods, Miss Cassandra Budd. Cassandra was one of the 30 outstanding recipients whose tremendous efforts were recognized with this prestigious scholarship. Cassandra's application was selected as it demonstrated her commitment to exploring the field of environmental and engineering geophysics consulting as well as her desire to prove to young women that gender should not be a factor when pursuing a career.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate Cassandra Budd and wish her the very best in her studies and future endeavours. I would also like to thank the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for making such a worthwhile scholarship possible.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Education Funding

Mr. Hehr: Mr. Speaker, the members of this government often look competent because oil and gas windfalls have allowed them to buy their way out of pretty much any problem. The mythology of sound fiscal management is just that, a myth. As the record clearly indicates, this government has blown through hundreds of billions of nonrenewable resource revenues, money that Albertans will never see again. It's one of the biggest opportunities blown by any government in recent memory.

The children and parents who rely on public education are the latest victims of this neo-con ideology, which regards taxes as inherently evil. The truth is that every citizen has a duty to contribute to things we do better collectively such as public education and public health care, which ensure equality of opportunity for everyone in our society. Rather than implementing a small liquor tax, dipping into the sustainability fund, or even, heaven forbid, cutting the number of cabinet ministers and government departments, this government will subject school children to larger class sizes, force special-needs students to flounder on their own, and deny English as a second language training to recent immigrants to our province. Even Saint Lougheed himself is now saying that reliance on nonrenewable resource revenues is unsustainable and that citizens and corporations alike must contribute more to the public purse.

Mr. Speaker, there is no such thing as a free lunch. Albertans have shown time and time again that they want quality public education, quality public health care, and all the other people programs that provide essential services. Albertans believe in paying their fair share for these services. I would like the government to have a little faith in the people of Alberta and understand that most people don't think of taxes as the ultimate evil, not when those taxes make it possible to provide core public services.

What this government needs to do right now in order to start steering our province in the right direction is commit to finding funding for education programs. This can come through a liquor tax, the sustainability fund, or from cutting government departments, whatever works, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our kids continue to have the education they deserve.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Provincial Skills Canada Trades Competition

Mr. Elniski: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, even though this may be my last member's statement of the year. Today I would like to recognize the competitors, sponsors, volunteers, and organizers of the 2011 provincial skills competition, which is entering its second and final day of competition today. More than 600 young people from every corner of our province are competing in 42 trades and technology events. From web design to carpentry to refrigeration and air conditioning it's impressive to see the drive, the technical expertise, and the problem-solving skills of these young competitors. These dedicated young men and women are gathered at the Edmonton Expo Centre in hopes of earning the opportunity to represent Team Alberta at the national skills competition in Quebec City next month.

Tradespersons and skilled workers are the foundation of Alberta's economy and are a critical element in our province's economic and fiscal turnaround. It should be noted that other important features of this event are Skill City, which will have a number of school tours, a series of Try-A-Trade demonstrations, and a girls exploring trades conference. Alberta's top employers, associations, labour groups, training institutions, and government partners make up Skill City.

These initiatives, like the overall competitions, are a tremendous way to engage young Albertans in rewarding and interesting careers in the trades. I would like to congratulate all of the volunteers and organizers and sponsors for making this event a reality.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a brief comment. On the night that he won the leadership of our party, our Premier had to leave early to go back to the farm and fix the furnace. The fact that he knew how to do this demonstrates that there is as much dignity and necessity in tilling a field, fixing a furnace, or driving a bus as there is in creating the laws to govern such things. This is a great example and legacy for the youth of this province.

Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3:30

Presenting Petitions

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

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have hundreds and hundreds of signatures from all over the province from people who are urging the government of Alberta to "consider increasing the funding to the Ministry of Education so that sustainable and adequate funding is provided to address the needs of every student, every day, no exceptions."

The Speaker: I have the hon. Member for Calgary-Buffalo identified. Is someone presenting a petition on his behalf? Okay.

Notices of Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Renner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise pursuant to Standing Order 34(3.1) to advise the House that Motion for a Return 17 will be dealt with on – she thought I was going to say Monday – I will say the first Monday that this session resumes.

Tabling Returns and Reports

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Energy.

Mr. Liepert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to table the appropriate number of copies of an e-mail that went to the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood and was leaked to me. It relates to a question that the member had asked me, and I responded that for every billion dollars in construction for electricity transmission \$1 per month would be added to the bills. The member said that that answer was very difficult to understand, so this e-mail says, "I asked my 6th grade grandson what it meant to him," and he replied that for every billion dollars spent, that means \$1 per month; in other words, \$12 per year. The e-mail from Mr. Yurkowski concludes to the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood: "Does that help you understand the Minister's response?"

