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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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Legislative Assembly of Alberta

1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

[The Speaker in the chair]

Prayers

The Speaker: Welcome.

Let us pray. Give to each member of this Legislature a strong and abiding sense of the great responsibilities laid upon us. Give us a deep and thorough understanding of the needs of the people we serve. Amen.

Please be seated.

Statement by the Speaker

Order Paper Changes

Rotation of Questions and Members' Statements

The Speaker: Hon. members, as the fall sitting continues, the chair would like to point out some changes to the Order Paper and some minor changes to the order of questions and members' statements.

First, members may have noticed some changes to certain items on the Order Paper, resulting from the recent changes to the membership of Executive Council. The first modification is that the sponsor of Bill 18, the Education Act, which is at second reading stage and was introduced under the sponsorship of the former Minister of Education, now appears on the Order Paper under the name of the new Minister of Education. The cover page of the bill refers only to the Minister of Education, so reprinting the bill is not necessary.

The second modification found on the long Order Paper circulated yesterday is the withdrawal of motions other than government motions 514, 530, 547, 571, 579, 582, and 589 to reflect the appointments to Executive Council of the hon. members for Calgary-Montrose, Red Deer-South, Livingstone-Macleod, Athabasca-Redwater, and Whitecourt-Ste. Anne.

As well, the chair would like to point out to hon. members changes to the rotations for Oral Question Period and Members' Statements based on the increase in the number of members of the Official Opposition and the House leaders' agreement which was tabled in the Assembly yesterday by the Government House Leader.

A change is required in the order of questions to reflect the move of the new Leader of the Official Opposition to the Liberal caucus from his former independent status. As a result, today, day 3 of the Oral Question Period rotation, question 6 in the rotation to which the then independent member was entitled to ask, is removed and the subsequent positions moved up in the sequence of questions. Question 19 is allocated to the Official Opposition. The members' statement rotation will also be adjusted so that the Liberal caucus will receive the members' statement previously allocated to the independent member. The chair transmitted this information to all members in an October 14, 2011, memo on projected sitting days calendar.

There will be two modifications to these rotations based on the House leaders' agreement tabled yesterday. For today only, question 19 will be allocated to the Wildrose caucus instead of the Official Opposition. Similarly, for today only the New Democratic caucus will receive one member's statement that is usually allocated to the Progressive Conservative caucus.

Introduction of Guests

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

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have two introductions. I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a group of 40 grade 6 students from Annunciation school, a school in my constituency, Edmonton-Meadowlark. This school is one of only a select few that offers a highly distinguished International Baccalaureate primary years program and, like other schools, is a source of pride in my constituency. Amongst the hardest-working, smartest future leaders, community leaders, and possibly MLAs, they are sitting up in this Legislature along with their teachers accompanying them: Mrs. Maureen Ostrowerka, Mrs. Linda Girard, Mr. Chris Koper, and Mrs. Sharon Monson. They are seated in the gallery in front of me and behind me, and I would ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly a great Alberta Liberal caucus staff member, Melissa Gladue. Melissa came to us in the spring to work as an administrative assistant. Her efficiency, professionalism, and wonderful attitude as our front-line face to the world has made her a great addition to our team. While she is soon to leave us for a job as a judicial clerk, I know that her service has been appreciated by our caucus and by Albertans in general, and we wish her all the best. She is seated in the public gallery. I would ask Melissa to now rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

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

Mr. MacDonald: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all hon. Members of this Legislative Assembly on behalf of the hon. Member for Edmonton-Riverview a school group visiting today from École Notre-Dame in the constituency of Edmonton-Riverview. There are 35 individuals in this group, and they are led today by teachers Mr. Paulin Larochelle and Mme Adèle Maisonneuve. They are in the public gallery. I would now ask them to rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of this Assembly.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: The hon. Minister of Seniors.

Mr. VanderBurg: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me today to rise and introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly staff from my department of the Ministry of Seniors. We are joined today by Susan, Sandy, Sharron, Andrea, Claire, and Kathy, who work tirelessly with our department and ministry to ensure that we provide the highest level of assistance and service to Albertans most in need. We have a tremendous team of civil servants working in my ministry, and we are excited to work together, bringing about and inspiring change in this ministry. I'd ask them to please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

Mr. Benito: Mr. Speaker, I have three introductions today. It is my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly executives of the Pursuers Toastmaster Club, affiliated with Toastmasters International: Mr. Dresdin Archibald, current president, and Miss Kathy Servold, treasurer, who are seated in the members' gallery. I would ask that they rise and receive the traditional welcome of the Assembly.

It is also my honour to introduce, my second introduction, Mr. Arrey Tabot, who is seated in the members' gallery. He graduated with a BSc from the Athabasca University in June 2011 and is a volunteer at our Mill Woods constituency office. I would ask him to rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly.

My third and last introduction, Mr. Speaker, is Mr. Doug Craig, who is seated in the members' gallery. Mr. Craig is the general manager of the Edmonton Southside primary care network, which was founded in 2005. I would ask him to rise and receive the warm traditional welcome of the Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elniski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today to introduce to you and through you two people that are relatively new to my constituency, having spent the previous 40 years in the fine constituency of West Yellowhead. I'd like to introduce to you this afternoon Mr. Dan and Mrs. Margaret Rooks, who have joined us here this afternoon. They've decided that in their retirement they should come to Edmonton and take advantage of all that Edmonton has to offer. Of course, given that It's All in Calder, we're very happy that you're here. I'd ask them now to please rise and receive the traditional greeting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek.

Mrs. Forsyth: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed an honour for me to rise today and introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the Wildrose candidate for Whitecourt-St. Anne, Ms Maryann Chichak. Maryann was a small-business owner and is currently a councillor for the town of Whitecourt. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table, and I'm so pleased that she's a member of the Wildrose. I'll ask Maryann to rise and receive the warm welcome of the Assembly.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have two introductions today in the visitors' gallery. It is indeed an honour for me to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly the director of political operations for the Wildrose Party, Mr. Ryan Hastman. Ryan is a former candidate for the federal Conservative Party in Edmonton-Strathcona, and, surprise, surprise, he is now a proud Wildroser. He brings enthusiasm, passion, and the strength of conviction. I am proud and honoured that he is a member of the Wildrose family. I would ask Ryan to please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

1:40

My second introduction to you and through you, Mr. Speaker, is Mrs. Kerry Towle. She is a young and vibrant Albertan, a successful entrepreneur, wife as well as mother, and health advocate. She also happens to be the Wildrose candidate for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake. If she could please rise and receive the warm welcome of this Assembly.

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

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to this Assembly my guests from the United Ukrainian Canadian Seniors. They are here today to express their concern with the state of our public health care system and the ability in particular for seniors to receive timely and affordable care. The Alberta NDP is extremely pleased to be working with

strong and committed individuals in organizations like the United Ukrainian Canadian Seniors in advocating for well-funded and effective long-term care. I'd like now to ask my guests to rise as I call their names: Shirley Uhryn, Mike Uhryn, Lucy Antoniwi, Victor and Olga Horon, and Eva Doskoch. I'd like the Legislature to join me in giving them the traditional warm welcome.

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

Mr. Horne: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted to introduce to you and through you to all members today 12 students from CDI College, south campus located in my constituency of Edmonton-Rutherford. Our 12 visitors today are all students in the oil and gas administration program. They are seated in the public gallery. I'm delighted to have them here, and I'd ask them all to please rise and receive the traditional warm welcome of our Assembly.

Members' Statements

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-North Hill.

Municipal Planning

Mr. Fawcett: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've risen in the Legislature many times to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities of the communities in my constituency. Today, though, I want to stand and congratulate the new Minister of Municipal Affairs for his well-deserved appointment. His dedication and inspiring advocacy for strong communities has many in my constituency excited about the potential for change. However, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the need for this government to adopt a deliberate and unique urban agenda that rethinks the relationship between our province's two biggest municipalities, the communities within these cities, and the provincial government.

Having visited 327 out of 422 communities in Alberta is a feat not many Albertans in or outside of this Assembly can claim, and this will serve this minister well in his position. However, I must note that the number of 427 communities in Alberta considers Calgary and Edmonton a single community each. I don't want to undermine the minister's accomplishment but, rather, highlight that this is how we have viewed our province in the past, where municipality is synonymous with community. While this has served us well for the last century, it is unlikely to do so moving forward.

The city of Calgary, for example, has over 1 million people, beyond 1.2 million if you consider the bedroom communities. The city of Calgary today is not a community. It's a large but important level of government with its own responsibilities, and it is comprised of hundreds of small communities such as Highland Park and Winston Heights, just to name a few in my constituency, as well as Tuscany, Cranston, Sunalta, Saddle Ridge, Evergreen, and Forest Lawn. Each of these communities is unique in the same way that Zama City is from Bow Island and Vermilion.

In the last decade our two largest cities have changed from medium-sized cities to large metropolitan centres made up of communities. We need to change the way that we think about these two cities, and this can be done by re-engineering the municipal-provincial relationship with the value of supporting communities at the centre of this relationship.

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

Duration of Fall Session

Mr. Taylor: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are here in

the House for day 36 of the 27th Legislature and our second day back this fall, which will also be the last day before a planned four-week break. Then we're scheduled to come back and sit for maybe two more weeks, give or take, this year.

Mr. Speaker, this shortened session will prove to be a missed opportunity to get some really good work done. It points out the need to do things differently here in the Legislature. Now, I understand that the new Premier needs time to set a new legislative agenda and that it takes time to put legislation forward – certainly, some delay is to be expected – but what I don't understand is how all of us as elected representatives can have no legislation to consider here in the House. Even if the government does not wish to debate Bill 18, the Education Act, there are half a dozen private members' bills on the Order Paper, including, selfishly but certainly not limited to, my own Bill 205, the Municipal Government (Delayed Construction) Amendment Act, 2011, which has received widespread community support.

Here's an opportunity, as I see it, to show some flexibility and innovation in setting the agenda of the Legislature. Why not, while the government faces the need for some time to set its own legislative agenda, allow the members of this Assembly to carry out our work on private members' business? Private members' business serves a function just as government business does. I know that my own bill, which has been developed to remedy stalled or delayed developments that diminish the vitality of their communities and reduce attractiveness and accessibility for surrounding businesses, has received stakeholder buy-in from community residents, the AUMA, elected officials, and senior administration from cities and towns all over Alberta as well as an expression of support from members on both sides of this House. I trust that the sponsors of other private members' bills on the Order Paper have been consulting their stakeholders and gathering support for their legislation as well.

These bills deserve to be debated, Mr. Speaker, and voted on their merit. So I ask the government to acknowledge that there is work to be done in session while it's developing its own bills and to give MLAs the opportunity to represent their constituents in that capacity. We should be sitting.

Thank you.

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

Dr. Siegfried Heydenrych

Mrs. Leskiw: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Siegfried Heydenrych of Cold Lake for receiving the 2011 Alberta rural physician action plan early careerist award. The Alberta rural physician action plan, established by the government of Alberta in 1991, is an independent, not-for-profit company funded by Alberta Health and Wellness. Created in 2005, the early careerist award recognizes the significant contribution of a rural physician within the first 12 years of practice who is passionate about rural medicine, a physician who is seen as making a difference for their clients and the community now and into the future.

Mr. Speaker, this award is a great honour to be bestowed on one of my constituents. Dr. Heydenrych, better known as Dr. H., has provided medical services for Cold Lake's community for six years, involving himself in all aspects of health care in the area, including his role as hospital chief of staff, physician lead for the community primary care network, member of the Hearts for Healthcare coalition, and mentor to third-year medical students. Dr. H.'s commitment and dedication to rural practice in Alberta is

truly commendable. I know that my constituents and I value the difference he has made for our community, and I want to thank him for choosing Cold Lake to call his home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be part of a government that recognizes the importance of rural physicians like Dr. Heydenrych in communities like mine.

Thank you.

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

Critical Electricity Transmission Infrastructure

Mr. Hinman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By now everybody knows that the Premier supports the heartland transmission line. She doesn't, however, support the eastern line or the western line. Her Energy minister tried suspending all three last week, but she stepped in at the last minute to save heartland. She doesn't need evidence to support her decision. She just says the word, and it's done.

The last administration said that all three lines were necessary. She says that we need only one. Why? We don't know, and we won't find out. Bill 50 grants her this luxury. The Electric Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, allows her to declare what transmission lines Albertans need based on little more than political whim. During the leadership campaign the Premier promised to review Bill 50. Now that she is Premier, she is using it to suit her own agenda.

Mr. Speaker, this is easy enough to explain. During the campaign Bill 50 was a popular thing to oppose. Some of the loudest cheers the candidates received at the forums were when they talked about doing something about fixing it. But now that she's in power, she doesn't want to give it up, and that is precisely the problem when you have a government that has been in power for 40 years. It's not about fixing the system or correcting mistakes or improving how Alberta is governed; it's about power and retaining your grip on as many levers as possible once you get it.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is Bill 50, legislation that gives the Premier the power to bill taxpayers for multibillion-dollar transmission lines that will drive up electricity bills, force jobs out of the province, and trample on landowners' rights. That's why we have promised to repeal Bill 50 and put the transmission needs assessment process where it belongs: in the hands of experts, not the politicians.

Nine months ago the Premier didn't speak out against these lines as a cabinet minister. Now, all of a sudden, she's calling the shots on which ones stay and which ones go. It would be nice, Mr. Speaker, if courage and leadership were genuine instead of politically calculated. Has this been a change for the positive? I think not.

Thank you.

1:50

Oral Question Period

The Speaker: First Official Opposition main question. The hon. Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Incremental Ethane Extraction Program

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier said yesterday in this House that the Minister of Energy, who was recently investigated about his own transparency, will release a set of facts about the backroom ethane deal. She also said that we'll find in the end "that no one was prejudiced in any way." To the Premier: does the Premier believe that it's okay to prejudge the outcome of the minister's investigation before it actually happens?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, my precise wording was that the minister would account for the facts that led to this situation. I'm not presupposing any outcome, and nor should the Leader of the Official Opposition.

The Speaker: The hon. leader.

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that we have the former Finance minister, now the current Energy minister, investigating the former Energy minister, now the current Finance minister, if that makes any sense, how can Albertans trust the outcome of the current Energy minister's investigation when the Premier has thrown him into such a conflict of interest?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, we are going through an exercise right now of making sure that those facts are fully accountable to Albertans. Albertans will determine what the circumstances were with respect to this. The hon. Leader of the Opposition can paraphrase and make cute remarks all he wants. It's not confusing the issue. The issue will be clear, the facts will be clear, and Albertans will make up their minds.

The Speaker: The hon. leader.

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the previous Energy minister and his senior staff have been generously rewarded with promotions by the Premier and she's already drawn the conclusion that "we do not have a scandal here," how can Albertans trust that this process might reveal any wrongdoings on their part?

Ms Redford: Well, Mr. Speaker, all of these words are wonderful language for a political party to use. I'll tell you that what I've said often to my nine-year-old is that just because you say something over and over again doesn't make it true. We'll see the facts, and Albertans will decide.

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

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Trust and truth are words I say over and over again to my children. There is a huge difference between being consulted about changes to programs and knowing what those changes are and when they're going to happen. Williams and NOVA knew what ethane program changes were coming and when. They moved first because of this. To the Premier: is it fair to leak government decisions to industry before Albertans know about them or cabinet even approves them?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, these characterizations again are presuming a set of facts that will be made available to all Albertans. Once we have those facts, I'd be quite happy to hear what the Leader of the Opposition's conclusions may be, but up until then I think it's all superfluous.

The Speaker: The hon. leader.

Dr. Sherman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If truth is a superfluous issue, then I'm sorry.

Regardless of what department or what industry we're talking about, is the Premier honestly telling us that a consultation process constitutes permission to leak confidential information prior to cabinet making a decision?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, again we have these characterizations. We've been very clear that when we look at the facts in this

situation, what we are going to see is that none of these suggestions that are being made by the Leader of the Official Opposition are actually, in fact, the case.