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

Mr. Zwodesky: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the required number of copies of two reports: first, the 2009-2010 annual report of the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta and the second being the 2010 annual report of the Alberta College of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technologists.

Thank you.

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

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I have two tablings. We've received a number of really beautifully designed cards in support of the arts, and I'm tabling a report from my office on the number of these received and from whom. The people want to make clear that they're in support of funding for the arts. This is from Luke Mohr, Jessica Telford, David Cook, Aspen Gainer, Erica Frank, Elizabeth Bore, Leslieanne Au, and Gina Vliet. That's the first tabling.

The second tabling is a report on the number of cards I've received on the future of Catholic education in the province, and those have been received from citizens who wanted me to convey a constitutional guarantee of Catholic education in Alberta be preserved in the new Education Act. There are a number of individuals who I received the cards from. They're included in the report.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for St. Albert.

Mr. Allred: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have 10 copies of I Support the Arts cards with the appropriate number of copies. They're Alberta Craft Council cards.

I have a second tabling, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings on the future of Catholic education in Alberta. They're Edmonton Catholic schools cards, and I have the appropriate number of copies.

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

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Agriculture and horse racing are important parts of this province, and the hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview asked a very important question. Today I have a tabling and the appropriate number of copies of an e-mail addressed to myself and the members for Edmonton-Riverview and Lethbridge-East from a Max Gibb of the Rocky Mountain Turf Club answering part of that question asked by the Member for Edmonton-Riverview.

The Speaker: Hon. Member for Lethbridge-East, did I already get you, or do you have a tabling?

Ms Pastoor: No. I have tablings.

The Speaker: Proceed, please.

Ms Pastoor: Thank you. I have two tablings today, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling five copies of e-mails from the following individuals who are very concerned about the funding cuts to education and the negative impact: Carol Sparks, David Redman, Kristina Koivisto, and Jessica Logan.

My second tabling, Mr. Speaker, is the copy of the *GQ* cover with the Premier on it. With all due respect to Marie, I've never seen the Premier without his tie, so this is really quite exciting.

The Speaker: Hon. member, please, please, please.

Ms Pastoor: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to put it up on my wall beside Johnny Depp.

Tablings to the Clerk

The Clerk: I wish to advise the House that the following documents were deposited with the office of the Clerk. On behalf of the hon. Mrs. Ady, the Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, responses to questions raised by Mr. Chase, the hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity; Mr. Boutilier, the hon. Member for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo; Ms Notley, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona; and Mr. Taylor, the hon. Member for Calgary-Currie, on March 15, 2011, in Department of Tourism, Parks and Recreation main estimates debate.

On behalf of the hon. Mrs. Fritz, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, pursuant to the Social Care Facilities Review Committee Act the Social Care Facilities Review Committee annual report 2009-2010; the return to order of the Assembly MR 16, asked for by Mr. Chase on May 9, 2011; and responses to questions raised by Ms Notley, the hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, on March 16, 2011, in Department of Children and Youth Services main estimates debate.

Projected Government Business

Ms Blakeman: I look forward to the government sharing with us the projected government House business for when we return at the next opportunity, which I'm assuming is the fall. Please share away.

Mr. Hancock: Well, Mr. Speaker, at this time all I can say is that I project no government business for next week, and the Order Paper will disclose any business for the fall session if and when it convenes.

The Speaker: Hon. members, might we revert briefly to Introduction of Guests?

[Unanimous consent granted]

Introduction of Guests

(continued)

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Strathcona.

Mr. Quest: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for squeezing one more in. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly my constituency association president, Sue Timanson. Sue also serves as regional director on our provincial executive and chaired my 2008 election campaign. Sue is an almost lifelong Strathcona resident with a long history of volunteer service in our community as well as coaching numerous soccer teams while managing a successful advertising career and raising

a family. I am very proud to call her a friend. Sue is seated in the members' gallery, and I'd ask her to rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Mr. Olson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my hon. colleagues for their indulgence. I have four people from my constituency who I'd like to introduce. They are all members of the Wetaskiwin city council. They came in today, and we had lunch. We talked about issues in Wetaskiwin that touch on the provincial government, and we talked about ways we might be able to work with them. I have to say that like many of my colleagues, if not all of my colleagues, we have great respect for people like municipal politicians who work on the front lines, and not only do I respect them, but I consider them to be good friends. If they would just rise as I call their names, they are Mark McFaul, Patricia MacQuarrie, Joe Branco, and Barry Hawkes. I'd ask my colleagues to give them a welcome.