Dr. Sherman: Mr. Speaker, given that trust and truth have now become a characterization and given that the Premier has instructed the Energy minister to fully disclose all facts of the ethane scandal, will the Premier promise a full disclosure of the entire consultation process as well as all information exchanged between the minister's office and Williams and NOVA ahead of the cabinet decision?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, we've said that we'll make sure the facts are public, and we will.

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

Mr. Hehr: Mr. Speaker, yesterday we talked about the incremental ethane extraction program for \$310 million, over 10 years of ethane incentives. Now we read that the program has spent \$170 million in seven months. Either there has been a boom in ethane production or the ethane fund is setting aside money for companies on a first-come, first-served basis. To the Energy minister: which is this?

Dr. Morton: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's a good-news story. It shows that the program is working. The opposition member should do his homework. The incremental ethane extraction program is now being applied to the off-gases from the oil sands that were previously being burned at virtually no value to Albertans. Now it's being put into ethane for our petrochemical feedstock.

Mr. Hehr: Given that the Energy department's website states that only 12,000 barrels a day of ethane are currently produced under the program, which, at most, accounts for 2.7 per cent of what the Energy department has spent in the last seven months of ethane incentives, where has the rest of the money gone?

Dr. Morton: Mr. Speaker, why doesn't the Liberal Party just admit that they don't care about the petrochemical industry in this province? Why don't they just admit it?

Mr. Hehr: Given that in the guidelines for the incremental ethane extraction program incentives are only given when ethane is actually produced, how does the minister square this circle?

Dr. Morton: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that new ethane is being produced from the off-gases from the oil sands. It's adding to the feedstock for the petrochemical industry, and it's an important step forward in sustaining this industry.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-Fish Creek, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood.

Health Care Accessibility

Mrs. Forsyth: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me start off by saying that my questions are on behalf of the health care professionals in this province: the doctors, the nurses, and the LPNs that are the glue that holds our entire health care system together. My questions are directed to the Premier. Given that the government has agreed that the eight-hour provincial benchmark for arrival within the emergency department to admission to a hospital bed is a marker of the entire health care system's capacity, what is your

plan to address the fact that you have missed the essential targets despite intensive attention over the last year?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, the important part of this question is that we've focused intensive attention on this. There's no doubt that there are going to be times in the development of health care in this province when we're going to have situations where we meet those benchmarks and where we can't. We've been very honest in saying that we are going to do a better job. We have a new minister of health who is committed to public confidence in a public health care system, and I am very confident that we're going to be able to move to make progress with respect to that.

Mrs. Forsyth: Premier, your plan isn't working.

Given that a lack of affordable access to home care and long-term care has been identified and, Premier, agreed upon as the key contributor to a system-wide access block, when will the Premier and your government begin to be honest, open, and transparent as to what their plan is to address this essential component of health care within our province?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, I don't know where the hon. member has been for the past eight months, but there's no doubt that Albertans agree, as I've agreed, that those are critical pieces to what a public health care system has to put in place. I'll tell you that in the past 10 days we've appointed a cabinet with strong leadership, that's committed to ensuring that exactly those things are achieved, and they will be.

Mrs. Forsyth: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Premier where I've been. I've been talking to the health care professionals that are keeping the system glued together.

What is the Premier's plan to address the fact that under her government's watch 30 per cent of Albertans do not have access to primary and preventive care as a result of not having a family physician?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, I think that's a very exciting question because, again, if the hon. member had been paying attention for the past eight months, what she would have heard is that we are committed to establishing family care clinics that will do exactly that for Albertans.

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

Fixed Election Dates

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. During her leadership campaign for the PC Party the Premier promised to establish fixed election dates in Alberta. Since then she has been remarkably quiet on the subject. In her speech yesterday she failed to mention the subject altogether. Will the Premier tell the Assembly whether or not she intends to keep her promise for fixed election dates, and if she does, how she plans to determine the date for the next provincial election?

Ms Redford: Well, Mr. Speaker, in fact, within four hours of being elected leader of the party, I was less than silent on the issue. I was asked the question in a press conference, and I said I was fully committed to that. So I'd suggest the hon. leader stay tuned.

2:00

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Mason: Well, thanks, Mr. Speaker. This Premier wants to do everything according to her timetable. I think it's important that this Premier come clean with the Assembly and the people of Alberta. I'm sure that all those happy campers sitting in the back row over there are just dying to know when the next election is, so why doesn't the Premier stand up and tell all of us?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, you know, the great thing about democracy and transparency is that one person doesn't get to decide everything. I'm reminded of that all of the time by the opposition. So I'm looking forward to the discussion about this, and I'm sure they'll be able to participate in it.

Mr. Mason: Mr. Speaker, does the Premier intend to involve the other political parties in this Assembly in that decision, and does she plan to have this Assembly make that decision this fall sitting or not? Yes or no?

Ms Redford: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think this is going to be a very important discussion for all Albertans to have, and I look forward to having it in the next little while.

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

Alleged Intimidation of Physicians

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Premier delivered on her promise to restore education funding immediately upon taking office, and I thank her for that. However, it would appear that some commitments are more important than others. For example, she has also promised to call a public judicial inquiry to investigate intimidation and potential financial misconduct in the health system. When will the Premier deliver on her commitment to call a public inquiry into the health system?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Horne: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said yesterday in this House when the same question was asked, the government is committed to two things: first, establishing the Health Quality Council of Alberta as an independent body reporting to this Legislature. We'll be moving down that road this fall, and there'll be opportunity for discussion in this House. Secondly, with respect to the inquiry we will have more to say about that after the Health Quality Council reports in February.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, given that the current Finance minister has publicly voiced his objection and his refusal to participate in the public inquiry and given that the Premier chose to elevate his position within cabinet, what guarantee do Albertans have that the public inquiry will ever happen?

Mr. Horne: Mr. Speaker, as the Premier has said both inside and outside this House numerous times, this government is committed to a fully independent inquiry into the very allegations that the hon. member has brought forward. We'll be moving forward on that as quickly as we can right after the Health Quality Council reports to this government.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, will the Premier commit to having the Legislature set the terms of reference for the public inquiry so that key witnesses – key witnesses – such as former health ministers, former senior health officials, Dr. Ciaran McNamee, and Dr. Timothy Winton might be compelled to testify?

Mr. Horne: Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many times we have to repeat this. The government is committed to a fully independent public inquiry. Fully independent means fully independent. Appropriate terms of reference will be set, and the inquiry will be free to proceed with conducting appropriate proceedings relevant to the allegations that have been raised.

Thank you.

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

European Union Fuel Quality Directive

Mr. Rodney: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The European Union was set to vote today on its fuel quality directive, a measure which could label Alberta's oil sands as dirty, which spawns obvious consequences. To the Minister of Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations: can you please provide the members of this House and all Albertans with the latest update as to the status of these pivotal negotiations?

Mr. Dallas: Mr. Speaker, today technical representatives from the EU member states met but opted not to vote on the current fuel directive proposal. It's our understanding that EU member states had some problems with the language that was involved in the document, and we've had those concerns for some time. Indications are that the vote might come later this year or early next year. Of course, that gives us time to continue working with member states on this file.

Mr. Rodney: My first supplemental is to the same minister. The FQD has been discussed for two years now. The perception for some is that our efforts are simply not getting the job done. To the minister: should Albertans be seeing more of an impact, and if so, how and when?

Mr. Dallas: Mr. Speaker, we are having an impact on these negotiations and are making progress. Our UK office has criss-crossed the European continent, working with member states, providing support, providing information wherever it's required, and of course we've had a number of both European policy and legislative delegations visiting us here as well.

Mr. Rodney: My final supplemental is, indeed, to the same minister. Some might suggest that we should be getting more mileage, if I may say so, out of these resources by working more closely with the federal government. What is the minister's response to these suggestions?

Mr. Dallas: Well, Mr. Speaker, in fact, we have a very strong advocate in the federal government. Minister Oliver has worked on this issue diligently and will continue to do that going forward. I also look forward to strengthening our relationship with Ottawa as we move forward on a whole number of issues that are important to both Alberta and Canada.

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

Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped

Ms Pastoor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last August during the PC leadership campaign the now Premier stated her intention to increase monthly benefits under the AISH, income for the severely handicapped, program by \$400. My question is to Madam Premier, and I've been waiting to be able to say Madam Premier. Yesterday the Premier's address made no mention of such an increase. What is the timeline on it?

Mr. VanderBurg: I heard the Premier very loud and clear. I have instructed my ministry staff to have a look at it and bring back some options for discussion and budget.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Ms Pastoor: Thank you. Given that MLA salaries are indexed, would it not be fair to have AISH benefits indexed as well?

Mr. VanderBurg: Again, you know, Mr. Speaker, all of those are options, and I need to have an analysis done by my department to come back to me. They have budget implications, serious implications. I'll do a review of that as quickly as possible.

Ms Pastoor: Mr. Speaker, you don't have to analyze fairness.

What does the Premier have to say to AISH recipients who fear that they may be even more overlooked in the large Human Services superministry?

Mr. VanderBurg: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's very loud and clear that this does have implications on the budget of my ministry. If you give to one, you take from another. I want to assure you that this group is a very special group under my ministry and will get serious consideration.

An Hon. Member: What about keeping your promise?

The Speaker: Actually, the way it works is that somebody asks the question and somebody responds. It's not the person who asks the question who then answers the question. We could try that, I suppose.

The hon. Member for Stony Plain, followed by the hon. Member for Edmonton-Centre.

Coal-fired Electricity Generation

Mr. Lindsay: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Coal-fired electrical generation is a huge component of Alberta's efficient electrical system. The federal government is currently working on regulations to reduce the environmental impact of coal-fired electrical plants, and I understand the province is at odds with these efforts. My question is to the Minister of Environment and Water. Is Alberta trying to interfere with the federal greenhouse gas reduction efforts?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely not. We share the same goals as the federal government: to produce energy more efficiently and effectively with less environmental impact. However, it needs to be done in a way that is fair to all provinces, especially those that still primarily rely on coal for electricity to meet their needs. At the end of the day Albertans should not pay vastly more for electricity than other Canadians due to federal regulations. We're going to use this time to consult with our federal colleagues with regard to this.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Lindsay: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. My first supplemental is to the same minister. It is important that our government stand up for Albertans on this issue. How is this minister planning to do that?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We believe that unless the regulations change, they will lead to unacceptable costs for Alberta consumers and their businesses. We need to make sure that the regulations don't give industry any flexibility to achieve the same results on a company basis, so we want to make sure that there is flexibility with regard to these regulations to achieve the results that we're looking for.

2:10

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Lindsay: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same minister. The proposed federal regulations are not the right approach for Alberta. What is your ministry suggesting instead of these proposed regulations?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mrs. McQueen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our preferred option is to have flexible compliance options, similar to Alberta's system, to ensure maximum flexibility for achieving our targets. We have demonstrated this with the system in effect in Alberta with mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets for all large emitters. We want to take this strategy and make sure that it's flexible for Alberta.

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

Land-use Planning

Ms Blakeman: Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. The Premier was very clear during the leadership race that the Land Stewardship Act and the amendments that were passed in the spring would be immediately suspended if she should win. So here we are. She won, and the land-use framework process is in disarray. Land-use plans are needed by municipalities to push back urban sprawl, to provide clarity around water management, to enable protection of wildlife corridors, and just generally to protect Albertans' land. To the Premier: what are the immediate plans for the land-use framework and the Land Stewardship Act?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Oberle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to address that and to thank the hon. member for her question and for her passion about land use. I agree with her that land-use plans are necessary. We're reviewing how to move forward. Our goal will be to produce land-use plans for the province of Alberta that address all of the issues that she raised.

Ms Blakeman: Well, it only took the Premier 24 hours to turn around and reverse on the fixed election dates, on funding for education, so what's the timeline here on the land-use plans?

Mr. Oberle: I'm not sure I heard a question, there, Mr. Speaker. I'm moving as fast as I can. Obviously, that involves a pretty broad consultation inside and outside of our government.

Ms Blakeman: Good. Consultation. Well, given that this government has a blue-ribbon reputation for holding public consultations and then implementing the plan they had all along, can we under this new Premier expect any changes?

Mr. Oberle: Well, I thank the member for pointing out that we do in fact have a blue-ribbon reputation for involving the public in the decisions we make. We're going to continue that going forward, Mr. Speaker.

Thanks for the question.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Lesser Slave Lake, followed by the hon. Member for Airdrie-Chestermere.

Slave Lake Interim Housing and Medical Access

Ms Calahasen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been residual effects of the fires for people in the Slave Lake area. One of the issues is housing for single people. Even though many of them have found places to live, there are still some who don't have a home. My first question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Is it possible to use any of the leftover interim housing units for those who are single and without a home right now?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Griffiths: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to point out that with such a crisis in Slave Lake, we worked very hard to accommodate everybody who needed housing. Our priorities started with families with young children, seniors, disabled, and finally we've gotten to couples. We have built and assembled about 150 housing units. I was just up there Wednesday, and I saw the duplex units that are designed for singles who can live together. We expect that they will be getting their keys by the end of the month. Every single person that needs interim housing will have it by the end of the month.

Ms Calahasen: Well, although the recovery efforts have been ongoing, some of the people who lost their homes in the fire are still living in campgrounds, and they want to know when you as minister will get the help that was promised, a promise that was made in the last few months.

Mr. Griffiths: Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe the last update was from October 18, and there were six families that were currently living in campgrounds. Every single one of those families has available to them the opportunity to move into a hotel room if the temperatures become unbearable. Again, we anticipate that by the end of the month, which is a matter of days, every single person and family that needs interim housing will have the keys to their place and be moved.

Ms Calahasen: Another residual effect of the fire has to do with doctors. We have four doctors presently leaving Slave Lake, a cause for concern, Mr. Speaker. This creates problems not only for those who don't have doctors but those who have an inability to be able to get them. My question is to the minister of health. What are you going to do to ensure the people in the Slave Lake area continue to have access to the health care they need?

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

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I can assure the hon. member that we are very much focused on this issue right now. There are eight physicians in Slave Lake who will continue to provide physician services to residents after the others leave. The

Alberta Medical Association has assisted us in arranging coverage for the emergency department at the hospital. We're also looking at what other professionals who are in the community – nurses, pharmacists, and others – can do to help supplement the care that's available to the community until the situation is resolved.

Political Party Donations

Mr. Anderson: Mr. Speaker, we have recently learned that some PC Party constituency associations have been accepting illegal donations from municipalities and school boards. I have personally spoken with mayors who say that they have been personally intimidated by PC Party officials into purchasing and making donations to fundraisers. This is pretty cut and dried; it's illegal, and it's unethical. To the Premier. She's the one sitting right there. Will she commit to ensuring that all funds illegally donated to the PC Party over the last several years are returned to these donors without delay?

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of allegations being thrown around. As usual, whether or not we can verify them is something that is really up in the air. What I will say and what I've said from the very beginning since I became leader of this party is that that isn't a practice that we condone, and if there was any reason to think that there was that problem, we'd certainly encourage the Chief Electoral Officer to look into it. We are going to have no part in any kind of practice or procedure that would suggest that that was acceptable.

Mr. Anderson: Given that government bullying and intimidation of individuals and organizations for donations should never be a part of our political system – I agree, Madam Premier – will the Premier undertake to either personally or through, as she has suggested, a request to the Chief Electoral Officer prepare a letter clarifying the rules around which organizations are prohibited from making political donations as well as the penalties associated for the violation of these rules?

Ms Redford: Well, Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear. Every single time that the hon. member asks me to interfere with the business of the Chief Electoral Officer, he is not understanding the rules. The Chief Electoral Officer is an independent officer. The Chief Electoral Officer must make their own determination as to what to do. If I stepped in and asked the Chief Electoral Officer to take action in this case, I think that within months we'd have the hon. member standing up and accusing me of interfering in other areas. I won't do it.

Mr. Anderson: Sometimes doing what's right is hard, isn't it, Premier?

Premier, given that one of the ways these illegal donations are kept hidden is that individual town councillors and school board members will personally purchase their ticket to a PC fundraiser and then have it reimbursed by their respective municipality or school board as a promotion expense, will you undertake – this is a simple question – to have your Municipal Affairs minister send a letter to all municipalities and their auditors to ensure that this practice is ended on a go-forward basis? It's a very reasonable suggestion.