3:40 Statement by the Speaker

Sessional Statistics

The Speaker: Hon. members, before I call on the hon. Government House Leader, just some statistics with respect to the Fourth Session of the 27th Legislature for the time frame essentially from February 22, 2011, to May 12, 2011.

The sitting days that we've had this spring are 34, including six evening sittings. Last year, in 2010, we had 31 days and one evening sitting. The number of minutes to the end of Wednesday's sitting: 9,190 compared to 7,039 for the 2010 spring sitting. The number of hours we've sat this spring was 153 hours and 10 minutes compared to 117 hours and 19 minutes for the 2010 spring sitting. The number of words spoken by members: 1,276,777 compared to 1,001,906 for the 2010 spring sitting. Number of *Hansard* pages for the House sittings we've had this year: 1,118 compared to 900 for the 2010 spring sitting.

This is a tough one. The number of words spoken by members in standing committee meetings this spring: 550,388 compared to

679,775 for the 2010 spring sitting. The reason for that: the number of hours spent in committees this year was 63 hours, 29 minutes compared to 84 hours and 16 minutes in 2010. Number of *Hansard* pages for committees: 498 compared to 672 for the 2010 spring sitting.

In terms of question period we've had 10 occasions, 10 days, in which there were 18 sets of questions and answers, 17 days where we had 19 sets of questions and answers, and two days with 20 sets of questions and answers. This compares to the 2010 spring sitting, which had 11 days with 18 sets of questions and answers, 14 days with 19 sets of questions and answers, and five days with 20 sets of questions and answers.

Total number of questions and answers for this spring not counting today: 3,530, or an average of 103.82 per day, keeping in mind that day 1 did not have an Oral Question Period. The total number of questions and answers for the 2010 spring sitting was 3,359. That was an average of 108.35 per day, keeping in mind that day 1 did not have a question period.

The number of government bills that have or will receive royal assent: 19 in 2011 compared to a total of 15 that received royal assent in the spring session of 2010. Private members' public bills that have or will receive royal assent: one compared to two for the spring session of 2010, and the private members' public bills that have or will receive royal assent since 1993, when the major changes to the standing orders affecting this item of business were implemented, has now reached 49.

Mr. Hancock: Well, Mr. Speaker, after that exhaustive list I would have to advise the House that, government business for the spring session now being completed, we would stand adjourned pursuant to Government Motion 16.

The Speaker: All members should be advised of the 2011 sessional calendar that was issued in January of this year, which calls for the return of the Legislative Assembly on the 24th day of October 2011.

Have a safe summer.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:43 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 16]

Bill Status Report for the 27th Legislature - 4th Session (2011)

Activity to May 12, 2011

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 Asia Advisory Council Act (Stelmach)

First Reading -- 6 (Feb. 22 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 132-33 (Mar. 1 aft.), 189-95 (Mar. 3 aft.), 553-62 (Mar. 24 aft.), 618 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 862-73 (Apr. 26 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 1063-69 (May 10 aft., passed on division)

2 Protection Against Family Violence Amendment Act, 2011 (Brown)

First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 23 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 133-34 (Mar. 1 aft.), 380-82 (Mar. 15 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 408-16 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 438-39 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 18 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 c4]

3 Engineering, Geological and Geophysical Professions Amendment Act, 2011 (Rogers)

First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 23 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 134-35 (Mar. 1 aft.), 313-14 (Mar. 10 aft.), 382-83 (Mar. 15 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 416 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 439-40 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Mar. 18 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 c3]

4 Securities Amendment Act, 2011 (Brown)

First Reading -- 18 (Feb. 23 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 135 (Mar. 1 aft.), 383-84 (Mar. 15 aft.), 416-17 (Mar. 16 aft.), 440-41 (Mar. 17 aft.), 618 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 858-60 (Apr. 26 aft.), 861-62 (Apr. 26 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 947 (Apr. 27 eve., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Apr. 29 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on April 29, with exceptions; SA 2011 c7]

5 Notice to the Attorney General Act (Rogers)

First Reading -- 18-19 (Feb. 23 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 136 (Mar. 1 aft.), 618 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 797-99 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 947 (Apr. 27 eve., passed)

Royal Assent -- (Apr. 29 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 cN-6.5]

6 Rules of Court Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 (Olson)

First Reading -- 19 (Feb. 23 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 136 (Mar. 1 aft.), 618 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 799-801 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 1035 (May 9 eve., passed)

7 Corrections Amendment Act, 2011 (Oberle)

First Reading -- 73 (Feb. 28 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 137 (Mar. 1 aft.), 618 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 801 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)

Third Reading -- 1035 (May 9 eve., passed)

- 8*** **Missing Persons Act (VanderBurg)**
First Reading -- 73 (Feb. 28 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 137 (Mar. 1 aft.), 618 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1024-35 (May 9 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1058-61 (May 10 aft., passed)
- 9** **Appropriation (Supplementary Supply) Act, 2011 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 113 (Mar. 1 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 185-86 (Mar. 3 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 244-47 (Mar. 8 aft.), 254-57 (Mar. 8 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 305-08 (Mar. 10 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 14 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 14, 2011; SA 2011 c1]
- 10** **Alberta Land Stewardship Amendment Act, 2011 (\$) (Knight)**
First Reading -- 122 (Mar. 1 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 247-54 (Mar. 8 aft.), 257-58 (Mar. 8 aft.), 618 (Apr. 12 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 877-85 (Apr. 26 eve.), 910-17 (Apr. 27 aft.), 919-37 (Apr. 27 eve.), 937-46 (Apr. 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1071-89 (May 10 eve., passed on division)
- 11*** **Livestock Industry Diversification Amendment Act, 2011 (Prins)**
First Reading -- 208 (Mar. 7 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 313 (Mar. 10 aft.), 552-53 (Mar. 24 aft.), 618-27 (Apr. 12 aft.), 661-62 (Apr. 13 aft.), 790-97 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 826-27 (Apr. 21 aft.), 873-77 (Apr. 26 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1035-36 (May 9 eve., passed)
- 12** **Alberta Investment Management Corporation Amendment Act, 2011 (Dallas)**
First Reading -- 208 (Mar. 7 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 364-65 (Mar. 15 aft.), 675-79 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 802-04 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1036-38 (May 9 eve., passed)
- 13** **Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2011 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 328 (Mar. 14 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 365-67 (Mar. 15 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 403-08 (Mar. 16 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 432-38 (Mar. 17 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Mar. 18 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force March 18, 2011; SA 2011; c2]
- 14** **Wills and Succession Amendment Act, 2011 (Drysdale)**
First Reading -- 328 (Mar. 14 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 365 (Mar. 15 aft.), 679-680 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 804 (Apr. 20 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1038 (May 9 eve., passed)
- 15*** **Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2011 (Oberle)**
First Reading -- 329 (Mar. 14 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 363-64 (Mar. 15 aft.), 680-684 (Apr. 14 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 827-28 (Apr. 21 aft.), 853-58 (Apr. 26 aft.), 1013-24 (May 9 eve., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 1061-63 (May 10 aft., passed)
- 16** **Energy Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 (McQueen)**
First Reading -- 482 (Mar. 22 aft.)
Second Reading -- 552 (Mar. 24 aft.), 820-26 (Apr. 21 aft.), 852-53 (Apr. 26 aft.), 969-70 (Apr. 28 aft.), 1009-12 (May 9 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1069-70 (May 10 aft.), 1071 (May 10 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 1112-17 (May 11 aft., passed)
- 17** **Appropriation Act, 2011 (\$) (Snelgrove)**
First Reading -- 818 (Apr. 21 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 841-52 (Apr. 26 aft., passed on division)
Committee of the Whole -- 904-10 (Apr. 27 aft.), 937 (Apr. 27 eve., passed)
Third Reading -- 967-69 (Apr. 28 aft.), 970-71 (Apr. 28 aft., passed on division)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 29 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on April 29; SA 2011 c5]