Ms Redford: Mr. Speaker, I find this to be fascinating. First of all, I'd be very interested in how the hon. member knows that this is what happens.

Secondly, there is no doubt that we have a system in place – and I referred to it yesterday – where we have a Department of Municipal Affairs, that has responsibilities with respect to the

relationship with municipal governments. Municipal leaders, who are also elected by their communities, have a responsibility to follow the rules. There is no doubt that auditors who are in place understand the rules, and I fully expect that everyone who is elected and fully engaged in auditing should understand the rules well enough to make sure that these things aren't happening.

Funding for Private Schools

Mr. Hehr: Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. I'm all for private schools that are entirely privately funded. That is not what currently exists in Alberta. This government currently subsidizes these so-called private schools to the tune of \$127 million this year alone. To the Minister of Education: why are we in the business of funding private schools?

Mr. Lukaszuk: Well, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you something, and I keep repeating this because I'm very proud of it. The Prime Minister of England recently reminded Canadians that Alberta has the best education system in the entire English-speaking world. That is for a number of reasons – great teachers, good administrators, and the list goes on and on – but one of the primary reasons is choice. Alberta parents and students have the choice of where they go to school.

Mr. Hehr: Why is it necessary for Alberta to be the highest paying jurisdiction per capita in Canada in terms of subsidizing private schooling?

Mr. Lukaszuk: Mr. Speaker, such results, that even warrant the attention of the Prime Minister of Great Britain, cost. I find that spending money on education is not an expenditure; it's an investment. We are committed to continuing to invest in education.

Mr. Hehr: Will the minister stand up for equality of opportunity and commit to cut all funding to private schools?

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, followed by the hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity.

2:20

Primary Care Networks

Mr. Benito: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Access to family physicians by Albertans is one of the most important issues for our publicly funded health care system. Primary care networks, or PCNs, are a multidisciplinary team care approach in a family physician's clinic in order to co-ordinate the delivery of primary health services for patients. My first question is to the Minister of Health and Wellness. What improvements have PCNs brought to the Alberta health care system in terms of access to family physicians and time spent with patient care since their inception in 2003?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Horne: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's true that primary care networks have expanded access to primary care for Albertans. They do that in a number of ways. They offer multidisciplinary teams, doctors working alongside nurses, pharmacists, and other professionals to meet the needs in the local community. They in some cases have expanded hours of service. They've offered continuity of care when it comes to dealing with continuing care, home care co-ordination, and access to specialists. There are many examples. We currently have over 40 primary care networks in Alberta, serving approximately 2.8 million Albertans. All of this success aside, there is certainly more

that can be done, and we're very much focused on looking at what we can do to enhance this program.

Thank you.

Mr. Benito: The first supplemental to the same minister: what assurances can you provide to Albertans that the funding mechanism for primary care networks will remain going forward?

Mr. Horne: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member and others may know, primary care networks were the result of a partnership between Alberta's health region, the government, and the Alberta Medical Association. The arrangements that govern what services are provided and how they are delivered are dealt with in a trilateral agreement between those three parties. Those discussions toward a new agreement are under way now, and I'm very hopeful that they will allow us to continue to deliver what we have now and, as I say, enhance those services in the future.

Mr. Benito: Mr. Speaker, my second supplementary to the same minister: how can eligible primary care networks expect a long-term and sustainable funding formula from your ministry, and when can they expect it?

Mr. Horne: Mr. Speaker, we have an excellent example of a very successful primary care network here today in the form of the Southside primary care network, representatives of which are in the gallery. The way we ensure this is that we make the partnership work. We go back to the original agreement in our discussions, which are under way now, we look at what we've achieved to date, we look at more that can be done, and we look at other models that might enhance what primary care networks currently offer such as family care clinics.

Castle Wilderness Area

Mr. Chase: Mr. Speaker, Alberta is internationally renowned for the natural beauty, uniqueness, and wealth of its landscapes. This diverse bounty is particularly true of the jewel in the crown, the Castle area, which was formally protected within the boundaries of Waterton national park. This spring SRD insisted that despite the endangered status of this natural corridor it was necessary to clear-cut a minimum of one-third of the area to prevent the spread of the mountain pine beetle. To the Premier: given the SRD minister's admission yesterday that there was no detectable increase or spread of the beetle in southwestern Alberta, what justification remains for the proposed cumulative clear-cutting of this area?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Oberle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member grossly mischaracterizes the state of the science-based forest management plan that exists in the area, which has logging on less than one-third of the area and about 1 per cent of the area in a particular year.

Mr. Speaker, we can attribute our current pine beetle situation in part to luck but also in part to sound forest management practices as we go forward. That's the only hope we've got.

Mr. Chase: The government needs to recommit to selective logging practices, Mr. Speaker.

Again to the Premier, given that the Premier intervened directly to prevent historical grassland in southeastern Alberta from being sold and plowed under for a potato patch, will this government afford similar protection to the southwestern corner of the province by eliminating the current threat of clear-cutting?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Oberle: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out in my previous answer, two-thirds of the area is already off limits, and the remaining third is under the jurisdiction of a very sound forest management plan, and we'll continue forward with that plan.

Thank you.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Chase: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Premier: does the Premier measure a unique forest value strictly on harvested board feet, or will this government finally commit to preserving the Castle-Crown by designating it as the Andy Russell A'tai Sah Kopp provincial park?

Mr. Oberle: Well, Mr. Speaker, this government is always open to input from stakeholders. We've received quite a bit, and we will continue to receive more. We will certainly take that under advisement. For the moment there is a management plan and an allocation of timber, and we intend to follow it.

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

Affordable Supportive Living Initiative

Mrs. Ady: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the rest of Canada, Alberta is undergoing a significant shift as our population ages. This has provided many opportunities as well as challenges for government and the not-for-profit and the for-profit sectors. Of increasing interest is how this government makes sure that there are appropriate accommodations and services that will provide more opportunities for Albertans to remain as independent as possible while addressing their changing needs. My question is to the Minister of Seniors. Will more continuing care spaces be built to meet the demanding Alberta aging population's needs?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. VanderBurg: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell you that over the last 13 years the government of Alberta has invested millions and millions of dollars in creating about 10,000 spaces. That's significant. My ministry has right now until November 4 the ASLI grant. The applications will be received until November 4.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mrs. Ady: Okay. My second question is to the same minister. What impact is this funding having on seniors and persons with disabilities?

Mr. VanderBurg: Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure you that this new ASLI grant, \$67 million, will provide, I would expect, more than 600 spaces in the province. That's significant.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mrs. Ady: Thank you. My final question is to the same minister. Why is the government only accepting project proposals from certain parts of the province with this year's funding?

Mr. VanderBurg: Well, again, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't just the Department of Seniors that came up with the determination of needs. It was with the help of the department of health to make sure that we provided the spaces where they were needed and to make sure that we get the best bang for the buck.

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

Long-term and Continuing Care

Dr. Swann: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Felix Soibelman, the ER section president of the AMA, said today that adding more long-term care beds is the key to solving the emergency room crisis, a crisis where most Albertans wait over eight hours in an emergency room. To the health minister: how many of the Premier's promised 1,000 continuing care beds will be full, public, nursing home long-term care beds as opposed to private supportive living spaces?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Horne: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Soibelman and I and others, including Alberta Health Services, are going to be meeting later this week to discuss all of the parts of the solution to not just ER wait times but better access to care for Albertans. The question of the suitability of the spaces that we are opening to meet the needs, specifically, of people who are awaiting placement in hospital is of concern to me. We are going to continue to have some discussion about what we need to do in order to match the health care component that's provided in our continuing care spaces with the needs of the residents who require placement, including especially those waiting in hospital.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Dr. Swann: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, given this government's not-so-secret health care privatization agenda and given that the health minister is a key architect of the agenda, what proportion of the continuing care spaces will be P3 or private?

Mr. Horne: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how many times we're going to have to continue to listen to rhetoric around ideology and conspiracy theories.

What this government is focused on is expanding access. That's what Albertans have told us they want us to do. We have been clear about the importance of our partnership with the not-for-profit sector and private-sector providers. We successfully opened, as the Minister of Seniors just answered, thousands and thousands of spaces over the last 10 years. The power of our ability to expand access is imbedded in that partnership. That's what this government will continue to pursue.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Dr. Swann: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that publicly funded, publicly delivered long-term care delivers better value for money, why is the government out to nickel and dime seniors by proposing to build more private care facilities?

Mr. Horne: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to outright object to the premise of the hon. member's question. In fact, the tradition of the provision of long-term care and other forms of continuing care in this province, dating back to the 1950s, is due very much in part to the role of not-for-profit organizations that have come forward with their capital, with their dedicated staff, with their vision for the future to try to provide a system of service that is going to meet the needs of today's generation and that of the future. We will continue to work with those partners. We will continue to ensure that the standards around quality of care delivered in the facility are controlled by . . .

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

2:30

Aboriginal Education

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Recently an appeal was made to the United Nations about the abhorrent conditions of First Nations schools in Canada. Young aboriginals are the fastest growing and largest untapped population in Alberta. They deserve a quality education. To the Minister of Education: how are you supporting First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students in order to receive a quality education in Alberta?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Lukaszuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, find that report and the findings in that report unacceptable. The fact of the matter is that as we're speaking right now, aboriginal students who reside on reserves are funded significantly lower per child by the federal government as opposed to children living off-reserve who are funded by the provincial government. That inequality and inequity are unacceptable to me.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My first supplemental to the same minister: given that the report highlighted that funding for on-reserve education is inadequate, what is the Minister of Education doing to ensure that Alberta First Nations students are adequately funded?

Mr. Lukaszuk: Well, Mr. Speaker, frankly, I don't care where you live, and I don't care who you are. If you're a child in Alberta, you deserve the same standard of high-quality education. As such, I have already asked my department to arrange for a meeting with our federal minister, Minister Duncan. I'm hoping to meet with him very soon and address that very issue.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Bhardwaj: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Final supplemental to the same minister: given that First Nations students have long been left behind with huge achievement gaps, including significantly lower high school completion, would this minister be undertaking any new actions?

Mr. Lukaszuk: Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with leaders of First Nations as well.

Yes, we are privileged to be in this province, but many of the privileges that we've attained are here because of our education system. It is important that all children in Alberta have the same level of education.

I will be meeting with federal ministers. I will be meeting with school boards that in many cases deliver services to aboriginal children, making sure that at the end of the day every child of every creed, of every race, of every geographical location has access to the same high-quality education.

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

Heartland Electricity Transmission Project

Mr. Boutilier: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last week there seemed to be some confusion over communication between the new Minister of Energy and the new Premier regarding a letter to the AUC and the building of a new transmission line. Just like with my

four-year-old son, who turns the light switch on, then off, then on, and then off, it gets tiresome. I have to ask. First of all, the heartland was off, and then it was back on. To the Minister of Energy: does this government believe that it's somehow acceptable to intervene, and does he think that he is above the law?

Dr. Morton: Mr. Speaker, the members of the third party have been begging us to interfere in this process for years, and of course they want us to interfere in the direction they think is right. We made it very clear when we contacted the AUC – I'm happy to table the letter – that we completely respect their jurisdiction to hear these issues.

Mr. Boutilier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that during the PC campaign this minister said that he wanted to send the heartland back to the independent needs assessment process so we can take a look at it, has he flip-flopped and changed his mind, or is he simply just compromising his principles for power, as he said during the campaign that you have to do?

Dr. Morton: Mr. Speaker, as the individual who's sitting over there knows well, forming government is a team effort, and I'm happy to be a member of this team. I'm happy particularly to be a member of a team where the Premier keeps her promises.

Mr. Boutilier: In other words, flip-flop or compromise.

Given that this entire problem began with the Minister of Energy and his pals in cabinet created this problem with the creation of Bill 50, a bill that overrides Albertans' centralized decision-making, I have to ask the Minister of Energy: will he do the right thing? Help Albertans and simply repeal Bill 50 and do it right now in this House.

Dr. Morton: Mr. Speaker, we've made it very clear now that we will be reviewing the energy regulation, particularly with respect to the two north-south lines between Edmonton and Calgary.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Calgary-North West, followed by the hon. Member for Sherwood Park.

Regulatory Review

Mr. Blackett: Mr. Speaker, over the last three and a half years I've had many instances of talking to constituents who expressed their frustration about the amount of red tape that is required to run their businesses. Yesterday I was indeed a happy camper as I listened to my Premier talk about the establishment of a task force to reduce red tape for business in Alberta. Can the President of Treasury Board and Enterprise provide some clarity about exactly what the role of this task force will be?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Horner: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we recognize the importance of small business and medium-sized enterprises to our economy. We also recognize our role as the government to create the conditions to allow businesses to prosper and to reduce the burden of those unnecessary delays and those costs. As per the Premier's direction we will be establishing a task force that will find ways to reduce the red tape and regulatory burden that constrains business owners. That task force will be reporting directly to executive council.

Mr. Blackett: My supplementary question to the same minister: that all sounds great, but can he be more specific about what this

task force will actually do, and will we see some tangible, measurable results?

Mr. Horner: Well, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to measure, and it's very important to benchmark where we are comparable to others today so that we have an understanding of where we need to go. Where we need to go is to be the best climate for small business and medium-sized enterprises in North America, and we will get there.

The Speaker: Hon. member, do you have an additional question?

Mr. Blackett: No supplemental.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Sherwood Park, followed by the hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Strathcona Community Hospital

Ms Evans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been over 14 years, close to 15 years since a Member for Sherwood Park was able to stand up and ask the question about the progress on the Sherwood Park hospital for that particular constituency. We have been waiting and watching, and my constituents are now asking the minister of health: why is it that both projects were tendered at the same time, both the Fort Saskatchewan and the Strathcona hospital in Sherwood Park, and why is it that one seems to be considerably more advanced than the other? The other – well, I'm going to get more information on it in just a moment.

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Horne: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, the answer is simple. The Fort Saskatchewan hospital project is a redevelopment of an existing hospital that's currently in service. That obviously has to move forward very quickly. The Sherwood Park hospital is a new facility, as the hon. member knows. Construction is well under way, and I'm sure that the Minister of Infrastructure can provide more detail on that.

Ms Evans: Just a supplemental, first of all to the minister of health relative to the programming. Can the minister perhaps give us an idea about some of the programming? There's been some concern about the lack of obstetrics beds, for example.

Mr. Horne: Well, Mr. Speaker, what I can tell you is that an open house was held a few weeks ago to share plans for both phases of the hospital with residents of the area. Construction on the tower, the phase 2, is slated to begin in 2014. When it is complete, it will house 72 hospital beds, three operating rooms, an endoscopy unit, and a shelled-in obstetrics unit. As you can see, the plan is very much for a full-service hospital by the completion of phase 2.

Ms Evans: One final question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Infrastructure. We've been told that the phase 1 will be shelled-in in time for the snow to fly. Will that, in fact, happen, and how far advanced are we on the beginnings of phase 2 relative to planning needs assessment, et cetera, from an infrastructure perspective?

The Speaker: The hon. minister.

Mr. Johnson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know how important this project is to the hon. member and her constituency, and the Member for Strathcona and she have obviously been very strong advocates of it. I can tell you that phase 1 construction is under way and slated for completion in 2013. The building is already

framed, and windows are being installed as we speak. The building will be weather protected by December, so we can start working on the interior. So we're in progress and well on our way.

The Speaker: The hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner.

Seniors' Property Taxes

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last session the hon. Minister of Seniors proposed Bill 207, the Seniors' Property Tax Deferral Act, as a private member's bill. While this bill passed first reading last session, its fate has yet to be determined. In the meantime I'm concerned about the needs of our seniors right now. First question to the Minister of Seniors. You know better than any of us that some seniors in our province live with limited resources. They are also faced with the additional and often hefty burden of paying their property taxes. What are we doing to assist these Albertans?

2:40

Mr. VanderBurg: Thank you to the member. Here in Alberta we're very fortunate to have the education property tax assistance for seniors. It's a very unique program. Over 100,000 senior homeowners take advantage of that program with a rebate every year to cover increases from year to year on the education portion of their property taxes.

The Speaker: The hon. member.