- 18 Education Act (Hancock)**
First Reading -- 898 (Apr. 27 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 965-67 (Apr. 28 aft., adjourned)
- 19 Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 (Olson)**
First Reading -- 989 (May 9 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1053 (May 10 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1057 (May 10 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1117 (May 11 aft., passed)
- 20 Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2011 (Lukaszuk)**
First Reading -- 1052 (May 10 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1053-56 (May 10 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1107-11 (May 11 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1117 (May 11 aft., passed)
- 201* Health Insurance Premiums (Health Card Donor Declaration) Amendment Act, 2011 (Sandhu)**
First Reading -- 55 (Feb. 24 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 73-86 (Feb. 28 aft., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 464-68 (Mar. 21 aft.), 579-88 (Apr. 11 aft., passed with amendments)
Third Reading -- 704-05 (Apr. 18 aft., passed)
Royal Assent -- (Apr. 29 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 c6]
- 202 Legislative Assembly (Transition Allowance) Amendment Act, 2011 (Anderson)**
First Reading -- 55 (Feb. 24 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 209-24 (Mar. 7 aft., defeated on division)
- 203 Alberta Get Outdoors Weekend Act (Rodney)**
First Reading -- 152 (Mar. 2 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 588-89 (Apr. 11 aft.), 705-10 (Apr. 18 aft., passed)
- 204 Justice System Monitoring Act (Forsyth)**
First Reading -- 304 (Mar. 10 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 992-1001 (May 9 aft., adjourned)
- 205 Municipal Government (Delayed Construction) Amendment Act, 2011 (Taylor)**
First Reading -- 362 (Mar. 15 aft., passed)
- 207 Seniors' Property Tax Deferral Act (VanderBurg)**
First Reading -- 989 (May 9 aft., passed)
- 208 Health Statutes (Canada Health Act Reaffirmation) Amendment Act, 2011 (Mason)**
First Reading -- 1105 (May 11 aft., passed)
- 209 Tailings Ponds Reclamation Statutes Amendment Act, 2011 (Blakeman)**
First Reading -- 1105-06 (May 11 aft., passed)
- Pr1 Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Amendment Act, 2011 (Rogers)**
First Reading -- 550 (Mar. 24 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1012-13 (May 9 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1057 (May 10 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1117 (May 11 aft., passed)
- Pr2 Galt Scholarship Fund Transfer Act (Pastoor)**
First Reading -- 507 (Mar. 23 aft., passed)
Second Reading -- 1013 (May 9 eve., passed)
Committee of the Whole -- 1057 (May 10 aft., passed)
Third Reading -- 1117 (May 11 aft., passed)
- Pr3 Auburn Bay Residents Association Tax Exemption Act (Johnston)**
First Reading -- 515 (Mar. 23 aft., passed), (Apr. 26 aft., not proceeded with)
- Pr4 Cranston Residents Association Tax Exemption Act (Johnston)**
First Reading -- 516 (Mar. 23 aft., passed), (Apr. 26 aft., not proceeded with)

Pr5 New Brighton Residents Association Tax Exemption Act (Johnston)

First Reading -- 516 (Mar. 23 aft., passed), (Apr. 26 aft., not proceeded with)

Pr6 Tuscany Residents Association Tax Exemption Act (Johnston)

First Reading -- 516 (Mar. 23 aft., passed), (Apr. 26 aft., not proceeded with)

Pr7 Hull Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2011 (Rodney)

First Reading -- 516 (Mar. 23 aft., passed)

Second Reading -- 1013 (May 9 eve., passed)

Committee of the Whole -- 1057-58 (May 10 aft., passed)

Third Reading -- 1117 (May 11 aft., passed)

Table of Contents

Prayers	1119
Introduction of Visitors	1119
Introduction of Guests	1119, 1135
Tribute to the Hon. Dr. David Swann, Leader of the Official Opposition	1120
Tribute to the Hon. Ed Stelmach, Premier of Alberta	1121
Oral Question Period	1124
Patient Advocacy by Health Professionals	1124
Surgical Wait Times	1125
Water Marketing	1125, 1126
Land Stewardship Legislation	1126
Crime Prevention	1127
Education Funding	1127, 1131
Economic Competitiveness Initiatives	1127
Continuing Care Costs	1128
Affordable Housing	1128
Motor Vehicle Registry Database Access Fee	1129
All-terrain Vehicle Safety	1129
Municipal Sustainability	1130
Surgical Wait Times for Children	1130
Capital Infrastructure Funding	1131
School Transportation Funding	1131
Support for Agriculture	1132
Members' Statements	
International Day of Families	1133
Reliance on Nonrenewable Resources	1133
Red Deer College Athletics Leadership Fund	1133
Health Inspection Regulations	1133
Cassandra Budd	1133
Education Funding	1134
Provincial Skills Canada Trades Competition	1134
Presenting Petitions	1134
Notices of Motions	1134
Tabling Returns and Reports	1134
Tablings to the Clerk	1135
Projected Government Business	1135
Statement by the Speaker	
Sessional Statistics	1136

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