Mr. Jacobs: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First supplemental to the same minister: how can your department justify such expenses, especially for a program that only serves one portion of society and at a time when our government is in need of revenue?

Mr. VanderBurg: Well, it's easy to justify, Mr. Speaker. We want people to be independent. We want people to stay in their homes as long as possible. I think this program, maybe in a small way, helps seniors do exactly that.

Mr. Jacobs: To the same minister: are there other jurisdictions around Canada with any similar programs to support seniors with their property taxes, and if so, what can we learn from them?

Mr. VanderBurg: Mr. Speaker, I'm very well aware of other jurisdictions across Canada that have programs that help seniors defer their taxes. There's one program specifically in British Columbia that I like and that I think we can consider in the future in this Assembly. Bill 207, sir, will address that.

The Speaker: Hon. members, yesterday I had an opportunity to congratulate the hon. members with respect to the decorum in the House. Today I am really, really appreciative to all of you. You've done something today that has not happened in 106 years in this Assembly. This is the largest number of questions and their responses ever in question period at 130 questions and responses from 22 – and that's despite the fact that a couple of members continue to do preambles in the second and third questions, and they tend to be the same members all the time. So good for you. Congratulations to you: 130 questions and responses, never before in 106 years, 22 members recognized.

We're going to continue in 30 seconds from now with Members' Statements.

Members' Statements

(continued)

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

Affordable Housing

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Despite the recognized importance of affordable housing and despite the economic wealth and success of some Albertans, there continues to be a huge shortage of affordable housing across the province. The number of people that live in precarious housing circumstances, even if not literally homeless, continues to grow.

In the absence of rent guidelines in combination with adequate government support for and protection of affordable housing, rent supplements have become a stopgap measure upon which tens of thousands of Albertans are forced to rely to remain in their homes. The fixed-rate supplement program supports over 700 Edmonton families and roughly 550 Calgary families, and despite efforts by both housing authorities to stretch out the dollars, the program will end as early as this Christmas. Since the housing corporations have growing wait-lists, it is very unlikely that any of those who lose the subsidies will receive any assistance in finding a replacement home.

In response to public attention to this issue last week one recipient wrote the following:

Even though I work full time I do not make enough to pay the average rent. I am a single mom with four kids at home. If I had to pay full rent I would be living in a one bedroom [apartment]. Without the subsidy for my rent I would have to go back to using the many agencies in the city . . . I am already working poor. I don't want to be working backwards and end up homeless.

In the long term Alberta needs a comprehensive housing plan; however, more immediately the province needs to respond to Edmonton's call for continued funding for this program. Last week the Minister of Human Services suggested that the province would not be held to what he referred to as arbitrary deadlines. However, I remind the minister and this government that one relatively entitled person's arbitrary deadline is another's eviction notice. In short, it is crucial that the government act now.

Maintenance of this program will cost the Tories less than \$5 million a year. Just yesterday we heard the PCs confidently assure us that there was no limit on the number of oil companies who could access a \$350 million subsidy program. Surely, the Tories can find the political will to provide the same assurances to the 1,300 Alberta families who are waiting to hear whether they'll have a roof over their head this Christmas.

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

Women's Equality

Ms Blakeman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I know that most people see March 8, International Women's Day, as the big day to review progress on women's equality, but my annual markers have been Persons Day and December 6, so I've had an interesting week.

Last Tuesday, October 18, was Persons Day, an important and motivating day for women in Alberta and beyond. On Friday I attended the annual LEAF breakfast, the Legal Education and Action Fund, where the keynote speaker talked about the courts requiring women wearing the hijab to disrobe in order to testify. On Sunday I attended the opening of The Collective Memory Project: Responses to Eugenics in Alberta, an art exhibit that was a collaboration between the department of extension and the living archives on eugenics in western Canada. The exhibit included artists from Alberta, across Canada, and women serving sentences in federal prison.

I'm struck by the linkages between these events: women, sexuality, punishment, abuse, legalities, power, and, thankfully, long-term resistance from groups like LEAF and history-keeping from the eugenics project. As an Alberta woman working to achieve the full and equal participation of women in the life of the province, the intersection and overlap between the issues is powerful. Women in this province are not independent until all women are independent in their choice of religion, in their choice of clothing, and in their ability to not be assaulted physically or sexually because they are women.

Women are shaped by the laws of this province. Eugenics was used to control the sexuality of young women and girls. Use whatever reason you want, but that was the effect. We may have come a long way, baby, but the laws of this province still can't cope with the concept of transgendered individuals on purely medical grounds. History shows us that even women who do well in one area can fail us in another, so Nellie McClung could be one of the Famous Five and still have supported eugenics law.

I'm grateful for the women and organizations that take on these issues.

Presenting Petitions

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

Mr. Taylor: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present a petition signed by 246 Albertans to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, in Legislature assembled, reading: "We, the undersigned residents of Alberta, petition the Legislative Assembly to pass Bill 205 – Municipal Government (Delayed Construction) Amendment Act, 2011."

Thank you.

Tabling Returns and Reports

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

Mr. Hinman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to table the appropriate number of copies of a paper that I received from a very concerned Albertan. His name is Norman Kalmanovitch. He is a geophysicist engineer, and he's very concerned with what our governments are doing about global climate change. He's compiled this report at great effort of his time to help people who are passing legislation to understand better how to address global climate change.

I also have a second report that he's asked me to table. It is entitled Geophysical Submission to the Alberta Legislature on Global Temperatures and the Influence of CO₂ Emissions from Burning Fossil Fuels on Global Temperatures. I'd urge all Members of the Legislative Assembly to read these reports, that we might make better-informed decisions.

The Speaker: Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona, do you have one on behalf of your leader?

Ms Notley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two tablings on behalf of the Member for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood. First of all, I'd like to table the appropriate number of copies of postcards that he has received from 67 Edmontonians calling on the government to provide full funding to open the family medicine and urgent care sections of the East Edmonton health centre.

The second tabling is the appropriate number of copies of a news story dated September 23, 2011, concerning the Premier's promise to institute fixed election dates.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. members, I'd like to advise, first of all, of an error on page 40 of the Legislative Assembly organization's annual report, which was tabled yesterday. Under the delegates listed for the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region conference the listing should have read the hon. Member for Calgary-North West as Minister of Culture and Community Spirit rather than the hon. Member for Stony Plain.

Pursuant to section 63(1) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 95(1) of the Health Information Act, and section 44(1) of the Personal Information Protection Act the chair is pleased to table with the Assembly the annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. This report covers the activities of the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the period April 1, 2010, to March 31, 2011.

2:50

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. Mr. Hayden, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation, pursuant to the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation Act the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation annual report 2010-11 and the Travel Alberta annual report 2010-2011.

Orders of the Day

Government Motions

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Ombudsman Appointment

18. Mr. Hancock moved:

Be it resolved that the Legislative Assembly confirm the appointment by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of Peter Hourihan as Ombudsman and concur in the report of the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to move that motion as a government motion, but I would cede my time to the hon. chairman of the special committee of Legislative Offices, who headed the search team of the Legislative Offices Committee, that did the search, and ask him to provide appropriate remarks in that regard.

The Speaker: Hon. minister, there's no need to cede time. This is a debatable motion, so the chair would recognize he or she who would wish to speak.

The hon. Member for Cypress-Medicine Hat.

Mr. Mitzel: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the honour of chairing the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee. The committee had a total of seven meetings, starting with an organizational meeting last January and completing its mandate on August 23. The committee received a total of 68 applications for the position, 60 from Alberta and eight applications received from candidates from other provinces.

At the request of the committee executive search completed comprehensive screening reports, and executive search conducted preliminary interviews for 11 candidates and reported back to the committee. The committee chose to conduct five interviews, and the decision was made shortly after. Mr. Hourihan was selected. Given Mr. Hourihan's past experiences I am sure and confident that all Albertans will be well served by our new Ombudsman.

The Speaker: Hon. members, additional participants? This is a debatable motion.

If not, then I'll call on the Government House Leader to close the debate or move the motion.

Mr. Hancock: Question.

The Speaker: I'll call the question.

[Government Motion 18 carried]

Temporary Adjournment of Fall Session

19. Mr. Hancock moved:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Standing Order 3(9) the Assembly stand adjourned at the conclusion of the October 25, 2011, sitting and reconvene on November 21, 2011.

The Speaker: This motion is not debatable under the standing orders, so I'll call the question.

[The voice vote indicated that Government Motion 19 carried]

[Several members rose calling for a division. The division bell was rung at 2:53 p.m.]

[Ten minutes having elapsed, the Assembly divided]

For the motion:

Ady	Evans	Marz
Allred	Fawcett	McFarland
Amery	Fritz	McQueen
Benito	Goudreau	Mitzel
Berger	Groeneveld	Olson
Bhardwaj	Hancock	Quellette
Bhullar	Hayden	Prins
Blackett	Horne	Quest
Brown	Horner	Renner
Calahasen	Jablonski	Rogers
Campbell	Jacobs	Sandhu
Cao	Johnson	Sarich
Dallas	Johnston	Snelgrove
Danyluk	Klimchuk	VanderBurg
DeLong	Knight	Vandermeer
Denis	Leskiw	Weadick
Doerksen	Liepert	Webber
Drysdale	Lindsay	Woo-Paw
Elniski	Lund	Xiao

The Speaker: Hon. members, one of the great traditions of parliamentary democracy is that members should not be intimidated, harassed, heckled, or otherwise interfered with when they are carrying out their sacred duty of voting.

Against the motion:

Anderson	Forsyth	Notley
Blakeman	Hinman	Taft
Boutilier	MacDonald	Taylor
Chase	Mason	

Totals: For – 57 Against – 11

[Government Motion 19 carried]

The Speaker: Hon. members, you know what the intent of Motion 19 is. That means when the House rises later today, it will then reconvene on November 21, 2011.

Committee Membership Changes

20. Mr. Hancock moved:

Be it resolved that the following changes to

- (a) the Standing Committee on the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund be approved: that Mr. Anderson replace Mrs. Forsyth;
- (b) the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices be approved: that Dr. Brown replace hon. Mr. Bhullar, that Ms Evans replace Mr. Campbell, that Mr. Blackett replace Mr. Rogers;
- (c) the Standing Committee on Private Bills be approved: that Mr. Knight replace hon. Mr. Dallas, that Ms Evans replace hon. Mrs. McQueen, that Mr. McFarland replace hon. Dr. Morton, that Mr. Groeneveld replace hon. Ms Redford, that Mr. Snelgrove replace hon. Mr. Horner, that Dr. Swann replace Dr. Taft;
- (d) the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing be approved: that Mr. Snelgrove replace Mr. Lindsay, that Mr. Snelgrove replace hon. Mr. Hancock as deputy chair, that Mr. Knight replace hon. Mr. Hancock, that Mr. Stelmach replace Mr. Groeneveld, that Dr. Brown replace hon. Mr. Berger, that Dr. Swann replace Dr. Sherman, that Mr. Boutilier replace Mr. Hinman;
- (e) the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be approved: that Ms Woo-Paw replace hon. Mr. Griffiths, that Mr. Goudreau replace hon. Mr. Dallas, that Mr. Goudreau replace Mr. Rodney as deputy chair, that Mrs. Forsyth replace Mr. Anderson;
- (f) the Standing Committee on Members' Services be approved: that Mr. Knight replace hon. Mr. Bhullar, that Ms Evans replace hon. Mr. VanderBurg.

The Speaker: Hon. members, under Standing Order 52(3) Motion 20 is not debatable, so I will call the question.

[Government Motion 20 carried]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

3:10 Amendments to Standing Orders

21. Mr. Hancock moved:

Be it resolved that the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta be amended in Standing Order 52.01 by striking out suborder (1) and substituting the following: 52.01(1) At the commencement of the first session of each Legislature, 5 Policy Field Committees, consisting of 11 members each, shall be established to consider the following subject areas:

- (a) Standing Committee on Community Development – mandate related to the areas of municipal affairs, tourism, parks and recreation, and culture and community services;
- (b) Standing Committee on Education – mandate related to the areas of education and advanced education and technology;
- (c) Standing Committee on Energy – mandate related to the areas of intergovernmental, international and aboriginal relations, sustainable resource development, environment and water, agriculture and rural development, and energy;

- (d) Standing Committee on Finance – mandate related to the areas of finance, treasury board and enterprise, Service Alberta, transportation, and infrastructure;
- (e) Standing Committee on Public Health and Safety – mandate related to the areas of health and wellness, justice and attorney general, solicitor general and public security, human services, and seniors.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The substitute amendment is printed in the Order Paper today. The effect of the motion is to replace the five policy field committees as provided for in the standing orders with new policy field committees on Energy, Public Health and Safety, Finance, Community Development, and Education.

The Speaker: Hon. members, under our standing orders this motion is debatable.

I have asked *Hansard* as well to make sure that they print in *Hansard* the words that are followed in the motion as in the Order Paper so we do have it in the historic record of the province.

It is debatable if anyone wants to participate.

[Government Motion 21 carried]

Policy Field Standing Committees

22. Mr. Hancock moved:

Be it resolved that the following members be appointed to the Assembly's five standing committees:

- (a) Energy: Mrs. Ady, chair; Ms Blakeman, deputy chair; Mr. Hehr; Mr. Hinman; Mr. Jacobs; Mr. Johnston; Mr. Lund; Mr. Mason; Mr. McFarland; Mr. Rodney; Mr. Webber; and Mr. Xiao.
- (b) Public Health and Safety: Mrs. Fritz, chair; Ms Pastoor, deputy chair; Mr. Bhardwaj; Mr. Blackett; Ms DeLong; Mr. Doerksen; Mrs. Forsyth; Ms Notley; Mr. Ouellette; Mr. Rogers; Dr. Swann; and Ms Woo-Paw.
- (c) Finance: Mr. Renner, chair; Mr. Kang, deputy chair; Mr. Allred; Mr. Anderson; Mr. Drysdale; Mr. Fawcett; Mr. Knight; Mr. Mitzel; Mr. Prins;

- Mr. Sandhu; Dr. Taft; and Mr. Taylor.
- (d) Community Development: Mrs. Jablonski, chair; Mr. Chase, deputy chair; Mr. Amery; Ms Blakeman; Mr. Boutilier; Ms Calahasen; Mr. Goudreau; Mr. Groeneveld; Mr. Lindsay; Mr. Snelgrove; Mr. Taylor; and Mr. Vandermeer.
- (e) Education: Mr. Zwozdesky, chair; Mr. Hehr, deputy chair; Mr. Anderson; Mr. Benito; Dr. Brown; Mr. Cao; Mr. Chase; Mrs. Leskiw; Mr. Marz; Ms Notley; Mrs. Sarich; and Ms Tarchuk.

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the Order Paper has the motion with the membership of the committees printed, and I would ask that that be incorporated into the motion for *Hansard*. This is just populating the five committees that we have just established and making changes necessary as a result, of course, of the changes in Executive Council and the change to the structure of government.

The Speaker: This motion is debatable as well. Any participants?

Once again to the *Hansard* people I'd ask that they print within the *Hansard* for the official record of the province of Alberta the names of all the individuals listed on these particular committees.

[Government Motion 22 carried]

The Speaker: The hon. Government House Leader.

Mr. Hancock: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per Government Motion 19 I would move that the House now stand adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 21, 2011.

The Speaker: Before I call the motion, there is a possibility that I, in fact, will be inviting members back into the Legislative Assembly a little earlier, at 11 o'clock in the morning, that day to conduct a point of business, but the motion before us is that the House will reconvene on Monday, November 21, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

[Motion carried; the Assembly adjourned at 3:13 p.m. pursuant to Government Motion 19]

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

Activity to October 25, 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)

Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011; SA 2011 cA-44.5]

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)

Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 c14]

- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 c10]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 cM-18.5]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011; SA 2011 c9]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 c12]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011; SA 2011 c8]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011; SA 2011 c16]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on proclamation; SA 2011 c15]

- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011; SA 2011 c11]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011; SA 2011 c13]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011; SA 2011 c17]
- 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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011]

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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011]

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)
Royal Assent -- (May 13 outside of House sitting) [Comes into force on May 13, 2011]

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